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Real
Producer:
Ashley
Spencer





Clay Hall

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BLUEGRASS

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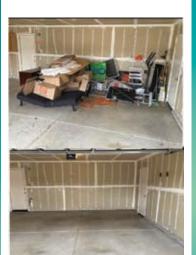
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ASHLEY SPENCER

Photos By Krsiten Ellis Photography Written By Tori Eiselstein

KELLER WILLIAMS COMMONWEALTH

"I didn't know what the heck I was doing," laughs Top Producer Ashley Spencer of her official real estate debut during the pandemic. Having experienced numerous obstacles, she has developed undeniable resilience and has truly found her calling in real estate, where she can impact people on a larger scale and create a beautiful life for herself and her daughter. Ashley says, "Real estate was a God thing. It was a life raft that saved me from a less than ideal situation at home."

From selling industrial maintenance products to interpreting Spanish at the health department and working on a zipline, Ashley has a diverse work background. She even operated a multi-national natural gas company, gaining experience in importing, exporting and accounting, which ultimately set her up for entrepreneurial success as a REALTOR®. She obtained her license in order to work in commercial property while in Texas and encountered numerous difficulties throughout the transactions prompting her to think: "I could do this better. There's an

opportunity here!"

Ashley made her first transaction in June of 2020 and plunged into real estate full-time that

following year. Through the ups and downs, along with the typical challenges that come with owning a business, she has continually honed in on the craft, all the while maintaining a genuine care for her clients. "Everything I've accomplished has been against all odds," she adds.

After going through a divorce,
Ashley battled bouts of depression and anxiety; however,
this turned into her "do or
die" moment and she took
the steps to move forward,
not only for herself, but for
her daughter, Ellamarie. She
hired a life coach that she
"couldn't afford" at the time and
began to strengthen her mindset.
Now, that she has overcome several
obstacles she uses her story as a way to

inspire and encourage others, showing they can be successful too.



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"I get amped up when people succeed," Ashley remarks. "That fuels me!" She now leads her own team, an area where she particularly thrives due to her innate understanding that this business is about people. Her first Buyer's Agent earned six figures in their very first year in the business under Ashley's leadership. She continues to be passionate about teaching the team how they can duplicate her, delivering service at a high level for their clientele. "I want to give back and help others," she comments. "Not only clients, but build businesses and help the community thrive."

Ashley is grateful for the financial freedom and independence that real estate has provided her, especially as a single mom, raising Ellamarie entirely on her own. "She's my 'Gift from God'," Ashley says about her 10-year-old. The duo are like "two peas in a pod" and thoroughly enjoy their lives together. Despite Ella's young age, she has a deep appreciation for what Ashley has done, and continues to do, in order to provide for them, which is evidence of how much Ashley has invested into her child through thick and thin.

As the middle child, Ashley comes from a tighly knit family, having an "awesome bring up in the country". However, she always longed for a life outside of "small country living" and due to her adventurous nature, she explored various different places and possibilities. She lived in Japan

and Puerto Rico for a time, and she even was interested in pursuing careers in anthropology and fashion.

Artistic and bold, Ashley set the fashion trends while growing up. Today, she still loves to express herself through what she wears and this has translated to how she operates in real estate, staying very true to who she is in her business. Her artistic abilities also include writing, drawing and decorating the home. "A home is an expression and extension of who you are," she says.

Despite her success, Ashley remains humble and grounded. While her real estate success may feel rather sudden, this has been years in the making, and she continually seeks new ways to grow and improve. "I've made a bunch of mistakes, but I've also learned from every single one of them," she adds, saying that she didn't officially "grow up" until age 35. However, her authenticity and commitment to evolve is evident in the way she conducts her personal and professional life, making a positive impact wherever she goes.

In the face of adversity, Ashley has proven time and time again that she not only succeeds through her dedication to hard work, but through her keen ability to adapt to changing circumstances, genuine passion to help others and keeping God at the center of all that she does.











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TRANSFORMING REAL ESTATE MARKETING, ONE SHOT AT A TIME

he pandemic was a time to pivot and James Weatherholt was no exception. When he discovered the world of real estate photography in 2020, his business grew exponentially. He found his niche and built his impeccable reputation in the real estate community. With timely service, picture-perfect photos that capture the attention of prospective buyers, and professionalism, he started gaining a loyal following among Top Producers.

