

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Being with my family doing anything they enjoy.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ Pope Francis

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ A new car.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ Going to Disney World with my children.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My husband, Timothy, and my daughters.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ The ability to be in two places at once.

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

- ▶ Perhaps nothing. I have learned from and grown as a result of my mistakes and choices. Without them, I would not be who I am, and I love who I am and the life I have made. However, now that I am a mother, I would like to have at least a little more patience.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Raising my daughters to be compassionate, strong, thoughtful and impactful members of society.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ My family.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ Kindness.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ Harry Potter.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ That too often, there is not enough time in the day —it's my biggest struggle.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

I wanted to be a business in and of myself. I didn't want to work at the whim of a corporate owner.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

My greatest achievements are when we have represented a client in a way that ensures his or her children's best interests are realized and the client's goals for protection and division of his or her assets are met.

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

I always strive to learn something from every client to help me provide better client service to the next one.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

Amie Peele-Carter – she is a woman of many hats, she has undeniable presence in a crowded room, and she unselfishly draws others around her into better situations.

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

The people I get to work with every day – they make each day pass more brightly than it otherwise would.

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

I wish I could resolve all of each of my client's problems, but the legal system can only do so much. So often, we find creative ways to work with other professionals in differing areas of expertise to achieve goals.

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

Sometimes it's the complex legal issues themselves that are challenging, and sometimes it's the people and emotions that are involved with those issues; but perhaps the biggest challenge is learning to differentiate between the two. That comes with practice and experience.

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

I work in a very complex area of the law and there are always moving pieces and difficult issues. But I am lucky enough to specialize in family law, which means that my clients are individuals (just like me) who are now facing perhaps the most difficult moments in their lives. Being able to help them navigate through this emotionally tumultuous time, while still addressing their complex legal issues to their satisfaction is truly rewarding.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAW CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

When I first started practicing family law, I was still learning how to fully detach candid and logical legal advice to my clients from the emotional issues and attachment bubbling up in a case. Now that I have mastered that technique, I am able to perceive the issues from both sides. This enables me to confidently give candid legal advice, while still understanding and acknowledging the emotions that come into play in a dissolution of marriage or other individual relationship issue. This, in turn, ensures both excellent client service while maintaining a personal and human approach so important and necessary in this line of work.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

To persevere. If I have a goal, I figure out how I am going to achieve it, set the time aside to do so, and do it.

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

I wouldn't change my area of focus – I love what I do. But I am always open to diversification of my practice as that is helpful for client service and understanding.

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

When I mentioned my children, above, did I mention I have five? My next big project is to mentor women in the legal profession – especially my colleagues – who have questions or concerns about being a full time mother and a full time attorney.