

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Being with my family at Disney or my Kindergarten Group (six friends with whom I attended kindergarten at Parkview Central School in Bedford, Indiana, in 1952) at a bar.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ Both my kids and seven grandkids. As my 108-year-old grandfather used to say before he died, "You done good." I done good.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ Back to Lawrence County, Indiana, visiting Springmill State Park. Heaven. I am a direct descendant of Mary Todd Lincoln, and the home of one of our Todd relatives is in the pioneer village there.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ You are a pervert for asking.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I regret never taking art or music appreciation in college and wish I had stayed with some kind of musical instrument. I played trombone for a couple of years in high school, but that isn't exactly something to take into adulthood.

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

- ▶ I had a minister tell me one time that I had never met a problem that wasn't mine. I wish I could be a little less pathetic in that regard.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Two kids, seven grandkids and America's insurance team at FaegreBD.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ My collections: Lincoln books, art and memorabilia; golf balls; shot glasses; Uhl pottery; things from Bedford; nativities; cuff links; and metal/ceramic frogs. My oldest grandson asked my daughter whether she thought I was a hoarder.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ The fact that they tolerate me. I mean it. When you have friends like I have, you soon appreciate how lucky you are and hope you can be half as attentive/terrific as they are to me.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ Kate Smith. While not fictional herself, her talent, impact and beauty have reached fictional dimensions.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ My parents frowned on people who chew gum in public. Add to that selfishness, turfiness and greed – see the three rules below!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD, DRINK, PRESIDENT, MOVIE AND SONG?

- ▶ Persimmon pudding, Big Red and green apple martinis, Lincoln and Eisenhower, *Sound of Music*, and Kate Smith singing "God Bless America."

PRACTICE:

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Being in the center of our firm as a part of the insurance practice that ministers every day to that sector of the economy. We are the lawyers and thought leaders for the consumer safety net that protects policyholders when their insurance company goes down the crapper, just like the FDIC protects bank consumers. In that role, FaegreBD is doing important public policy work.

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

- ▶ Other parts of the financial services sector—with the combination, our firm has all the tools we need to dominate insurance, banking, securities, funds, broker-dealers and the world.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ HaHa. How in the world can I choose among giants and piss off those not named. You won't sucker me into that one, fool.

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

- ▶ People, people, people. Very few professionals work in an historic institution like ours where every person hired is better than the one before.

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

- ▶ Staying current and sharp as the insurance sector moves from a state-based paradigm to a state AND federal AND international one.

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

- ▶ The chance to help people big time and do it with colleagues a lot smarter than I am. That's Fred Glass' definition of being in tall cotton.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAW CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

- ▶ Not much, although everything we do is accelerating. Email made us focus more on quick, thoughtful client strategy. I also continue to be amazed at how important public speaking and controlling a podium have been to my success by opening up so many doors.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ There are three. The Whistler Rule says that if you treat the President's chauffeur any different than you treat the President, you will be fired. How you treat others defines whether you succeed or not in our law/consulting firm and in life. The O'Loughlin Rule says to fess up and take responsibility—don't skirt, don't be cute and don't blame others or, again, you will be fired. The Granny Bang Bang rule says that the perfect gifts are fruit and flowers, so give often to clients, colleagues and friends.

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

- ▶ Being at the center of the big fight over federal regulation of the insurance sector.