

Today's

WOMAN

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Empowering the Women of Silver City, Deming & Lordsburg

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Denise Torres, Attorney at Law



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GO AHEAD & PICK IT UP . . . MEN READ IT, TOO!

COVER STORY

Not Just Another Pretty Face

by Ken Cooper, MBA



Denise Torres grew up as a rancher/farmer girl in Winston, New Mexico. She is very close to her mom and her dad. Her parents were very young, just teenagers, when she was born. She laughs about the fact that she grew up with her parents while they were also growing up. The unconditional love of her mother and father is very important to Denise and she considers her parents two of her best friends.

She graduated from T or C High School and went on to attain a law degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Denise did not grow up in a wealthy family and her choice to pursue a law degree was not rooted in any family history. It was solely and clearly her choice, her own decision brought on by the many perceived inequities that she experienced between the men and women around her. She also worked in law firms during high school and college. At a very young age she had the burning desire within her to pursue a law degree. While in college, Denise met dynamic career women who inspired her to keep working toward her goal of becoming a legal professional.

While pursuing her law degree, she faced the same challenges that

any other American attempting to pursue an education would face, such as lack of money; sometimes there wasn't even enough to pay the electric bill. She is well acquainted with the stress, pain and suffering that goes with trying to make it on your own. Hard times do not discriminate based on gender, race or age. But a law degree is what she wanted and a law degree is what she got.

Denise credits many people who unselfishly mentored her throughout her education and career as a lawyer.

I had the blessed opportunity to set down with and interview this very intelligent, positive, astoundingly beautiful and approachable, vivacious young woman professional. Denise, currently in her 30's, would make most men instantly moon-struck. She represents what the majority of men would want in a woman. She's

lovely, graceful, striking, all girl, just a slight pinch of tomboy, strong, sharp, witty, well read and can move between and beyond a variety of conversational topics. She is the entire package of Fantasy Island, Paradise Island and all of the dreams that go with it. Stuck up, hoity toite, miss goodie two shoes she is not. Her kindness and professionalism move you quickly beyond her smashing beauty and very quickly you are thrust into the outer limits of intellectual genuine dialogue and conversation with meaning.

The questions did not stop with her law practice; we also discussed to a degree some of her personal and private moments in life. Denise knows how to laugh and she knows how to cry. It is very pleasing to meet a woman of her stature who is down to earth, approachable,

pleasant, kind, courteous and fun to converse with. It does not matter what your level of education or your economic status. Denise is professional and a person that meets others on their level, and with conviction and compassion she has the grace to make the lowest of lows in life feel comfortable and at home in her presence. Likewise, she can mix it up with the movers and shakers in the professional realm as well. By all accounts she is a unique person and she is the REAL DEAL.

A Few Excerpts from My Interview

Question: Denise, you are such a successful and beautiful woman. How does such a gorgeous woman remain single?

Denise: Thank you very much. Although I have had long-term monogamous relationships, I have chosen not to marry probably because of my high degree of independence and focus on my law practice. I am not opposed to marriage and at some point in my life that will become important. I am in a committed relationship now and we are enjoying life to its fullest.

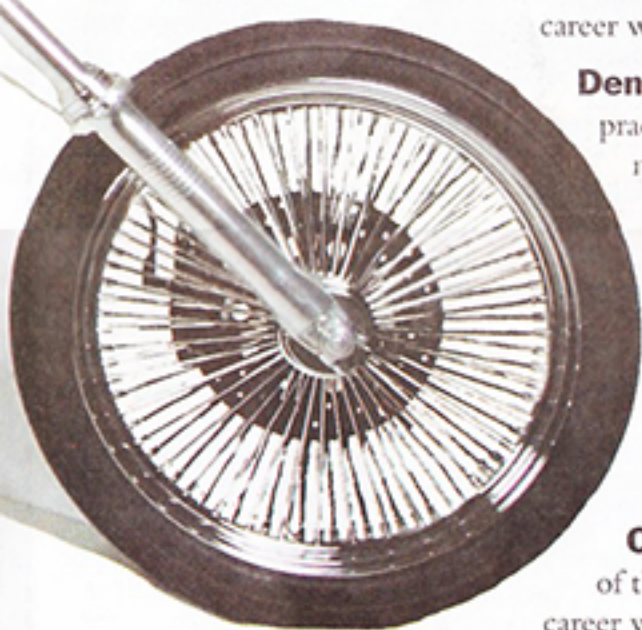
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DENISE M. TORRES

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WWW.PERSONAL-INJURY-NM.COM

Question: You chose to be a career woman unlike the traditional career woman. Why?

