

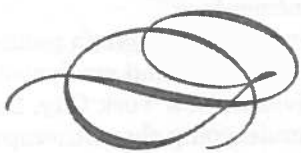


# MEG MALONEY

**Position:** owner,  
Maloney Law & Associates

**Lives in:** Myers Park

**Family:** husband, John;  
children, Miriam, 17,  
Hannah, 15



One thing that all of Meg Maloney's clients have in common is that they're in a tight spot.

But standing up for the rights of others is right up the alley of Maloney, owner of Maloney Law & Associates, which represents companies and individuals.

"I've never felt like I've had rules," she said. "I've always been outspoken."

That outspokenness has been useful in her career.

"When I first went into the courtroom, they said, 'Only lawyers are allowed in here,'" she said, adding that she's always looked younger than her age.

Later, when working for another law firm, a client said they didn't want any women working on their case, she said.

"Then you'll have to tell him

that you used your best judgment and chose the right person and that they happen to be a woman," Maloney said she told one of the firm's partners.

She said she attended the first meeting with that client in a bright-pink dress and listened carefully their needs. Eventually, the client only wanted to work with her, she said.

"I like being underestimated," she said. "Then you can go in and kick some butt, because if you do a good job, the rest doesn't matter."

After years of working in the corporate world and for other people's law firms, Maloney has created a unique firm of her own: Clients can find comfort in a sunroom and from the office's pooch, Gemma.

"Gemma isn't allowed to

interact with the clients unless I give her permission," Maloney said, although on occasion the dog's instincts take over, like when one of the employment law firm's clients came in with post-traumatic stress syndrome.

"Gemma just kept going to sit down by the lady's foot, like she wanted to protect her," Maloney said.

"She's good company when I work late," she added.

Maloney said she has recognized some of her character traits, like standing up for the underdog, in her daughters, traits she says she tries to instill even as she balances work, civic and family obligations.

— RHIANNON FIONN