

REALTOR® SPOTLIGHT

Selling a home by owner is tempting with websites such as Zillow to help with information acquisition. Some do not realize, however, how much time and money a REALTOR® can actually save a homeowner. Bringing their knowledge of the housing market and experience to the table provides a potentially cost-saving experience to buyers and sellers.

2024 TEXARKANA MAGAZINE SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Linda Leach

How do I define my success...

My successes have been built by assisting my clients in achieving their goals and dreams, not from dollar amounts or sales figures. I define success by seeing the satisfaction on my client's faces when we secure the best possible price for their homes or find their dream property. It's the phone call from a client who was referred to me by a friend or family member that truly defines my success. Knowing that my dedication and hard work earned their trust and recommendation is extremely rewarding.

My typical workday...

In real estate, there is no typical day, and no two days are ever the same. One day might involve working in the office, managing contracts, and negotiating offers. At the same time, another could find me delivering staging items to prepare a home for professional photos. I might spend another day showing multiple properties to an out-of-state client and convincing them to call Texarkana home. The unpredictability of the job is what I love most. I start each day early with a workout before diving into the "typical day."

The most rewarding part of my job...

Preparing a home for the market is a passion of mine. I take pride in attending to every detail, from decluttering and rearranging furniture to staging the home to its most luxurious potential, regardless of price point. I often work right up to the arrival of the photographer to ensure everything is perfect. Seeing the final result when the property goes live is truly gratifying and one of the most rewarding parts of being a REALTOR[®].

The funniest thing that has ever happened to me during a showing...

It involved a seller's cat determined to escape as we showed the home. I chased that cat down the street in a dress and heels and coaxed it back inside. I am sure it provided quite a laugh for any neighbors who witnessed it!

Hometown Garden City, Kansas Favorite Food Thai Hobby Barrel Racing Dream Vacation The beach, books, and

frozen drinks.

First Thing I Do At The Office My day begins by creating a plan of action. I prioritize urgent tasks, review the MLS for new listings, price changes, market status, and address any overnight calls or emails.

RE/MAX

Most Used Apps

Podcast and Audible.

listening to something

even while walking my

Texas Cowgirl Realtor

dogs or driving.

I love to learn and I'm always

If My Life Were A Reality

Show, It Would Be Called...

 $9\,0\,3$ - $5\,5\,6$ - $2\,2\,2\,3$

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Hometown DeSoto, Texas

Dream Vacation Italy

Binge Watch Anything that is a period piece style movie.

Karrie Morse

Best Career moment so far...

Getting my brokers license in Texas and Arkansas. It was the best career decision I have ever made.

What inspired me to become a Realtor...

My mother. I am a second generation REALTOR[®] and broker. My mom had her own commercial brokerage in Dallas, which inspired me to open my own brokerage in Texarkana.



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Favorite Sports Team Arkansas Razorbacks

If My Life Were A Reality Show, It Would Be Called... Sarah Sells Texarkana!

Sarah Griffin Sealy

Best Career moment so far... Being named the 2022 Arkansas Realtor of the Year!

The best advice I ever received... If you find a career/job that you love, you never dread going to "work."

Dream Vacation It is a tie...Any beach with a close second being Disney World.



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Amber Gideon Stewart

My favorite part of living and selling real estate in Texarkana...

Whether reconnecting with childhood friends, former colleagues from my years in education, or meeting new faces through real estate, I enjoy getting to know people at their current stage in life. It is fun to see how connected our community is, with people and events intertwining in many ways.

The best advice I ever received...

"Strength through adversity." One of my teachers said this to me when I was in the ninth grade. Every time I encounter a tough situation, I remember this.

The most rewarding part of my job...

Helping people! Whether it's helping someone buy their first home, guiding them through the sale to find their next, or supporting those selling due to a loss or relocation, I enjoy assisting people through every stage of life.

Nonprofit I wish more people knew about...

I have two— 1. Opportunities, Inc.— Many people do not realize the number of children and adults with disabilities in our community who benefit from this organization. 2. Junior League of Texarkana— You hear of Mistletoe Market (formerly Mistletoe Fair). Still, most people do not realize that these women work tirelessly that weekend to raise money to give back to the underprivileged children of our community. I choose to support both on the local level.

What advice I would give to first-time homebuyers...

Start by saving money and finding a REALTOR® you trust don't hesitate to interview a few. Let your trusted REALTOR® help you find a lender, and then go from there. There are so many steps in this process. It is important to work with people who have experience. If you choose a Realtor or lender who is new to the market (we all start somewhere), ensure they have the guidance needed to get you to your goal.

Hometown Texarkana, Arkansas

Binge Watch Friends

Favorite Song Currently "People Like Us" by Micah Tyler **Favorite Sports Team** Arkansas Razorbacks

If My Life Were A Reality Show, It Would Be Called... Coordinated Chaos Use One Emoji To Describe Working In Real Estate



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Binge Watch Bluey, DCC on Netflix, and Superstore

Splurge Taylor tickets for my Swifties

Favorite Food Caprese Sandwich from Julie's Deli on Tuesday

Virginia Ann Raffaelli Prazak

What keeps me coming back every day...

I have the privilege of working with some of my absolute favorite people in town, and they have brought so much joy to my life. It is amazing to be surrounded by those you admire and those that make you belly laugh daily.

The most rewarding part of my job...

The hugs are the best. When you find the property, win the bidding war, or close the impossible and find yourself jumping up and down like a kid. Those moments make the hurdles worth it.



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Go To Beverage Diet Dr. Pepper

One Emoji For Real Estate

Dream Vacation I've always wanted to stay in an overwater bungalow.

Tessa Ray

Best career moment so far...

After over four years and around 200 transactions later, this career is made up of so many unforgettable moments. There are some tough days for buyers and sellers in this process, and I ride those out right alongside them. Still, the joy of making their goals happen has given me an abundance of moments that are all part of the career I have always dreamed of.

What I love most about living and working in Texarkana...

My dedication to my community is unwavering. I love walking into a store or restaurant and seeing familiar faces. It's heartwarming when someone asks about my mom or comments on the latest pictures of my grand baby. Helping the people of my community, who are so dear to me, find or sell a home is a fantastic gift. And when they refer you to their friends and family, it is the absolute highest honor. Because of them, my circle has grown so much since I began four years ago.



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