

## LBA

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

# LightGabler litigator finds solace in family

## Angela Lopez

Attorney, LightGabler

"It has strengthened me as an individual — to have the kind of cultural background that I have."

— Lopez

By Amanda Faye Rosengarten  
Special to the Business Times

As a proud mother of two and part-time employment litigator at the Camarillo-based business law firm LightGabler, Angela Lopez finds the time to enjoy the two things she loves most: spending time with her family and helping others.

Lopez, 39, was introduced to the legal field at a young age, from her father, Art Lopez, who was the former police chief of Oxnard. After earning her undergraduate degrees in English and women's studies at UC Davis, Lopez felt law school was the appropriate next step. Today, she joked about her motivation for choosing law.

"It was not how you make a huge decision like that, where you spend tens of thousands of dollars on tuition," Lopez said. "But it was the right decision for me."

Lopez earned her law degree from USC, where she was also a member of the Southern California Interdisciplinary Law Journal. Her first legal position was at a civil litigation firm in Century City, Gorry Meyer & Rudd LLP, which specialized in intellectual property and commercial disputes. Shortly after, she joined the Oxnard-based firm Nordman Cormany Hair & Compton LLP. This was the start of a long-lasting friendship and work relationship with her current bosses, Jonathan Light and Karen Gabler, who opened LightGabler in 2011, where Lopez has been an associate since 2012.

Prior to joining LightGabler, Lopez said she made another career change — to stop working as an attorney entirely. At this time, she worked at her father's private investigation company, assisting with criminal investigations in matters of sexual harassment and workplace misconduct.

"I learned both sides of the business," Lopez said, referencing her current position at LightGabler, where she practices

in the areas of employment law advice and employment litigation. "I learned a lot about the workers' compensation sphere that I didn't know about before and also just building a case. It is all about establishing a lie. We worked so closely with attorneys and fed them the exact questions to ask in depositions. It is a skill that I had not thought about developing."

Lopez said her decision to take time-off was essential, in terms of the skills she acquired and in discovering her specialty within the legal field. It was a turning point in her life; "one of the best decisions I've made," she said.

Despite her love of the legal profession and working at LightGabler, Lopez said her first love is her family, who have always stood by her through difficult, uncertain times — especially, in her decision to shift careers.

She said they have shaped her current values — instilling in her a desire to give back to the community. This is evident by Lopez's involvement in various charitable organizations in Ventura County, serving as a board member for the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme, the Vision Committee for Destino Hispanic Legacy Fund and the Western Ventura County Employers Advisory Council. For her influential work as secretary of the Boys & Girls Club from 2009-2011, Lopez was honored with a Presidential Volunteer Service Award.

"It has been such a great example for me, their desire to serve the community," Lopez said. "It is (their) emphasis on education and giving as much as you can to the pursuit of doing everything your best."

Lopez hopes to instill these values in her children, ages 2 and 4, while additionally emphasizing the importance of their Latina heritage, which has "only been a positive" in her life. Her family came from a small mining community in Arizona and have since worked as superintendents of schools, nurses and teachers.

"This country is great because people have come from all different places and shared different ideas, cultures and religions," Lopez said. "I think it has strengthened us as a country. I know it has strengthened me as an individual — to have the kind of cultural background that I have."

Lopez, who currently resides in Granada Hills with her husband and two children, feels fortunate to work part-time at LightGabler, while enjoying both her family and career.

"I remember reading somewhere — have the type of life you don't want to take vacations from — and, that is the kind of life I have right now."



Angela Lopez is proud of both of her careers, as an attorney and as a mother.

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