Mary K. Wimsett: My desire to be an advocate really began since my brother was born. I have a brother who has cerebral palsy. As a sibling to someone with a disability was incredibly special and also eye opening for me to see on a first hand level how much care and work is needed to care for a disabled person. I'm Mary K. Wimsett and I'm an attorney in Gainesville Florida. Since ever I can remember, I wanted to do something where I advocated for someone and so I went to law school with that intent. To do something where I was going to be able to use my legal skills to advocate for those who most need a voice. And then, of course, as a mother of three, I recognize how special parenthood is and so being able to help families through whatever their problems are. We are attorneys and counselors of law so our job is to help people fix their problems.

I've represented thousands and thousands of children as a defense attorney, as a guardian ad litem attorney and then also I do a lot of pro bono work as an ad litem where I'm representing children or the disabled in dependency cases or in all types of legal proceedings. Being able to help a family make their family is amazing and incredible and I get emails every day from a previous client with a picture of a child that they've adopted. Now I'm starting to hear from families where the children are adults. So keeping connected with families and having them thank me years later for my help through the process is really a wonderful reward.