

# EASTMORELAND *Living*

January 2020

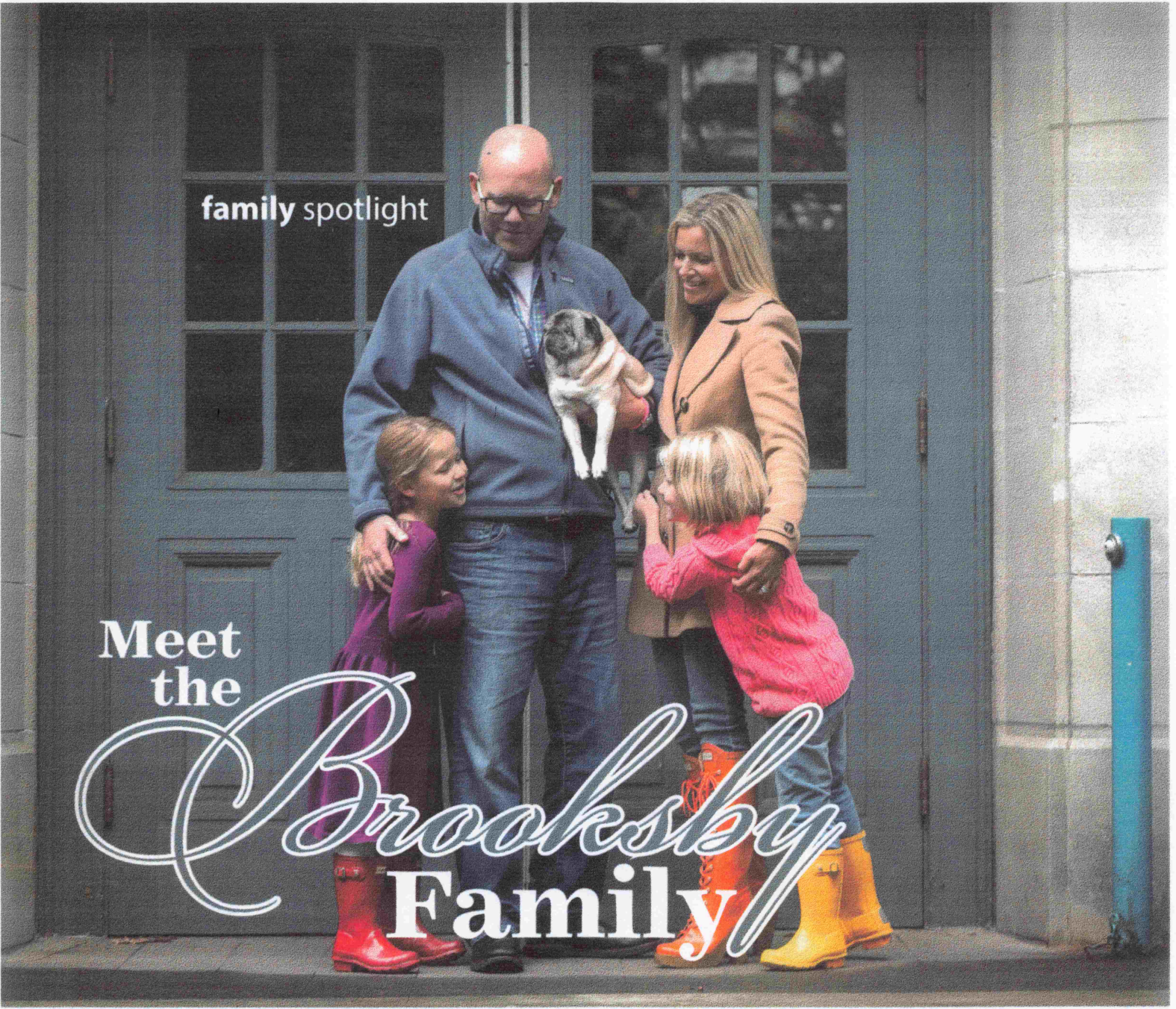
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## Meet the Brooksby Family

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NEW YEAR 2020 Contest  
Arthur the dog  
Fiona Vestal: Babysitter Profile  
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family spotlight