Experience + Expertise

"I used to be a REALTOR® 5-6 years ago," says James. "That got me interested in photography." His experience was invaluable. He understands the pain points of real estate agents and makes the process as seamless and simple as possible. Understanding that real estate agents need things quickly, James can accommodate people's time crunches with ease.

After undergoing training and obtaining certification, James launched his business during 2020. "Then everything got really busy," he smiles. He has since expanded his team and is continuing to hire top talent to serve more REALTORS®. To date, he has done over 3,000 photoshoots and more to come.

Best of all, James loves what he does. "I get all the things I loved about real estate without the headache and paperwork of being



a REALTOR®," he explains. "I get to see awesome places and don't have to be in an office all day. I get to be out and about, meet new people, and see fun things. I also get to create art. I never would have thought that I would be considered an artist, but you are when you're a photographer."

Customer-Focused

One thing that sets James apart is that he is customer-focused. When he takes photos of a property, he delivers the photos the next morning. Speed matters when it comes to putting a house on the market.

"The number one thing for agents is that they need quick access to a photographer. They need their shoots done as soon as possible," he explains. That's why James cleverly designed the name of his business, Pending Media. He captures listings in their best light for properties to move to the closing table and become "pending."

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But James is not a one-man show. He has built a dedicated team of photographers and an operations manager who handles the logistical aspects of the business efficiently. This teamwork enables them to deliver outstanding service, providing quick turnarounds and hassle-free media delivery.

Rick Rickerson, a trusted wedding photographer for 30 years, is on the photography team at Pending Media. He also has 30 years of experience at Toyota. "When I hired him, I knew that he would have the work ethic and the skill," explains James. He taught him the ins and outs of real estate photography and Rick has been an essential member of the staff.

James is also very appreciative of Jenna Lieffring, his operations manager. Prior to working for James, she worked as an assistant for another local real estate photographer. "She makes sure that our days are as efficient as possible," explains James. "We get as many shoots done as possible without driving immensely." She has made a tremendous difference in their efficiency and productivity. Although she currently serves as James' assistant, she will be moving into a management role in the near future.

James is also hiring another professional photographer for 2024 so he can work more on running the business as well as work-life balance.

The Art of Real Estate Photography

James' real estate photography services encompass a wide range of offerings. From drone shots that capture unique angles to 3D Matterport scans that immerse viewers in the property, he ensures that every aspect is covered. Additionally, video tours, 360-degree tours, and Matterport scans add a dynamic element to his portfolio.

Floor plans and virtual staging are also part of the package, ensuring that each property is presented in the best possible light. After all, you never get a second chance to make a first impression.







From photos, videos, and 3D tours, people can see exactly what a house looks like before stepping inside of it. Virtual staging is another option for real estate agents. Houses can be transformed with a few clicks, giving prospective buyers a vision of their "new home." Another benefit of virtual staging is that it saves a considerable amount of money as opposed to standard staging. Why lug around furniture and repaint walls when it can all be done with your fingertips?

Beyond the Lens: Family and Community

Outside of his thriving photography business, James is a devoted family man. He and his wife Mary have been happily married since 2012 and are proud parents to four beautiful children: Declan (7), Grayson (6), Emmett (3), and Riley (5 months). The Weatherholt family is actively involved in their community, attending the University Heights Church of Christ in Lexington.

Originally born in Louisville in Jefferson County, James came to Lexington and put down roots here. He built a thriving photography business and found his purpose and passion in the process.



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Photos By 1075 Photography Written By Brett Rybak

EXP REALTY

To say Clay Hall took a circuitous route to a successful career with EXP Realty would be an understatement. From being a college student with an unknown career path to teaching and serving on the side to make ends meet to having three-plus years of career growth as a REALTOR*, Hall has been able to experience and grow from it all.

Hall grew up in Lexington, graduating from Lexington Christian Academy in 2010 after excelling in baseball, basketball and football. Despite admitting he "was not much of a student," Hall moved on to Georgetown College, where he continued to stand out on the diamond and enjoy the social aspect of college, but was continuing to find his footing in the classroom.

