

Learn more at:
heifer.org

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL:
An Investment That
Makes A Difference



PASS ON
THE GIFT
HEIFER
INTERNATIONAL

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.
WSJ.com

May 11, 2007, 4:01 PM ET

Sidley Austin: When Barack Met Michelle



For those of you gearing up for the arrival of a fresh class of summer associates, you could very well find a future presidential candidate in your midst. Or your future spouse. Or both.

Those of you on the Obama bandwagon are probably hip to the fact that Barack and his wife Michelle met at [Sidley Austin](#) in Chicago. (There is a profile today on Michelle (pictured) in the USA Today.)

In 1988, Michelle was a young Sidley lawyer fresh out of Harvard Law School and she was put in charge of mentoring a summer associate named Barack. From a Newsweek profile: "Attraction was instant, but Michelle thought an office romance unseemly. Still, Barack pursued his blushing adviser." The WaPo reports that on the campaign trail, she recalled hearing his "strange name" before meeting him and thinking that "any black guy who spent his formative years on an island had to be a little nerdy, a little strange." She took him to lunch.

By the time they got hitched in 1992, Michelle had jettisoned corporate law for the public sector, taking a job with Mayor Richard Daley. "I wanted to have a career where I was thrilled to wake up," she told a reporter in 2004. Obama, for his part, never went back to Sidley. After graduating from Harvard Law in 1991, he led voter registration drives in Chicago. He then joined civil rights firm [Miner, Barnhill & Galland](#) from 1993 to 1996. (He also taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School until 2004.) In 1996, he left law-firm life and entered politics when he was elected to the state senate.

Copyright 2008 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com