# Meet the *Brooksby* Family

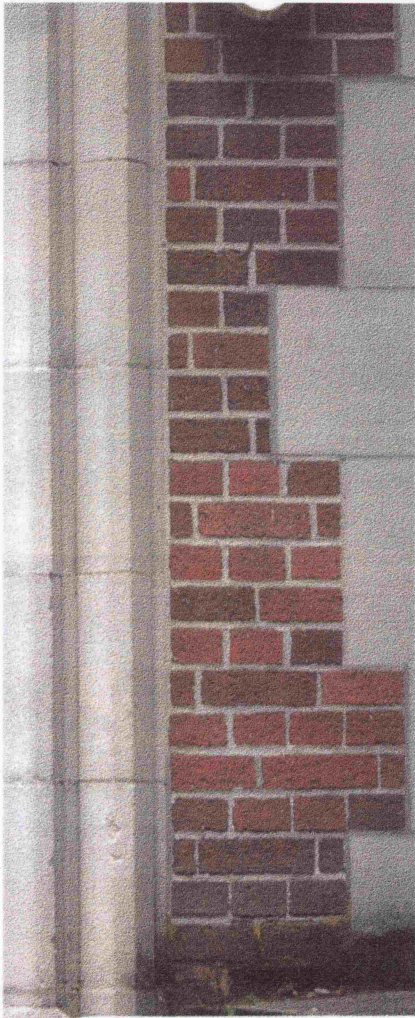
Meet Scott and Kristin, trial lawyers who own a boutique litigation firm in downtown Portland, Olson Brooksby. The couple lives in Eastmoreland with their two girls, Gia, who is 8 years old and in 3rd grade at Duniway, and Bianca, a 6-year-old in kindergarten also at Duniway. The family shares their home with Mops, a 12-year-old female Pug. “Mops” is actually German for Pug which makes her name cute and fitting.

Oregon natives, Scott grew up in Raleigh Hills and graduated from Beaverton High School. Kristin went to Lake Grove Elementary up until middle school, when her family moved to the Seattle area. Scott attended The Catholic University of America in DC for law school. Kristin attended Gonzaga for her undergrad and later the University of Oregon for law school. The two met at a large law firm, married and spent some time traveling internationally. They were later living in the SW Hills near Hoyt Arboretum with their second daughter on the way when they

realized they wanted more of a neighborhood feel for their girls to grow up in. They were looking for something with flat streets and sidewalks that were easy and safe for the kids to traverse and a close-by neighborhood school. They looked all over the city, but chose Eastmoreland as their favorite neighborhood in Portland. Commenting on some of her favorite things about Eastmoreland, Kristin shared, “sidewalks; a neighborhood school with friends nearby; beautiful, old homes; and no vertical hills.”

The Brooksby family enjoys their community and getting outside as much as they can, visiting Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, Duniway playground, Westmoreland Park, and Eastmoreland Playground Park at the end of their street. The girls also fancy the driving range at the Eastmoreland Golf Course where the club rentals are free with a bucket of balls, and the guys at the pro shop are really kind. In addition to the driving range, Gia takes ice skating lessons at Lloyd Center and does cheer at





Thunder Elite in Clackamas. She also participates in Sellwood baseball, is a prolific crafter and reader who is working her way through all of Beverly Cleary's books. Bianca experiments with fashion and extreme makeup as her go-to after school activity of choice and otherwise likes swimming and rock climbing. In fact, the whole family enjoys swimming in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Favorite family memories include trips to Aulani, a Disney Resort in Oahu, attending a Katy Perry concert altogether, eating out at local favorites PDX Sliders, Pizza Roma and Relish and cheering on their teams — Gonzaga Bulldogs, Oregon Ducks, and the Trailblazers. At the end of each day, they share their individual highs and lows. At the end of every year, on New Year's Eve, they go macro and share their highs and lows of the year—both as a family and as individuals.

Because the girls are at Duniway, Kristin and Scott have chosen to be very involved with the school both in the classroom and on a larger level. Their law firm, Olson Brooksby, is the 2019-2020 Presenting Sponsor for the 41st Annual Duniway Home Tour and the 21st Annual Duniway Foundation Auction. Olson Brooksby also sponsors Gia's Sellwood Baseball team in the Spring.

We asked Scott and Kristin to share a little more about their law firm.