Denise: I don't know what you mean by traditional career woman but maybe you mean my choice not to get married or have children and that I am a G junky of sorts. I love to drive cars with a lot of horse power and I enjoy riding my chopper. My choices were a product of what I saw as a child. I wanted to have more choices in life.



you have to keep earning it. We all win and we all lose at some point in our careers. It is how you handle the victory or defeat that will leave an impression on your peers. Also, there is no substitute for hard work. I don't mean working for the sake of working—but getting the job done. Your clients are not interested in the storms you encountered. They just want you to bring in the ship.

Question: What are some of the down sides to being a career woman?

Denise: When I first started practicing I worked a crazy number of hours and I missed a lot of functions with family and friends, but that hard time in the beginning was worth it. The biggest down side for attorneys in general is that work takes you away from your family.

Question: What are some of the up sides to being a career woman?

Denise: You have more choices in life. You make your own decisions. You have your own money. You get to help people and choose who you help. It is hard to decide who to help because there are so many people in need. I try to help where I can make the most difference.

Question: Any advice or encouragement you would have for women seeking careers in general?

Denise: You do not have to have huge resources to go to college. You do not have to attend an Ivy League school to benefit from a higher education and to be successful. What is more important is the effort that you exert into your learning experience. You can lead a girl to college but you can not make her think. If you encourage her to study something that she likes and is good at, the likelihood of happiness and success is greater.

It is never too late start a career. I have been so impressed with some of my friends in their fifties who

started a career after raising their children through college age. They have confidence, experience and the support of their families. What is the worst that can happen? You don't like what you are doing or you fail. Both of these things are a part of life. If you throw your hat in the ring at least you will have a choice to stop or continue. As for failing, it is not how many times you fall down but how many times you get up.

Question: What kind of things do you do for recreation and fun?

Denise: In the past several years I have been skydiving; attended two race car driving schools where I drove a Z06 Corvette, a Cobra replica and was able to ride along in a 911 Turbo and a radical race car; I have boated at 80 mph in Fort Lauderdale, Miami and the Keys on a forty-two foot Cigarette Boat which was on the cover of *Power Boating* magazine in April of 2005; I like to ride my Paul Yaffy Custom Chopper and my 883 Harley Davidson motorcycles; I went to Paris in the spring of 2005 and London for Christmas in 2005; I attended a Formula One Race at Indy in 2005; I went to Aruba in 2005; boated in a poker run on Lake Havasu in 2006; and went to Monaco, Nice, Cannes, Budapest and Prague in 2006. In September of this year I drove (all in the same day) the following: Ferrari F430, Lamborghini Gallardo, Bentley GT, Corvette Z06, Maserati Grand Sport Spider, Ford GT and a Porsche 911 Turbo.

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Denise with her Dad Joe Torres.

Name: Denise M. Torres
Marital Status: Single
Hometown: T or C
Career: Attorney /13 Yrs
Most Recent Book Read:
The Five People You Meet in Heaven by Mitch Albom
Last Good Movie:
Million Dollar Baby
Favorite Car:
 F-430 Ferrari & Mercedes-Benz McLaren SLR
Last Trip: F-1 Race in Monaco



Denise on one of her Dad's many choppers, a 2005 Chopper Ridget Frame Blue, with skull-heads made by Dad.

Question: How does a woman survive in the professional world and keep it professional?

Denise: I believe professional survival is a choice. You have to continually strive to improve yourself professionally and personally so that you can weather the changes in your profession. There will always be someone to replace you if you do not work hard and pay attention to detail. I am out of my office a lot because I mediate cases in Albuquerque and I sit on two boards that meet in Albuquerque. Keeping up with technology helps me stay connected to my office so that my clients can continue to receive service whether I am in or out of the office. I usually receive several hundred e-mails per day and having a palm pilot to check e-mails when I am out of the office has improved my efficiency and service to my clients.

