

FRESH FACES

# Trendowski Finds New Career As Liquor-Liability Expert

By Keith Griffin

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Elizabeth Trendowski laughingly admits she may not be the best person to go out with for dinner and drinks. The new area manager for Robson Forensic in Glastonbury is a dram shop [where liquor is served] liability expert who is retained by legal counsel in cases where people get hurt by someone served too much alcohol or in cases where alcohol is served to a minor.

"Nobody likes to go out with me to a restaurant or bar because of my critical eye. That's a little difficult for me. I end up having a lot of parties at my home," said Trendowski, who's eagle-eye perspective comes from owning a bartenders' school with 13 locations and an alcohol-training program called SMART, or Servers Managers Alcohol Responsibility Training. Liquor-serving establishments would use the program to obtain insurance discounts. Trendowski sold both businesses last year.

Her career path was determined by her time in college — but not as a biology and education major. She was a bartender in college and stayed involved in the industry as a manager and bartender after college. She later owned a wine and spirits wholesale operation.

After selling her businesses, Trendowski, 51, was called by an attorney seeking her advice on a dram shop case. She then started receiving calls from other attorneys seeking her counsel for their clients. Her new career as a consultant was burgeoning.

Then Trendowski was talking with her attorney husband who had deposed a Robson Forensic expert. He advised her to send a resume into the firm. She was quickly hired and her new career blossomed. "There are only a couple of us in the whole country," Trendowski said, adding that her work takes her around the country.

Trendowski has more in her life than the dram shop act; she's a dachshund rescuer. She fell into the hobby after somebody approached her seeking a home for a dachshund. She now has 10 dogs, eight of which are dachshunds. "We take the ones who are difficult to place," Trendowski said. The dogs have become such a major part of her life that she even throws an annual bash called, fittingly enough, "The Weiner Roast."



Elizabeth Trendowski, Dram Shop / Liquor Liability Expert, Robson Forensic

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