

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

# Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

## Joe Miller

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### PERSONAL:

#### WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Bob Dylan once said “happy is a yuppie word.” If what we mean by “happy” is contentment, then I really am all about seeking contentment with my circumstances. I believe in making the most with what you have even while you work for change in the world around you. To me, true happiness is defined by contentment and peace – which can be elusive, to say the least.

#### WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ My wife: she is smart, empathetic, inquisitive and fun. She is a true friend and is deeply loved by everyone she knows. She is just crazy great!

#### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ International travel with my family. It is a fantastic way to continue learning and engage with people, places and issues that we otherwise might not get a chance to learn about in our everyday lives.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ I have enjoyed so many journeys both in the U.S. and internationally, but one that really stands out is the drive between Siena and Florence in the Tuscan Hills. It is just a breathtaking drive in an idyllic setting. I could spend hours just gazing out from the top of each hill.

#### WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My wife, Lisa; we’ve been married for 26 years. We often talk about each other as fellow travelers on our journey. She is a fantastic companion through life; I really learn a lot from her, and I treasure our shared history.

#### WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I would love to speak several different languages fluently or be really proficient at one or more musical instruments. I could blame billable hours here, but there are other really solid reasons that I don’t get paid to translate or play music.

#### WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ My greatest “achievement,” if you can call it that, is intentionally sticking to a path that provides opportunities for lifelong learning, which is rewarding in the deepest sense.

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

- ▶ I wish I were more patient.

#### WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ I have kept notes from my wife and kids over the years that seem to indicate I’ve done something right. It is super encouraging to go back and re-read those.

#### WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN FRIENDS?

- ▶ I value loyalty - to know that my true friends have my back in any circumstance and are there for me no matter how difficult or what time of day; they are in my corner, and I am in theirs.

#### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ Atticus Finch. I admire his willingness as a lawyer to “right the wrongs” at great personal cost, but I also appreciate how he fathered his children thoughtfully, patiently and kindly even in the midst of great professional and social pressures.

#### WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ Self-importance and self-centeredness. And lima beans.

## PRACTICE:

### WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ From early on I had a sense that the law could be a tool to bridge the divide between the way things are and the way things should be in our society. Two decades in, that's what keeps me going, to think in some way the part that I play helps achieve that goal.

### WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ I am proud to have helped launch and sustain a number of nonprofit organizations that effect great change in our society at the individual, community and national level. I have been privileged to assist in efforts ranging from regional economic development initiatives to the relief of suffering in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has been a thrill to see these organizations first-hand and to support them from behind the scenes.

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

- ▶ I would like to get better at spotting potential global issues for my clients who are getting increasingly involved internationally.

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

- ▶ I love the opportunity to work with so many incredibly talented colleagues across diverse practice areas.

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

- ▶ I've been proud of our firm's efforts to address the development of our own people and our client relationships in thoughtful, creative and humane ways, with the "long view" in mind. I wish that more law firms would be willing to take this approach more often.

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

- ▶ It is challenging being involved with so many incredible organizations and not being able to become totally immersed in any one of them. It is a good challenge to have! I have been incredibly fortunate to work with so many organizations that truly make a difference.

### WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ Understanding that the best approach to a problem is seldom the first or most obvious one to appear.

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

- ▶ I don't think I would. It's hard for me to imagine feeling more grateful for the work I get to do.

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

- ▶ I enjoy collaborating with colleagues in an "interdisciplinary" way on complex, multifaceted projects – particularly in the international context – and I hope to have many more of those opportunities.

### WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU ADMIRE MOST?

- ▶ There are many who I admire, but at the risk of ungracious omission, I will mention two; Ben Blanton is among the most technically proficient lawyers I know, and he is a genuinely humble human being – a rare combination! Lowell Haines is a consummate counselor to clients and a tireless champion for younger professionals in seeking to promote their professional development.