"I just didn't know what I wanted to do,"
Hall said. "I went to college and found my
passion playing baseball but I was unable
to find a career path that provided the same
gratification. I was breezing through without an idea of what to do with my career."

Ultimately, Hall chose to go into teaching, where he became a physical education teacher. He received his emergency certification and went on to enjoy coaching both baseball and volleyball. However, after his first year teaching, his position was eliminated and he found himself once again searching for stability.

After applying for all kinds of jobs in central Kentucky, serving to try to make ends meet, a friend of Hall's helped with a breakthrough.

"He said I was meant to work with people," Hall said. "He pointed out my ability to connect and, almost immediately, I went into the phone sales business."







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Hall worked for Cellular Sales, an authorized retailer of Verizon, for the next four years, quickly finding success in the business. He eventually worked his way into the top 50 agents nationally in the organization, reaping the rewards of his hard work after venturing down his new-found career path. But again, something was missing.

"I wanted to control my own future," Hall admitted. "I knew I was a good salesman and good with people. I wanted to make a lifetime impact so the way I did that was to start my own business. From the start, if you take care of people and treat them the right way, you'll reap the benefits."

He looked at a career in pharmaceutical sales or medical sales but, in March 2020 after a short time as a part-time real estate agent while still working as a Verizon sales rep, chose to go into real estate full-time.

"I wish I would've known to do real estate or sales when I was 18," Hall said.
"Teamwork. Work ethic. So much of it came naturally from playing sports growing up. Working in the phone sales industry also really helped me so much in developing the customer service skills and sales skills needed in the real estate industry.

I was raised in a Christian home with good mentors who pushed me. All of the good people around me helped mold me. The discipline and desire to push through things have gotten me to where I'm at right now. That desire to help care for people pushes me to succeed."

Ricky Carruth, Hall's coach in the real estate world with EXP, along with several other agents across the country, have helped him throughout the process, providing affirmation that what Hall is doing on a daily basis is on track with his professional and personal values.

"Ricky always helps me continue to prioritize the relationships over transactions," Hall said. "It's important to do what's right and have your client's back. You're always trying to help your client get to their next spot and achieve their goals. Ricky's always been there to keep me grounded throughout the highs and lows of the business."



Now, almost hand-in-hand with his comfortability and stability in his professional life, Hall has found the same in his personal life.

"I've been married to my wife, Ashley, for almost five years," Hall said. "She always has been a huge supporter of all my endeavors. As a teacher, she has helped support me through this process, continuing to be a huge help and my biggest fan. One of the most rewarding parts of this career, has been the flexibility to be able to be at home with my son, not miss any bedtimes and be present for my family."

The couple has a 2-year-old son, Hudson, with another child on the way. A huge fan of Kentucky athletics, Hall also enjoys getting out on the water, often spending time on Lake Cumberland.

With his career path now solidly in place, Hall is enjoying the comfort of having balance in all aspects of his life after taking a winding, sometimes rocky path to where his feet are.



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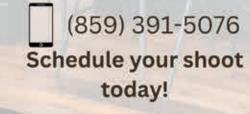
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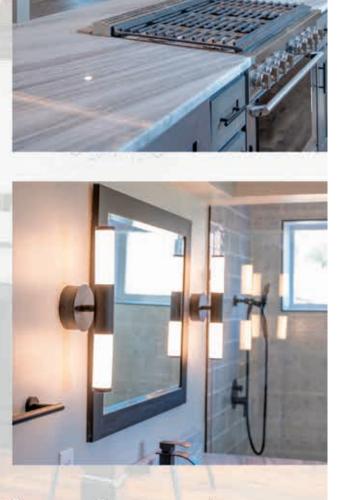






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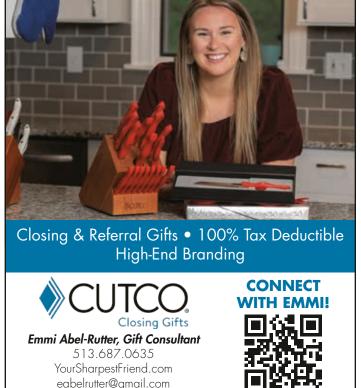
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