

ATLANTA BUSINESS CHRONICLE

WOMEN WHO MEAN BUSINESS

Audra Dial embraces ‘servant leader’ philosophy

In her role as managing partner for **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton**’s Atlanta office and a litigator in the firm’s patent and litigation team, **Audra Dial** has obtained favorable verdicts in a number of high-profile intellectual property disputes for several Fortune 500 companies.

Dial focuses her practice on federal court litigation involving trade secrets, patent disputes, restrictive employment covenants and complex business disputes involving intellectual property. She has represented companies whose intellectual property was misused both domestically and abroad. Dial was honored by the State Bar of Georgia and the Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism in 2013 with a Justice Robert Benham Community Service Award. She is a former member of the board of directors of the Special Olympics of Georgia, Atlanta Speech School, Atlanta Children’s Shelter, Georgia Immigration and Asylum Network and Trees Atlanta.



Q&A

How did you become a successful leader? Very deliberately. I’ve been fortunate to have leadership

roles in both non-profit and for-profit organizations. I used each one as an opportunity to learn from other leaders or mentors who had walked those paths. I purposely sought out and listened carefully to their advice so I could improve my leadership skills. The common themes I learned over time are connecting personally with those whom I am leading, learning from experiences, and resilience.

Please describe your leadership style. Servant leadership is a philosophy I embrace and try to embody as I lead. Among many other things, for me, servant leadership is about valuing diverse opinions, encouraging collaboration and developing others.

What was the most important business decision you made in the past year and why? I recently joined the strategic advisory board of Valor Ventures, and I am excited for its potential. Valor Ventures is a newly formed venture fund in Atlanta, led by Lisa Calhoun. Its initial fund is focused on investing in companies founded by women.

– *Stories by Janet Jones Kendall, Contributing Writer*