

RECONNECT *ing*

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

NATHAN FONDA

By: Laura L. Valenti

Before his graduation from Lebanon High School in May 2006, Nathan Fonda was a busy young man, participating in choir, theater, math club, quiz bowl, Science Olympiad, Model UN and mock trial. With all of this, he was also working as a bank teller at Mid-Missouri Bank while still in high school.

And not surprisingly, life didn't slow down much for him after that. Nathan started his college career at the University of Missouri-Rolla but by the time he graduated with his degree in Mechanical Engineering four years later, the school had changed its name to Missouri University of Science and Technology. After that, Nathan went on to three years of law school at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. And from there, it was a jump half-way across the country, to go to work for the law firm of Gibson, Dunn, & Crutcher in Dallas, Texas.

"After five and half years there, my wife, Sarah and I were happy to move back to Missouri. We are now in south St. Louis where we are closer to her parents in St. Charles County and my parents, Austin and Robin Fonda who still live in Lebanon. We moved to Lebanon when I was almost two years old when my dad took a position with the Laclede Electric Cooperative. He has just recently retired."

Nathan works for the law firm of Thompson & Coburn LLP focusing primarily on intellectual property (e.g., patent, trademark, copyright) litigation and advice. "It's important, interesting legal work, although nobody goes to jail on what I do," he added with a laugh. "It has to do with protecting a person's work in ways that most people don't think about. I

also represent companies in other complex federal litigation, such as antitrust litigation."

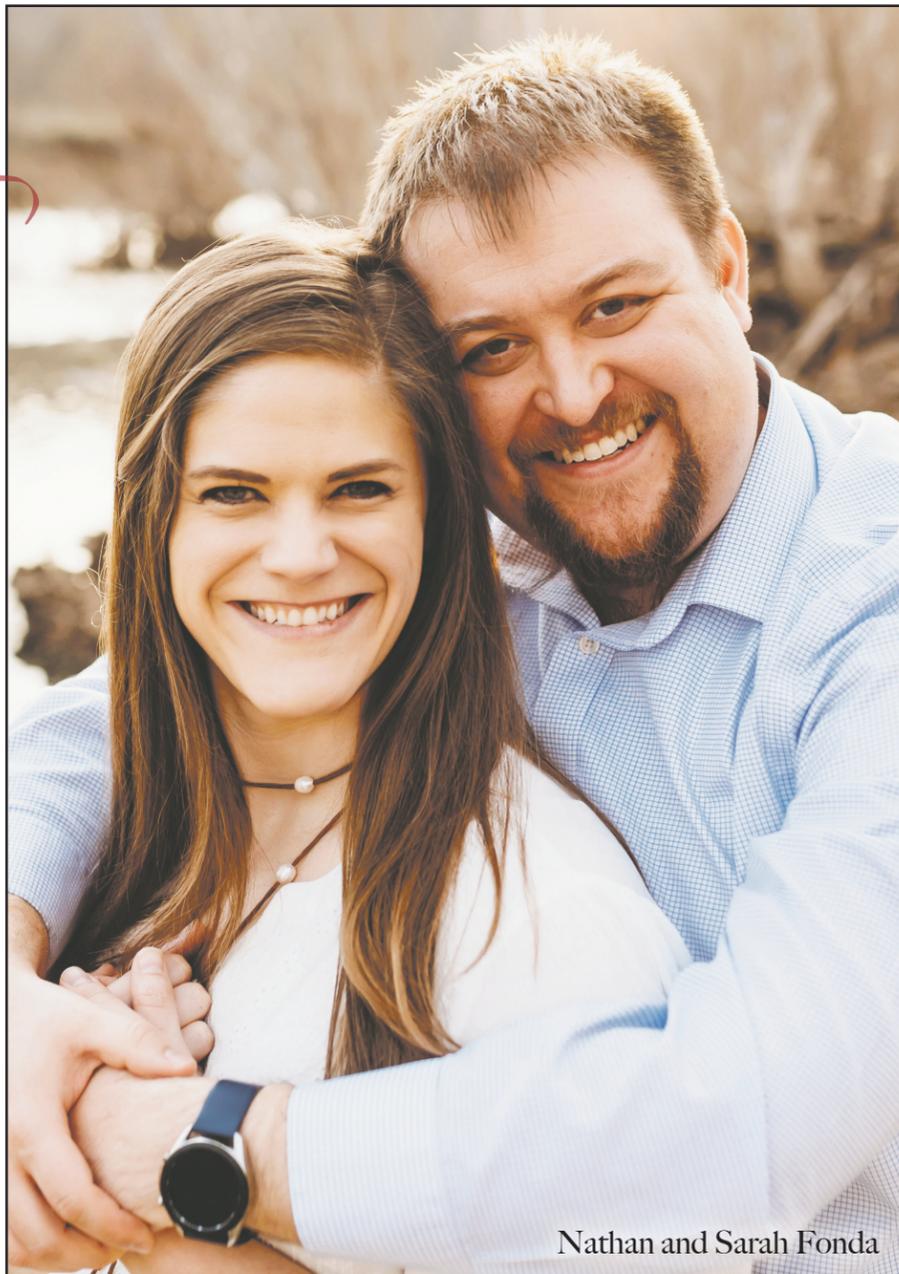
He went on to explain that his wife is a civil engineer, also in endeavors that most people don't consider on a regular basis. "She's a smart one," he continued. "Sarah works in site development on major development projects that includes the utilities, drainage for parking lots, things that make a real difference as new properties are developed."

The couple has a 20 month old son, Leland, and Nathan freely admits that as a father, his perspective on so many things in life has changed.

"There have been so many changes in our life in the last few years, as we moved back to Missouri just as Covid hit so that of course, put a weird spin on everything. We now have Leland and I made partner in the firm so that means more responsibility, both at home and at work. It doesn't seem like it's been three, almost four years since we moved to St. Louis."

When not working, Nathan and Sarah are actively involved in their church, The Journey Bayless, which is associated with the Baptist tradition. The church has recently moved into a new building and they have been helping with that. They also enjoy spending time with college friends, playing board games. They are also volleyball players although now with Leland, Nathan says he often sends Sarah to play and he stays with their baby son.

Always a St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan, Nathan laughed as he concluded, "One more advantage to moving to St. Louis is that now I get to see more Cardinals' games in person!"



Nathan and Sarah Fonda

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Nathan Fonda

Left, a photo of Nathan Fonda at work on litigation matters.



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