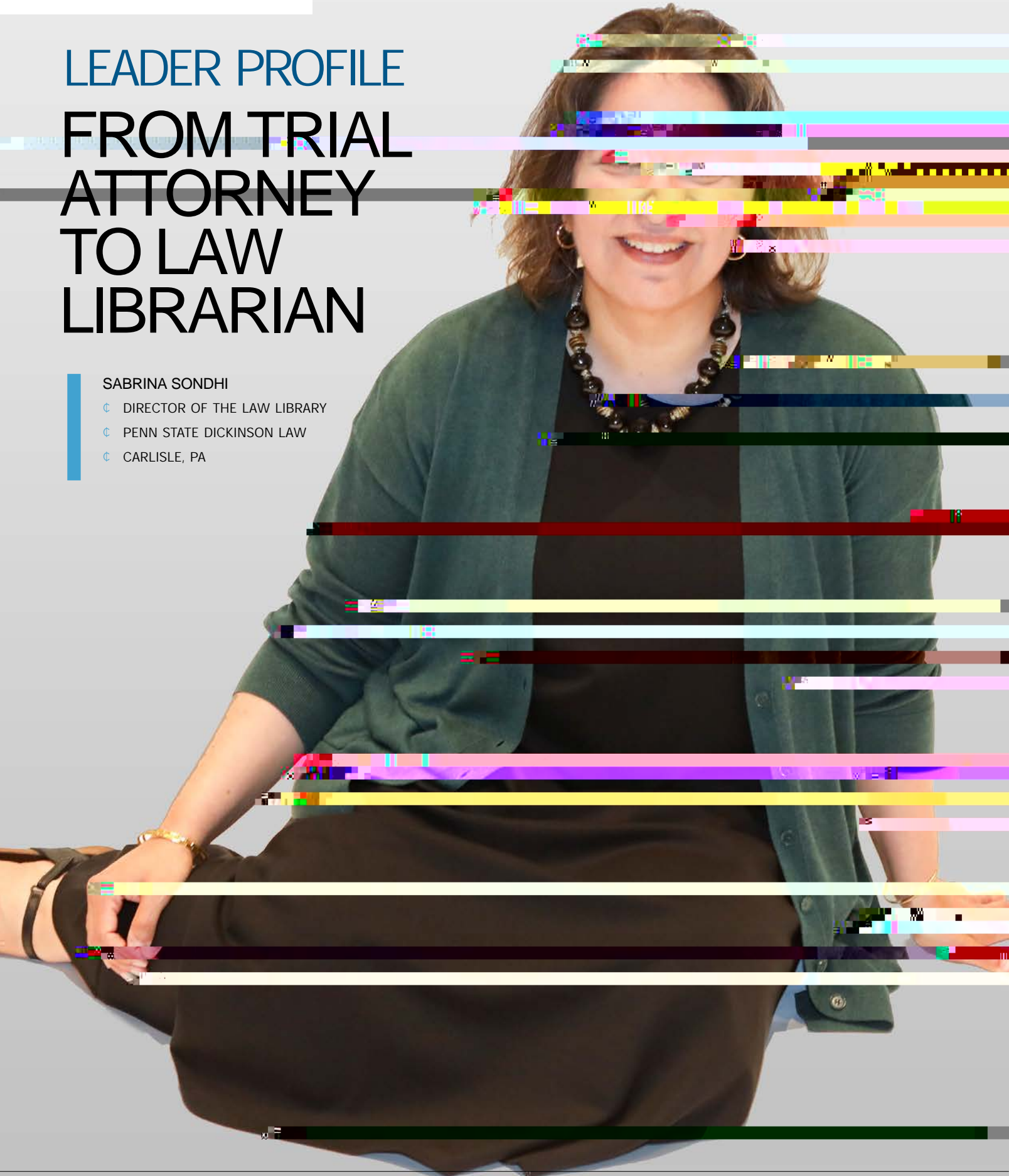


LEADER PROFILE FROM TRIAL ATTORNEY TO LAW LIBRARIAN

SABRINA SONDHI

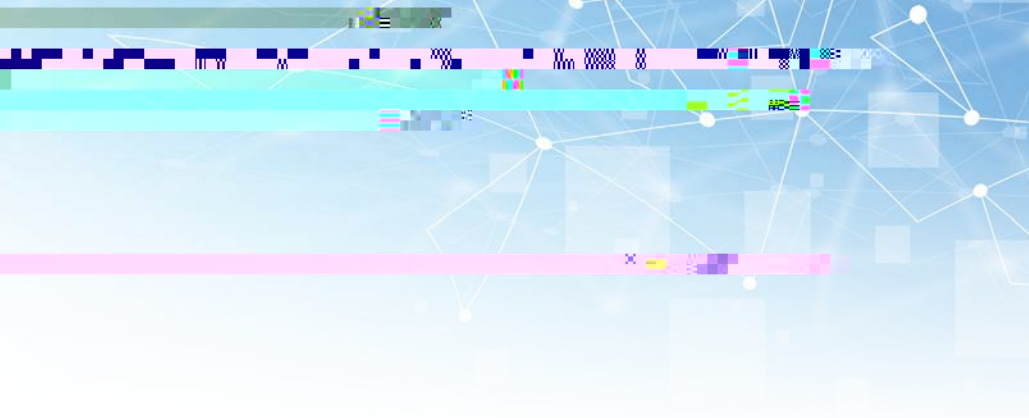
- ☪ DIRECTOR OF THE LAW LIBRARY
- ☪ PENN STATE DICKINSON LAW
- ☪ CARLISLE, PA



After earning her JD from Cornell Law School, Sondhi clerked for a federal magistrate judge in Ohio before practicing law in California, including working as a trial attorney for Safeco Insurance Company. After six years, sensing that her CEO was planning for a buyout, along with feeling burned out and stressed, she decided to attend graduate school at the University of Washington and pursue a library degree—with no actual intention of using her degree. However, halfway through, she began to realize law librarianship might be a good career path after all.

She received her MLIS in 2008 and spent the next 10 years working at the Diamond Law Library at Columbia Law School as the special collections and services librarian. When she originally applied for the position, the school wanted someone who was dual degreed, but also proficient in several languages, including Latin, which she was not. “It sounded like such a cool job, managing rare books and archives, and working with both

the Columbia community as well as the worldwide community, so I thought, what the heck? I’ll apply anyway,” said Sondhi. During her spring break, she received a call from the director, who wanted to meet with her to talk about the job, and that conversation turned into an all-day interview. They made a point to say they needed someone with cataloging experience,



What advice would you give to those looking to advocate for themselves or their libraries?

I spoke on a panel earlier this summer about advocating for your library, and it comes down to flipping the question. For example, let's say you need something from someone else who has the power or ability to give it to you. Don't talk to them about why you need it, talk to them about how giving it to you will help them. For

need to sell law librarianship as
a good job. What do I think that
law librarians could be doing?
I think we need to be focusing