

Anne C. Gardner

Anne C. Gardner's Smith-Cotton days were full of activity, both inside and out of the classroom. The valedictorian of the Class of 1978, Anne was active in National Honor Society, National Forensics League, Foreign Language Association and Student Council, where she served as parliamentarian her senior year. She was editor of the Archives yearbook her senior year, as well as president of the Parent-Teacher-Student Association. Anne was a member of the Lady Tigers track, basketball and tennis teams, lettering in tennis. She played bass violin in the S-C orchestra, was in the cast for "Guys and Dolls," "Hello Dolly" and "The Sound of Music," and a member of SPIZ, the school's spirit club, where she was the JV mascot her junior year. Her senior year, Anne was queen of the Archives Ball. She attended the University of Missouri-Columbia, earning a bachelor's degrees in Finance & Banking in 1982. While at Mizzou, she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity. In 1986, Anne earned her Juris Doctorate from the Oklahoma City University School of Law in Oklahoma, where she also was active in Law Review, served on the Moot Court Board and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. She has been a member of the Missouri Bar and the Pettis County Bar Association since 1986, serving as president of the latter in 1994-95. She started her law career with Martin, Gibson & Gardner in Sedalia; she currently is a partner at Gardner & Gardner, Attorneys & Counselors at Law, where she specializes in Local Government, Estate Planning, Probate, Collections, Real Estate, and Business Organization. Anne also has been very involved in the local community, serving as Sedalia's assistant city counselor from 1990-92, as city counselor from 1992-2002 and as city attorney from 2003 until her retirement from the position in 2021. She also served on the State of Missouri's Personnel Advisory Board for a decade (1999-2009) and on the board of directors for CASA – Citizens Against Spousal Abuse. CASA Board President Turf Martin said, "Anne has devoted herself to the Sedalia community. She has personally and professionally helped the people of Sedalia for decades." CASA Executive Director Lori Haney added: "Anne has given so much to so many in our community for a number of years. CASA is fortunate to be one of many organizations blessed by her presence. Having served on our board of directors for years, Anne has given her professional expertise to our agency, but it is her personal attributes of leadership, compassion, candor, and humor that has meant even more to everyone at CASA. Personally, I have been strengthened as a professional woman through her support and guidance."

Inducted in Smith-Cotton Academic Hall of Fame, 2021

