

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ My happiest moments are those times when the work of the week is done, usually Sunday evening, when I've had a fulfilling day with my family and I'm enjoying those quiet moments with my wife.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ My parents.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST EXTRAVAGANCE?

- ▶ High tech stuff that I don't need. For example, we watch movies together as a family, so I've acquired a lot of fun home theater stuff.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ I really enjoy backcountry hikes in Zions national park.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My wife. Easy question.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I'd like to have musical abilities or talents.

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

- ▶ I'm working on doing a better job at keeping in touch with old friends.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Convincing my wife to marry me. That has set the platform for everything that comes after. We survived my first year of law school with premature twins – that was an incredible achievement!

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ I played rugby in high school and at the end of the season I got the MVP ball. It's significant because we weren't a particularly talented team, but we worked really well together and that's why we were successful. It's nice to have a reminder of that.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ Optimism. I tend to align myself with people who have a positive outlook.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE HERO OR HEROINE OF FICTION?

- ▶ In the book Odd Thomas by Dean Koontz, the main character has a set of abilities that put him through some tough things that he doesn't deserve, but he keeps a great attitude through it all. He sees his situation for what it is and does what he needs to do to succeed. He's very admirable.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ Pickles. A good cucumber ruined.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ While doing my undergrad in physics, I wrote a little job script for the university supercomputers and named it “Tisha.job” after my wife. It was the best running script in the group and everyone used it. One of the guys in the group took the script, changed it, and renamed it. While that wasn’t really a big deal, I had the initial reaction of “Hey, that’s mine!” That got me really interested in IP. I later found patent law and wanted to contribute to helping inventors protect their creations.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ My greatest achievements haven’t been mine alone, but as a team we won some significant IPR victories that have been very significant for me.

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

- ▶ In the last year or so, I’ve become more involved in the litigation side of patent law, and I continue to learn and improve in that area.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ That’s a difficult question – I have a long list of people I look up to here at FaegreBD. Sounds like a cop out, but it really is true.

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

- ▶ There are several things. First, I have had really great mentors who, I feel, are sincerely looking out for me and have helped me tremendously. Second, I love that we do great work for amazing clients while still being able to lead a life outside of the firm. That balance is really woven into our culture.

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

- ▶ The jury system, specifically in patent litigation. There’s an inherent disconnect when we send these really complex technological issues in to be decided by non-technical juries.

I’d also like to see changes made to patent eligibility: Section 101 – it’s a mess, and we need to do something to fix it.

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

- ▶ Part of the challenge (and also what I enjoy most) are the highly technical aspects of Patent law. Patent law often involves complex and sophisticated technologies and it’s my job to understand highly technical concepts and be able to integrate those concepts into legal arguments. I enjoy tackling those challenges.

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

- ▶ As a patent attorney I get to geek-out over ground-breaking technologies, and I really enjoy that.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAW CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

- ▶ My vision has broadened. I see things better through the wider lens of trends and policy perspectives. When you work to see both sides of an issue, you start to see the bigger picture and the bigger objectives the law is supposed to achieve. When you align the overall welfare of the industry along with the specific goals of our clients, those are the arguments that are the most resounding. It’s really about doing the most good.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU’VE LEARNED?

- ▶ You need a really good team. A good lawyer is insufficient – individuals can’t do it all by themselves. To win a case, to help a client – it’s a team approach. A dedicated team is essential to serving clients well.

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

- ▶ I actually just did. I started at FaegreBD focusing on patent prosecution. About a year and a half ago I decided to change to focus more on litigation and IPRs. So far, I am really enjoying it.

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

- ▶ As I’m working to develop my reputation and skills in litigation and IPRs, my next big goal is to land and direct an IPR case where I’m managing it from beginning to end – bringing the work in and directing the team from start to finish.