



Appellate lawyer Sybil Vogtle Newton
is back in the courtroom,
helping ensure neglected children have
a strong advocate in their corner.

*Our Sybil Vogtle Newton volunteers as an advocate for neglected or abused children through Alabama CASA.
To learn more about this remarkable organization, visit CASAforChildren.org and alabamacasa.org.*

Imagine the responsibility that comes with being appointed to advocate for the rights of a child who has been neglected or abused. That's the volunteer job Sybil Vogtle Newton signed up for last year.

Inspired by a presentation from the group Emma's Circle, Sybil volunteered to become a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children). Alabama CASA volunteers are appointed by family court judges to advocate for children who've been removed from their home due to either neglect or abuse.

Fortunately, like her partners at Starnes Davis Florie, Sybil has extensive courtroom experience and success, having tried dozens of cases before becoming head of the firm's Appellate Law group. And she understands children, having raised five of her own.

"A fellow CASA volunteer told me about cases in which her efforts made it possible for the court to determine that a family that seemed destined to be split up could safely stay together. That's leaving a legacy for generations," Sybil said.

CASA volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the children are placed in a safe, permanent home. For many such children, the CASA volunteer in their life is the one constant adult presence.

"I struggled a bit looking for something I could do outside of work to make a difference. I'm just getting started, but I can already tell how rewarding this work is," she said.

Here's to Sybil Vogtle Newton and her Alabama CASA colleagues, for working hard to ensure no child is without a strong advocate who understands the special challenges they face.

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