

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Sitting on a boat in the Florida Keys with my family or friends, fishing rod in hand, waiting for the next tarpon or permit — with a cold beer close at hand.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ My dad. Nobody has had greater male mentors than I have with my dad, uncle and grandfather. My dad's time in the Marines was important, and he has loved 60 years in the practice of law. But none of that really defines him. He is the epitome of living and exhibiting the characters of a man that I think are so important.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ I have two — ocean fishing, and modifying and driving sports cars at a racetrack with my son.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ Any journey when I can spend time with Janet and our four kids.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My family.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I wish I was a better fisherman.

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

- ▶ I'd be less risk averse.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Our greatest achievement is having raised and built a great family. I'm proud of all four of our kids. They are loving, capable, hardworking young people with loads of credibility and compassion. They obviously take after their mother.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ Our two golden retrievers, Izzy and Emmie.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ Integrity and loyalty.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ Absolutely, without a doubt, William Wallace. He is the lead character in the movie Braveheart, which I consider either historical fiction or hugely historically inaccurate. If you consider Braveheart nonfiction, I'd have to go with Indiana Jones and George Bailey (It's a Wonderful Life).

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ I have tremendous faith in American people and the American voter. But I dislike the trend in American society toward self-absorption, intolerance and judgmental attitudes — and away from integrity, humility, loyalty and the common good.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ I never considered anything else. My dad and uncle were lawyers, and I admired them so much. When I was a kid, I used to come down to their office on Market Street and go to City Market. I always knew this is what I wanted to do.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ I've been fortunate over the years to have been a part of several gratifying wins for clients, most notably while at FaegreBD, the location of the Honda Plant in Greensburg.

The most memorable thing I ever did for a client happened when I was a young attorney — I represented a buyer in a business purchase, and we were stuck \$100,000 apart on the purchase price. In a last ditch effort to break the impasse, I took out a quarter and suggested we flip it for the \$100,000. The seller then met us in the middle, which was all we wanted anyway.

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

- ▶ I was a liberal arts student in college, so I've spent 32 years learning business and economic basics on the fly. So I have always wished I knew more about that.

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

- ▶ The high caliber of people here.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ There is no substitute for integrity and credibility.

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

- ▶ There is nothing I would rather do than what I do. I love real estate, I love client advocacy, and I love the governmental and political world.