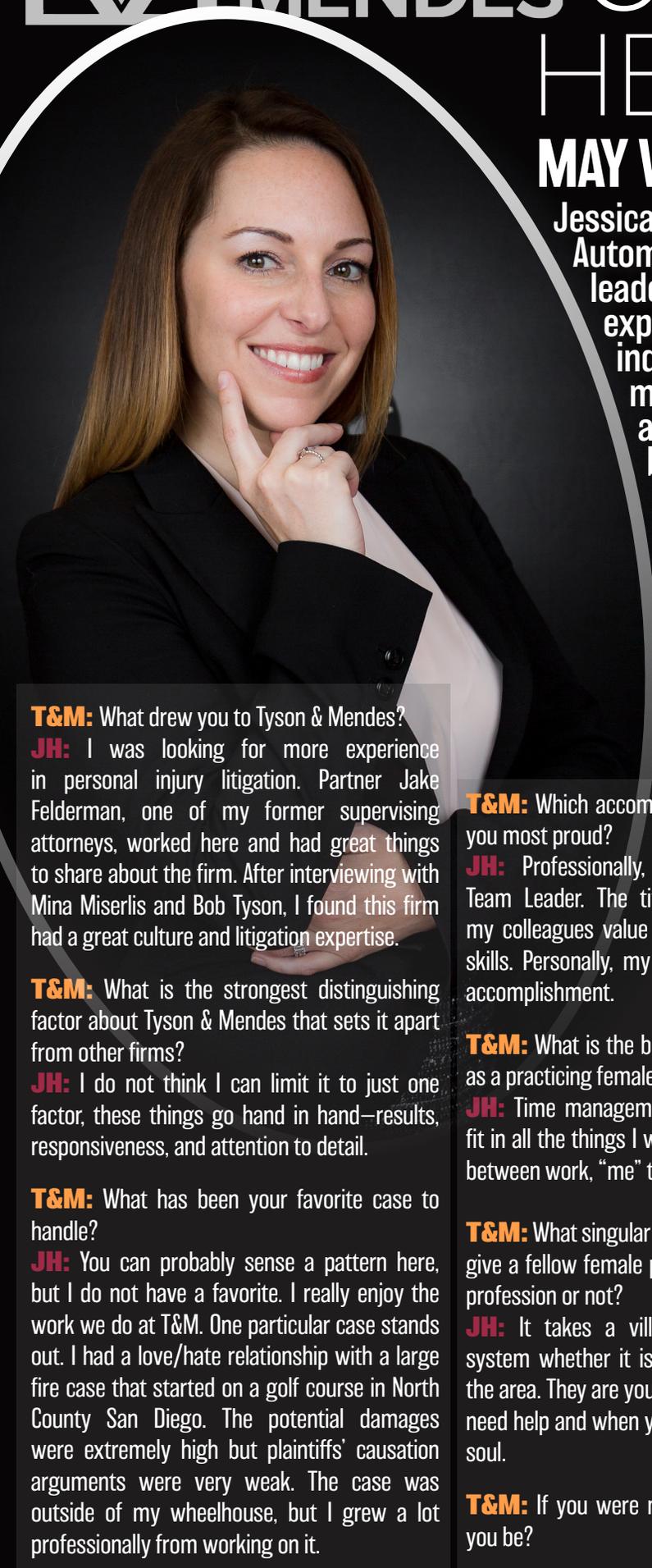


# JESSICA HEPPENSTALL

## MAY WOMEN'S INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Heppenstall is a team leader in the firm's Automobile Liability practice group. As an emerging leader, Ms. Heppenstall has more than 10 years of experience in the legal industry. Her representation of individuals and businesses includes high-exposure matters involving alleged catastrophic injury and wrongful death. Read on to learn about her biggest accomplishments, and what she enjoys most about being part of the T&M team.

# Q&A



**T&M:** What drew you to Tyson & Mendes?

**JH:** I was looking for more experience in personal injury litigation. Partner Jake Felderman, one of my former supervising attorneys, worked here and had great things to share about the firm. After interviewing with Mina Miserlis and Bob Tyson, I found this firm had a great culture and litigation expertise.

**T&M:** What is the strongest distinguishing factor about Tyson & Mendes that sets it apart from other firms?

**JH:** I do not think I can limit it to just one factor, these things go hand in hand—results, responsiveness, and attention to detail.

**T&M:** What has been your favorite case to handle?

**JH:** You can probably sense a pattern here, but I do not have a favorite. I really enjoy the work we do at T&M. One particular case stands out. I had a love/hate relationship with a large fire case that started on a golf course in North County San Diego. The potential damages were extremely high but plaintiffs' causation arguments were very weak. The case was outside of my wheelhouse, but I grew a lot professionally from working on it.

**T&M:** Which accomplishment/win has made you most proud?

**JH:** Professionally, being promoted to a Team Leader. The title shows the firm and my colleagues value my work and leadership skills. Personally, my daughter is an amazing accomplishment.

**T&M:** What is the biggest challenge you face as a practicing female attorney?

**JH:** Time management. It can be difficult to fit in all the things I want to get out of the day between work, "me" time, and family time.

**T&M:** What singular piece of advice would you give a fellow female professional - in the legal profession or not?

**JH:** It takes a village—build your support system whether it is family and/or friends in the area. They are your best resource when you need help and when you need to replenish your soul.

**T&M:** If you were not a lawyer, what would you be?

**JH:** I always wanted to be a lawyer like my dad. But, after being a lawyer, I would probably choose something totally opposite like a fitness instructor. I have a friend who is a fitness instructor in Hawaii; I think I want that life if I had to do it over!

**T&M:** What is the last concert you attended?

**JH:** My husband and I went on a date night to the Killers show. It was awesome!

**T&M:** Which five people would you choose to have dinner with - living or dead?

**JH:** This is more than five - My parents, my two brothers, my husband and my daughter. I choose them every time!

**T&M:** What is your idea of an ideal weekend?

**JH:** Something outdoors - walks, hikes, or going to the beach with family and friends.

**T&M:** What do you have streaming regularly on your TV?

**JH:** Any type of murder mystery, detective show, or legal show.