

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Being with my partner and children doing anything outdoors like: bushwalking or going to the park or beach – preferably in the sunshine.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ My eldest sister. She is the definition of a hardworking Australian woman. She went from working with her husband on their farm whilst raising three incredible daughters to owning and running a successful pub. I'm really proud of her.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ I'm actually a little bit frugal, so I don't spend much on myself, but how I'd like to be extravagant is to buy a 15litre bottle of Pol Roger Nebuchadnezzar Brut Reserve Champagne, then sit around and drink it with friends.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ I'd have to say life itself is my favorite journey. I am really lucky to have opportunities (some have presented themselves and some were self-made) to do many different things in my life. Coming from a tiny town in Australia to living in London and driving international immigration efforts has really been an incredible road to take and I don't plan on turning off it anytime soon.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ To sing. I like to think I can sing, but I know I can't. I love karaoke; my go-to song is the extended version of Donna Sommers' MacArthur Park. It's roughly 18 minutes long and I spend every minute on the stage.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ My children. So many professional achievements come along – I've been lucky to have quite a diverse career and work in many different areas – but the job of being a mother and getting to see my children grow is the most satisfying.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ Early family videos – before everything became digital.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN FRIENDS?

- ▶ A number of things: confidence, ability to laugh together and loyalty. A true friend is someone you don't have to speak with every day or every week. I value this especially being in London; I have a group of close friends in Australia that maybe I won't speak to for 6 months, but when we do speak we just pick up right where we left off.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ Jessica Rabbit. I'm a big fan. She is a great example of how you define yourself and not how the world defines you. She's moral, selfless, and of course, she sings!

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ Getting into my sewer drain to unblock it – which I've done several times.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ I wanted a career that would allow me to carry a briefcase. I carried one all through high school. Originally, I wanted to be a fashion designer. I'm a great seamstress, but I'm not very artistic, so I thought I'd be a lawyer instead.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ I participated in various submissions at the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation. I worked 72 hours straight with teams of barristers working 24 hours a day in order to get them in on time. It was like a mini experiment to see how far you could push your body. When it was over, it was a huge achievement and the result was excellent.

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

- ▶ As the industry continues to evolve and change, it's an ongoing process to make sure you stay current. It's important to stay business savvy as focuses shift; you need to be able to see things from a client's perspective. You always have to be on top of it.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ Scott Wright. Not only does he do an incredible job as the group leader, he is constantly connecting to the individuals within the team. He brings great energy to the position and makes time to really know people and befriend you and your family. He is an incredible lawyer and strategist and just a genuinely nice bloke.

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

- ▶ Absolutely the people! They are an incredible bunch. It took me a while to get used to the level of nicety especially coming from a New York-type of cut-throat law firm.

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

- ▶ I wish we could provide greater access to those in need, especially in my line of work. When you're looking at immigrants you see a lot of desperate people trying to leave their life and start over, but then they get locked into a legal system. It would be great to be able to give more of those people the certainty they are looking for.

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

- ▶ A challenge is keeping up with the tweaks and significant changes in immigration legislation worldwide. The reward is overcoming that challenge to keep moving forward.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ I used to have a family law practice back in Australia and learned there not to get emotionally involved in my cases or my clients' lives. Sometimes it was hard, especially when there were children, but to give my client the best advice, I had to stay removed.

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

- ▶ Over the 20+ years of working in many different areas, I have discovered my true strength is connecting people; figuring out what someone needs and getting them to the right people. A networking role that generates profit would be perfect.

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

- ▶ Convincing the executive board that they must open an office in Australia, which I would head up - Australia is the gateway to Asia, after all.