

## NEVADA TRAILBLAZERS

# Meet Tracy Ip Hibbetts:

## Maintains a Strong Work Ethic at Work and Helps Her Community

BY MARY BACON, ESQ.

**For Tracy Ip Hibbetts, the value of working hard was instilled in her from birth.**

“I have always admired her strong work ethic, sense of fairness, her intelligence and her ability to work well with everyone,” Judge Anne Zimmerman said. “She is well liked and respected by all who know her. She is the first person to volunteer to help out a colleague or to donate her time and talents to the many causes that she is involved with.”

Before Hibbetts was born in Hong Kong, her parents had a plan. After their daughter arrived, they intended to immigrate to the U.S. to follow family and chase the American Dream. As part of the plan, “Tracy” appeared on Hibbetts’ birth certificate instead of a more traditional Chinese name. The family was set to move when she was a toddler, but their move was delayed due to her father’s cancer diagnosis. After her father received a clean bill of health, the family was on a plane to embark on the next phase of their lives.

Hibbetts was 11 when her family arrived in the U.S. She spoke only conversational English and was (understandably) behind in school. Always a star

student, she committed to getting caught up. While both of her parents worked long hours at a dry cleaner, Hibbetts studied and practiced English by watching popular sitcoms like “Saved by the Bell” and “Beverly Hills 90210.”

Her years of hard work paid off. At the time of her high school graduation, Hibbetts was president of Key Club, captain of Varsity Quiz and Science Bowl, was inducted into National Junior Honor Society, and graduated from Valley High School in the top 10 in her class—with high honors.

Her accomplishments earned her admission to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she graduated with dual bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice and psychology. Consistent with the work ethic she learned from her parents, she worked full-time at Gap and then at Wells Fargo Bank throughout college, and contributed to the campus community through her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, and by acting as an orientation leader for the university.



After graduation, Hibbetts worked at a law firm and went to night school to earn a certificate in paralegal studies from UNLV. Five years into working in the law, she knew law school was next on the horizon.

Hibbetts packed up her life and moved to San Diego to attend California Western School of Law. Her active academic and social calendar continued throughout law school. She was a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Pro Bono Honor Society, Public Service Honor Society, and the Moot Court Honors Board Executive Board. During summers, she returned to Las Vegas to intern for the Law Office of the Clark County Public Defender and for the Honorable Nancy C. Oesterle (Ret.), Justice Court Department 6.

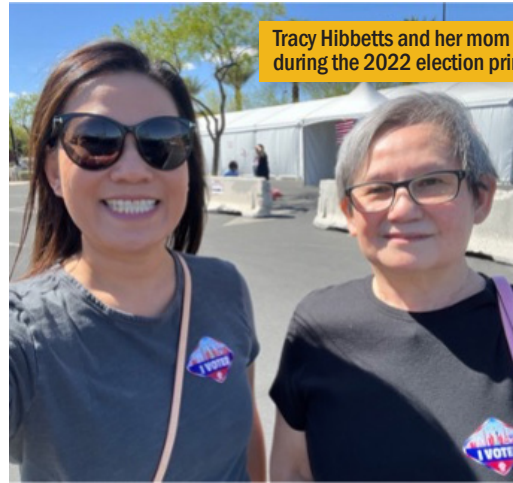
Hibbetts counts her time at the Clark County Public Defender's Office as her most impactful since law school. After graduating law school, she returned home to Las Vegas to hit the ground running at the public defender's office. And she did just that. She started as a deputy and rose through the ranks to a chief deputy and assistant team chief, eventually being tapped to lead a new specialty court—Initial Appearance Court. Hibbetts recently transitioned to the District Attorney's office and is excited about how she can help protect her community and continue to make Las Vegas a great place to live and call home.

Volunteering her time and gifts for the benefit of the Las Vegas community has always been an important part of her life. Hibbetts leads one of the locations for The Just One Project Pop Up and Give Mobile Market, and she regularly volunteers for Three Square, Leaders In Training, Shannon West Homeless Youth Center, and Help of Southern Nevada. She is also a member of the Junior League of Las Vegas and a graduate of the New American

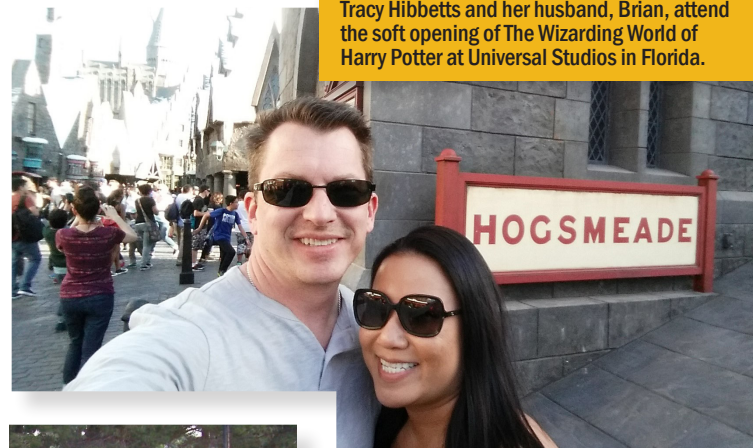
Leaders: Ready to Lead Program and a proud member of Leadership Las Vegas' Class of 2019—go Dragons!

In the legal community, she is president of the Clark County Law Foundation and serves as a mentor for the State Bar of Nevada's Transitioning Into Practice Program. Hibbetts is a member of the Clark County Bar Association, Nevada Attorneys for Criminal Justice, Nevada Justice Association, Nevada Latino Bar Association, Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys, and The Howard McKibben American Inn of Court. Previously, she was a mentor for the Huellas Program at William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV. In 2019, she was selected among many applicants from all over the country to attend the inaugural Judicial Academy: Bootcamp for Aspiring Judges at the National Judicial College.

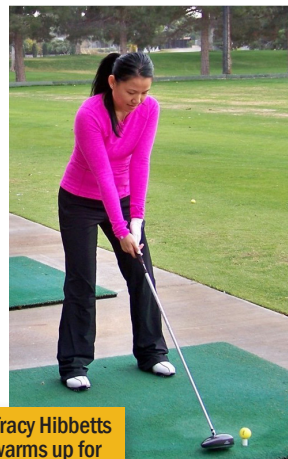
In her spare time, Hibbetts enjoys traveling with her husband, Brian. Together, they chase Harry Potter-themed locations like London for the Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter, and California and Florida for The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios (and the Florida one is better, she said). But most important of all, she is a dog-mom and loves spending time with, and spoiling, her Rottweiler rescue, Duke.



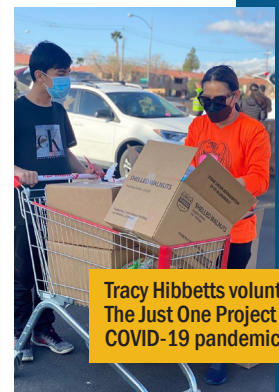
Tracy Hibbetts and her mom vote early during the 2022 election primaries.



Tracy Hibbetts and her husband, Brian, attend the soft opening of The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios in Florida.



Tracy Hibbetts warms up for the annual Clark County Public Defender Golf Tournament.



Tracy Hibbetts volunteers with The Just One Project during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Tracy Hibbetts takes her turn at the plate during a kickball tournament to raise money for Camp Cartwheel.