There is no secret to keeping it professional. You have to earn the respect of your peers and clients and

THE MACHINE AGE

Chicks-n-Bikes

by Ken Cooper, MBA

The two-wheeled machine is no longer just a boy's toy. Women are flocking to buy motorcycles all over the world. They are from all walks of life—all races and all ages. Recently, I was having a telephone conversation with an acquaintance of mine from the Dana Mediation Institute. She is a beautiful 45-year-old African-American woman, who is also a professional with an MBA specializing in training. She appears 23 years old. If she did not tell you she is 45 years old you would have no idea. She is physically toned to high noon with beautiful hair and yes she has everything else to go with it. She was informing me that she was ordering a pink Harley from the Harley plant in Kansas City.

Below left, attorney Denise Torres is an avid motorcycle lover. In Deming there are female bankers and female Border patrol agents that are motorcyclists. In Silver City, Bayard, Hurley and Santa Clara there are housewives, hair stylists, and the list goes on, of women that have taken to the road with a

large piece of metal and plenty of horse power between their legs. Freedom, control, power and a thrilling experience are some of the attributes of owning and riding a motorcycle that is fueling this craze.

Research conducted by J.D. Powers and Associates and released January 29, 2004 found the following results: The study finds that the average age of a new motorcycle buyer has increased from 41 in 1998 to 44 in 2003, with the number of riders 40 and older now accounting for nearly two-thirds of the total new motorcycle market. In addition, more women are entering the market. More than one in 10 new motorcycle purchases is made by women—up nearly 30 percent from 1998. Interestingly, nearly half of these women report being first-time motorcycle buyers, compared to only one in five male buyers.

Clearly, the chicks are fast becoming the rulers of the road. It is a good thing to see women express themselves. But couples and retirees are getting in the act also. Below

right are Mr. Hood and his wife from Hurley, New Mexico, out for an afternoon pleasure ride through Minibres and to Deming. The Hoods love to ride their Gold Wing. A new motorcycle would make a

great gift this holiday season. Buy it for yourself or have that special somebody in your life buy it for you. You will not regret it. You can buy it from any of the dealers listed below in Silver City or Deming. ■

Silver City

ATV Mountain Cycle
2140 E. Hwy 180
505-534-0707

Copper Country ATV & Cycle
505 N Hudson Street
505-538-8903

Harley Davidsons
Iron Horse Corral
1800 E. Hwy 180
505-534-2659

Bear Mountain Motorcycle Shop
505-388-3500

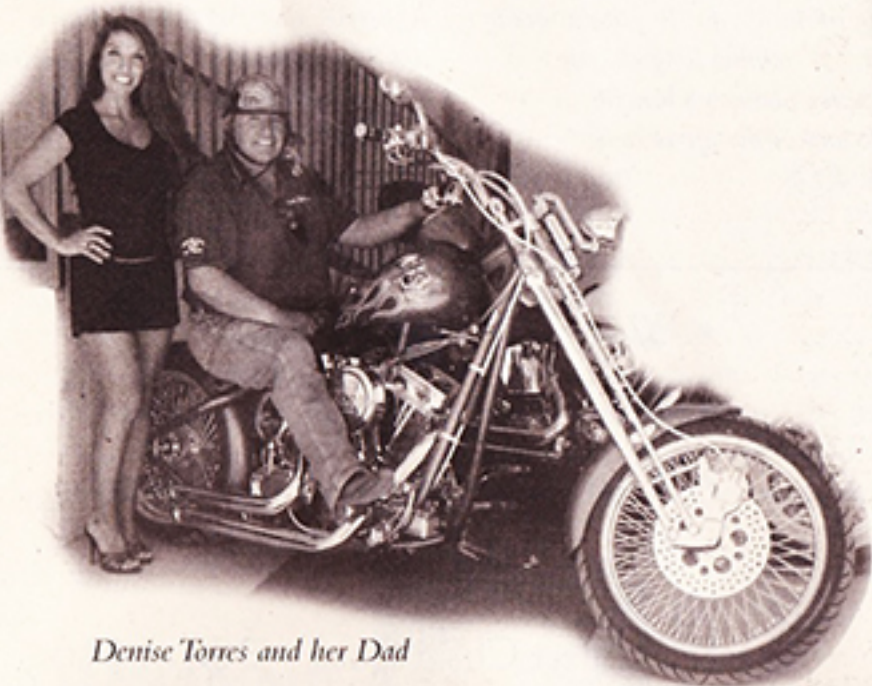
Deming

Deming Cycle Center
820 Spruce Deming
505-546-6963

Desert Cycles
3420 Second St
505-546-6678



Ken Cooper—"Solo Rider"



Denise Torres and her Dad



Mr. Hood and his wife, Hurley, NM