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Sarah Eastburn (left) in a meeting with colleague Zachary Sivertsen at Eastburn and Gray in Doylestown.



Sarah Eastburn: *True to her legacy*

By **AMANDA CREGAN**
CORRESPONDENT

Rooted in Doylestown's rich history, Sarah Eastburn is continuing a proud family legacy that began in 1877.

The 32-year-old is an attorney at the Eastburn and Gray law firm. She is the fifth generation of her family to practice law in Doylestown. She follows a lineage of law that began with her great-great grandfather, Hugh B. Eastburn, followed by her great grandfather, great uncle and father, Rodman Eastburn, who now serves as COO of the firm.

Sarah Eastburn is the first female in the Eastburn family to work as an attorney.

"It's incredible," she said.

It's a distinct placement in her family's history and the significance is not lost on Sarah Eastburn.

Eastburn grew up in Doylestown, but had no plans to study law.

After attending the Buckingham Friends School, she graduated from The Lawrenceville School, a prep school near Princeton, N.J.

Her love of art and writing led her to double-major in art history and French at the University of Pennsylvania, where

she earned her bachelor's degree.

"I always loved writing. I knew I wanted to major in something that was very writing intensive," she said.

While she wasn't sure at the time exactly what her profession would be, she felt it was important to develop a strong foundation in the humanities.

"Being analytical and being able to write well — all of that is very important for many areas that you can go into. I realized that those are very valuable skills to have," she said.

After college, she worked in sports marketing in New York City for the next four years. All of the travel, late nights and long hours led the young woman to reflect on what she wanted from her career.

"I was realizing that the work I was doing wasn't something I was extremely passionate about," said Eastburn. "If I'm spending all this time and all this energy is it for something that I really want?"

She discovered a passion for law, and knew that it was a career that would bring greater meaning because she could help others.

Eastburn went on to earn her law degree from Hofstra University School

of Law in New York. She focused her studies on criminal law and while in law school worked at a clinic for people who couldn't afford a defense attorney. During the summers, she returned home to Doylestown where she interned at the Bucks County District Attorney's Office.

For the last three years she has worked at Eastburn and Gray where she handles estate planning and estate administration.

"I don't do criminal law anymore but it's the exact same feeling for me knowing that I'm helping people on a daily basis," she said.

As an estate planner, she helps clients plan their financial life by preparing wills, trusts, powers of attorney and medical powers of attorney, engaging in real estate and business transactions, and administering estates when a loved one passes away.

She recently earned an L.L.M. (Masters) in Taxation from Villanova University School of Law to increase her knowledge base and to bring greater value to her clients from an estate planning perspective.

While she still works long hours and late nights, Eastburn feels thankful that she is back in her hometown doing what

she loves while providing a service to people who have a genuine need for her legal help.

"I just knew that regardless of where I was part of me always wanted to come back here," she said.

Now, she is even more active in the Central Bucks community. Eastburn serves on the committee for the Travis Manion Foundation's 9/11 Heroes Run. In addition to volunteering at the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce, Habitat for Humanity and the Central Bucks East Mock Trial Team, she serves on the board of directors for the Bucks County Symphony Orchestra. Her grandparents were founding members of the orchestra.

With offices in Doylestown and Blue Bell, Sarah Eastburn is one of 31 attorneys at the full-service law firm. It's come a long way since her great-great grandfather began as a sole practitioner in Doylestown nearly 140 years ago.

"I think he would be very proud of his legacy," she said.

Check out Sarah's video at buckscountycouriertimes.com/emergingleaders or theintell.com/emergingleaders.