

Strength in community

Scholarship honors the vibrant life of Sarah Stockton Delaney (JD '24)

SARAH STOCKTON DELANEY (JD '24) lit up law school classrooms with her keen intellect. She lit up the karaoke stage, singing Disney classics with her husband, Danny. And she lit up the mock trial courtroom, winning over juries with her disarming kindness.

"Everyone knew who she was, and everyone loved her," says Hannah Moser (MED '23, JD '24), who met Stockton Delaney in her 1L section. "Law school can be isolating, but Sarah found strength in community." Moser, who moved from Denver to attend Loyola, recalls how Stockton Delaney and her husband were eager to show her around Chicago. Along with fellow classmates in their section, Stockton Delaney and Moser (and Danny, too) formed a close-knit group who supported one another through the next three years, including while Stockton Delaney underwent treatment for breast cancer during their 3L year.

Stockton Delaney was a social butterfly who took a genuine interest in each person she met. Abby Bartelson (JD '25) discovered this firsthand when she joined the civil law mock trial team. "I felt intimidated at first, but Sarah was really welcoming and so positive," she says. "She's a big part of the reason it was a good experience right off the bat."

Devoted to family, friends, and her Catholic faith, Stockton Delaney fervently believed that she and her classmates could change the world. "No one embodied the Jesuit ideal of being 'a person for others' better than Sarah," says Matt Chimienti (JD '13), who coached Stockton Delaney's mock trial team.

As cocaptain for the team during her 3L year, Stockton Delaney led with optimism and integrity. She also demonstrated her prowess as a former member of the Ball State University debate team as she cross-examined witnesses and made compelling closing arguments.

"From early on, Sarah separated herself as an incredibly talented advocate," Chimienti says. "She was just a natural, and it was unbelievable to watch her."

Despite the difficulties of her treatment, Stockton Delaney rarely missed a practice. When she suggested stepping down as cocaptain, worried she would be a burden to the team, the coaches offered her a coaching position instead.



Sarah Stockton Delaney was a welcoming presence at the School of Law. 1. With the 2024 civil law mock trial team. 2. With her family at 2024 commencement. 3. Outside Corboy Law Center. 4. With the 2023 civil law mock trial team outside the federal courthouse in Sacramento.

"This is someone who showed up with bells on," Chimienti says. "She graduated on time with honors and was looking forward to joining the Cook County State's Attorney's Office."

When Stockton Delaney passed away on July 24, 2024, due to complications from breast cancer, the Loyola community took action, establishing a scholarship in her honor.

"There was a lot of pain," says Jonathan Sheffield (JD '15), clinical assistant professor, who taught Stockton Delaney's legal writing course and remembers her as an insightful student who earned the highest grade in his class. "And there was a desire to honor her legacy, a desire to give Loyola students like her the opportunity to do the things she had planned to do."

Established in fall 2024, the Sarah Stockton Delaney Memorial Scholarship celebrates Stockton

Delaney's passion for trial advocacy and public service by supporting law students who share her deep commitment to those fields. At press time, the fund exceeded \$30,000, and Stockton Delaney's family and friends have set an ambitious funding goal of \$100,000. This amount would enable Loyola to endow the scholarship, ensuring it lasts in perpetuity.

"Sarah was exceptional and unique, but I think we can all picture in our mind somebody who inspires us to be better, who surprises us with their compassion, grace, and dignity," says Sheffield. "I hope people feel connected to Sarah after learning about her and feel inspired to help make her legacy what it should be."

To contribute to the Sarah Stockton Delaney Memorial Scholarship, visit [LUC.edu/DelaneyScholarship](https://luc.edu/DelaneyScholarship). —Kelsey Schagemann