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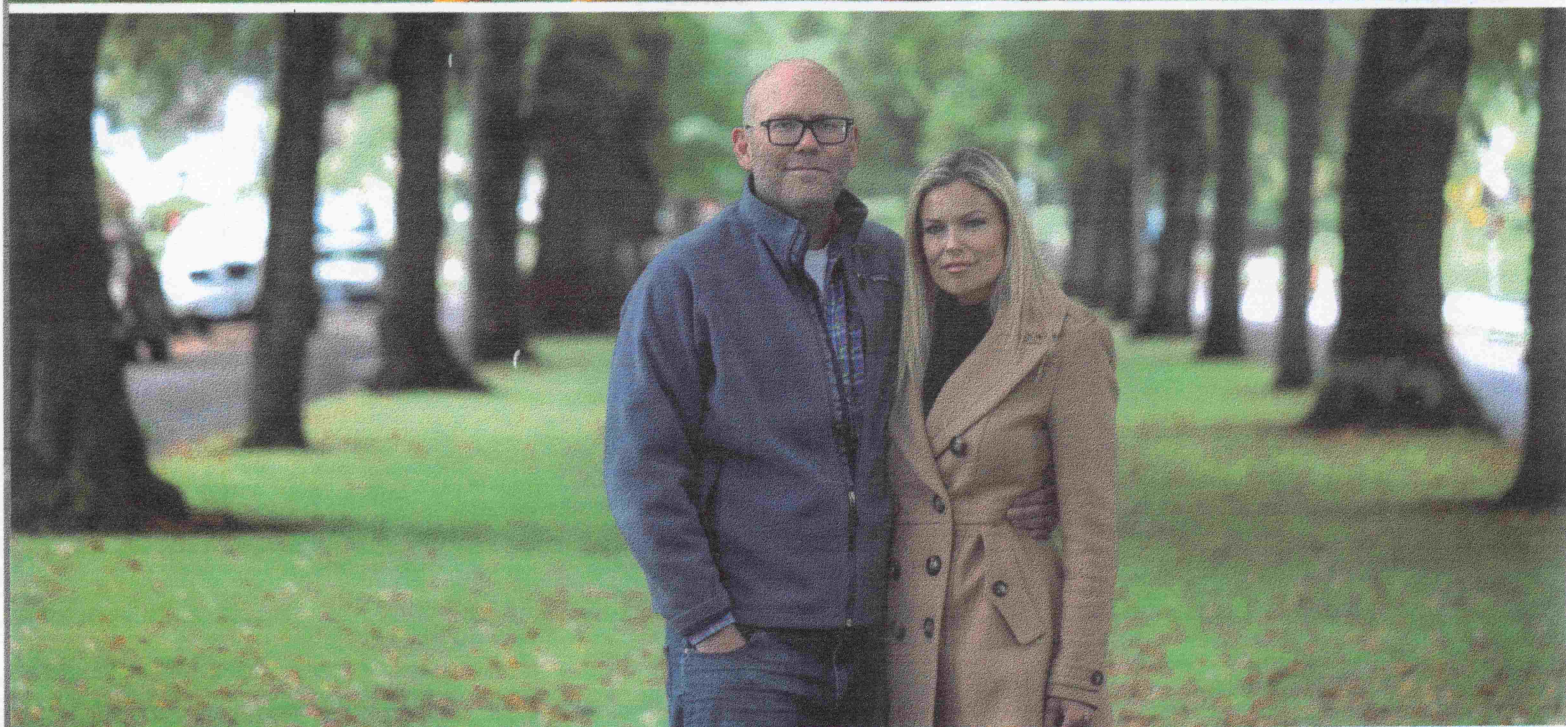
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**Q: What prompted you to go into law?**

**A:** Kristin grew up when the OJ Simpson trial and the Clarence Thomas hearings were practically playing on a loop, and when the First Lady of the United States (Hillary Clinton) was a lawyer. Kristin's mom told her that maybe she could be a lawyer, too. Even though she had never even met a lawyer, Kristin earned a graduate teaching fellowship to law school at the University of Oregon to work for Charles Ogletree—a man she grew up watching on TV when he was Anita Hill's lawyer during the Clarence Thomas hearings. Kristin's practice focuses on civil trial work and she represents both businesses and injured individuals, including sexual abuse victims.

Scott's work focuses on product liability defense because he enjoys learning about the industries he represents, such as the aviation industry, and how their various products work.

**Q: What prompted you two to start your own firm?**

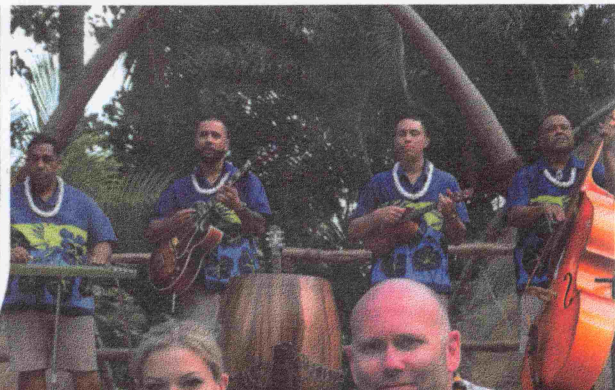
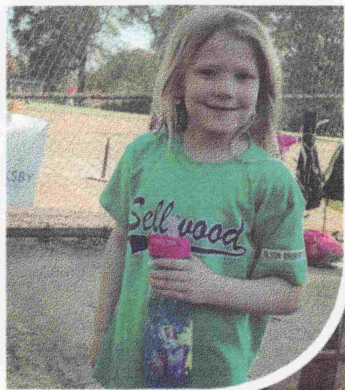
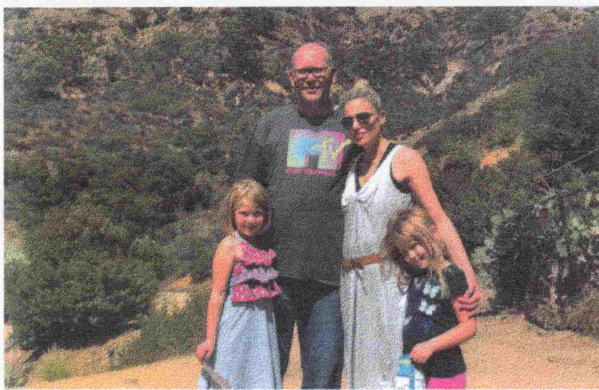
**A:** We have a combined 41 years of experience practicing law. We

