

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ I'm a sports guy, so when I was younger it would have been playing soccer and watching games with my friends. Now it has transitioned to coaching my son and watching my son and daughter play sports.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ My grandfather has always been a role model for me. He had a very successful professional life, raised three wonderful kids and is very involved with his grandkids. I aspire to be like him.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ I probably spend more money than I should attending and watching sporting events.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ In 1998, I went to France and England where, among other things, I attended the men's World Cup final in Paris and the men's final at Wimbledon. It might be impossible to ever top that one!

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My wife, Ashley, and my two kids.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I would like to have – at least some – music or artistic ability.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT YOURSELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

- ▶ I tend to be more on the shy, reserved side than those who are naturally bubbly and outgoing. I wouldn't mind being a little more like that.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ My family.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ Humor and the ability to not take themselves too seriously.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ The Shawshank Redemption is my favorite movie, so I'll go with Andy Dufresne

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ I'm kind of obsessed with being on time, so tardiness.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ I was a political science and economics major and I really didn't know what to do with it beyond college. I was exposed to the law during an internship at the Office of Secretary of State and realized it would be a good fit.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ I don't know if it is my greatest, but my favorite client achievement was when I was in my third year as a lawyer. A colleague and I handled arbitration for a major hospital network. It was my first real trial-like experience and it had a very positive outcome.

IN WHAT AREA WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE OR IMPROVE?

- ▶ Staying on top of and leveraging technology is a continual exercise in improvement.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ Jay Yeager, my first supervisor. I always respected his approach to the practice of law and, importantly, I always enjoyed working with him.

WHAT DO YOU MOST ENJOY ABOUT WORKING AT FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS?

- ▶ I came here as a lateral because I really liked the people in litigation, and those great colleagues have kept me here.

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU COULD CHANGE ABOUT THE LEGAL INDUSTRY?

- ▶ While I understand the need for things to be fast-paced, at times, that mentality can rush the decision-making process. Sometimes it's necessary to slow down and take a deeper look.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST CHALLENGING ABOUT YOUR AREA OF FOCUS?

- ▶ As a litigator, disputes may pop up in an industry that I'm not familiar with, making it both challenging and interesting to learn about these different areas in order to solve the problem at hand.

WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR AREA OF FOCUS?

- ▶ People come to litigators because they are facing a significant challenge. It is rewarding to be able to help find a solution for them.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAW CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

- ▶ I have a better handle on the practice of law. In law school, you think it's all about reading and having abstract conversations about the law, when in practice, it's really about finding practical solutions to business problems.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ The practice of law is a business. You have to apply business principles to it just as you would in any other industry.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE YOUR AREA OF FOCUS, WHAT WOULD YOU SWITCH TO AND WHY?

- ▶ When I was younger, the "dream" application of legal expertise would involve the sports industry – being a "Jerry McGuire" type. Not something I aspire to now, but seemed fun and exciting.

WHAT IS THE NEXT BIG PROJECT YOU'D LIKE TO TACKLE?

- ▶ I'm interested to see how we tackle technological developments, like artificial intelligence, and incorporate them into the practice of law.