

## NO GUTS, NO GLORY

# Prime Title

BY AGENT ERIN HOLDEN

Randy Olson and Shawn O'Neill (Olson and O'Neill – Attorneys at Law) celebrated the 20th anniversary of Prime Title this past year. The company offers real estate law services for home buyers, sellers, and contractors, to name a few. It all began in 1997, when O'Neill, who was primarily a litigation attorney, was looking for an office and ended up working with Olson, who had been practicing real estate law for years.

"It wasn't long before I started real estate work and really enjoyed it," said O'Neill. He and Olson have experienced many milestones in those 20 years at Prime Title, including Olson being named Affiliate of the Year by the Realtor Association of Acadiana.

"We've been doing this a long time," said Olson. "People know us and respect us and the services we provide."

Olson's mother, Pat Olson, started the first residential division of Stirling Properties in the 1980s, and she introduced her son to many people in the industry during that time. Her influence was a factor in how involved he is in multiple committees today. In February of 2017, Prime Title moved into the old Stirling Properties office where Ms. Olson used to work.

Both Olson and O'Neill stand out for their humanitarian work as well as their stellar reputation in the title industry. Olson works with Habitat for Humanity as a consultant and O'Neill works with McLain Homes on the St. Jude Home project.

Olson explained that, years ago, Habitat for Humanity was looking for someone to "help with legal work. For the last 10 or 12 years, I've been the consultant, and I give them the service for free."

O'Neill said, "Brian (Brian McLain of McLain Homes) approached me to help with the St. Jude Home. I donate my costs to do the title work."

Lauren Richard, the Business Development Specialist at Prime Title, said, "These guys are very sincere and humble. It's like pulling teeth to get them to talk about themselves. If you go out in the community, though, people know them and what they're about."



## A DAY IN THE LIFE

# Lafayette Fire Dept. Capt. Marline Vidrine

BY AGENT HEATHER OSBOURNE

As a child, Marline Vidrine was drawn to firetrucks that would pass by her home in Scott, Louisiana. Never did she imagine she would grow up to become not only a firefighter, but the captain of the Lafayette Fire Department. "We had a fire station in our backyard," Vidrine said. "I had friends who began volunteering at the station and it drew me. I was always interested in their stories and, with persuasion, they convinced me to apply."

Vidrine enrolled at the firefighter academy in 1999 and has served 17 years at the Lafayette Fire Department alone. She was also enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard during the same years and served one tour in Iraq.

Vidrine said that on any given day, she and her crew will respond to a wide range of calls to service, from vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, and structural fires to even changing batteries in a smoke detector.

As a captain, Vidrine said she responds to calls just like her fellow firefighters. However, she's also responsible for giving commands to her team while responding to emergencies, operating radio controls, filing reports, and making sure equipment is clean and annual evaluations are completed. "I'm basically responsible for my crew," Vidrine said.

As far as being a woman in a male-dominated field, Vidrine said she barely even notices. "I come from a family of four brothers, so I feel very comfortable in an all-male environment," she said. "I notice it when I go to a call, and a mom or dad will tell their daughter, 'Look, you can be a firefighter, too.'" Vidrine said, in addition to herself, there is also a female district chief and firetruck driver. "It's not very popular, but it's become more popular," she said. "I hope it continues on."




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