started our own firm because we wanted to invest in ourselves and to purposefully and deliberately choose where to focus our own energies and time. This was becoming more and more important as we were starting our family. We also wanted to be able to limit and control our caseload so that we can give each of our clients the attention they deserve and consistently produce high-quality work. Additionally, Kristin wanted to build a personal injury practice representing injured people, which wasn't possible at our old firm, which focused on defense work. We worked on cases together at the same large law firm before we were married, and so we already knew that we worked well together. We decided to take a (rather large) risk and build a practice together. The firm opened when Kristin was pregnant with Bianca in 2012.

**Q: How many lawyers are a part of your firm?**

**A:** It's just the two of us. When we need additional help staffing cases, we employ incredibly talented contract lawyers and paralegals. The contract professionals we work with have the same personal and professional goals and high standards that we do and





prefer to be in control of their own time. They generally work from home when possible, and their work product is impeccable.

**Q: How long have you been in Portland and why did you choose the location?**

**A:** We currently work downtown, but we are looking for commercial space in Southeast to be closer to our children at Duniway.

**Q: What makes Olson Brooksby unique?**

**A:** We represent both corporations and injured people. This provides us with a wide range of experience and perspective because we've been on both sides of the courtroom and we can better anticipate arguments from the opposing party. Trials have become incredibly expensive and most people don't want to try cases anymore. However, if a case needs to be tried, we are uniquely seasoned trial lawyers who have tried cases throughout the State of Oregon and are comfortable in front of a jury. Our trial experience provides us with more leverage during settlement negotiations because the other side knows that we are not afraid to take any of our cases to trial.

**Q: Given your business expertise and the nature of what you do, what advice or professional tip would you offer your neighbors?**

**A:** You can't ever have too much insurance. When injured people come to us, they are usually surprised to learn that, unless the person who injured them is a wealthy corporation or individual, the amount of money that an injured person can recover depends on how much insurance is available. For instance, if someone is hit by an uninsured driver, the uninsured driver usually doesn't have any personal wealth to speak of. Therefore, the injured person's recovery is limited by the amount of auto or umbrella insurance that the injured person has. Similarly, if you have any personal wealth to speak of, you need to protect it by carrying enough insurance so that if, for whatever reason, you are sued or you accidentally injure someone, you have enough insurance to pay for a good lawyer and to prevent the injured person from seizing your personal wealth.

Kristin Olson and Scott Brooksby

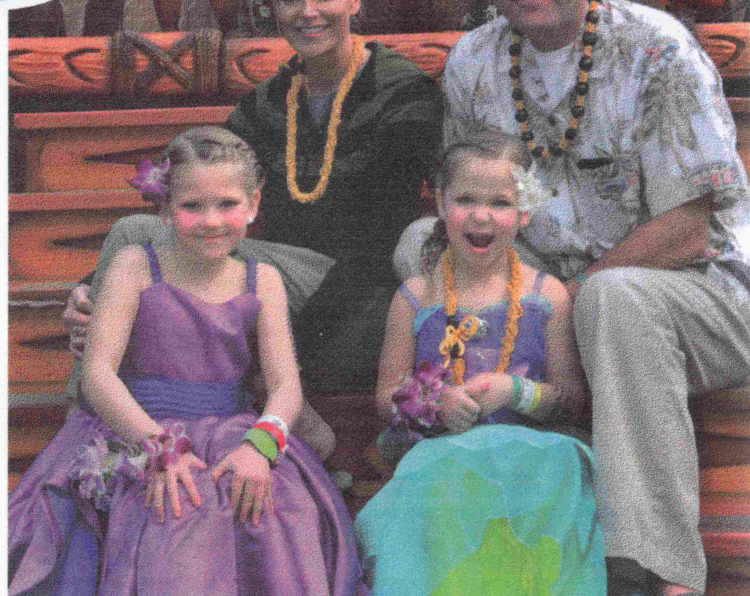
**Olson Brooksby PC**

olsonbrooksby.com

Phone: 503.740.7608

Address: 1020 SW Taylor Street, Suite 400, Portland, 97205

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