

PERSONAL & PRACTICE:

Faegre Baker Daniels Attorney Profiles

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PERSONAL:

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF PERFECT HAPPINESS?

- ▶ Laughing and having fun with family and friends—and in a perfect world, doing so on a sunny, warm beach with a great golf course nearby.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE JOURNEY?

- ▶ These days, it's going on hikes with my wife and kids. I also have had some memorable journeys with friends, including taking part in a cultural exchange program with Australia and a trip up the California coast from San Diego to Pebble Beach.

WHO OR WHAT IS THE GREATEST LOVE OF YOUR LIFE?

- ▶ My wife and kids.

WHICH TALENT WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO HAVE?

- ▶ I wish I had inherited my dad's music abilities. It would also be pretty cool to be able to fly....

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

- ▶ To focus more on regular workouts and healthy living.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ My kids.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?

- ▶ This may sound strange, but it's probably my late grandfather's hammer. When I was a kid, I loved to help him with whatever he was doing around the house. So not only does it remind me of those times, but it also reminds me of the value of hard work and persistence.

WHAT DO YOU MOST VALUE IN YOUR FRIENDS?

- ▶ That I can trust them with anything. It also helps that we share similar senses of humor.

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU MOST DISLIKE?

- ▶ Negativity.

PRACTICE:

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO PRACTICE LAW?

- ▶ Law was something I was urged to consider in college. I majored in biology, minored in chemistry, and thought I wanted to go to med school. But I had a few mentors and advisors that encouraged me to explore law and particularly IP law in view of my science background. Over time I ultimately decided that a career in IP law would be a great fit for me, so I chose law school over med school. That was the right choice, and I am fortunate to be able to focus my practice on patent law and patent litigation in particular.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST CLIENT ACHIEVEMENT?

- ▶ Our practice is team-oriented. So my greatest achievements have been when I was part of and led teams that won difficult trials and multiple appeals for our clients.

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

- ▶ IP law is constantly evolving, so you have to learn and improve every day just to keep up. In terms of practical skills, I think all litigators strive to be the best storytellers and advocates possible.

WHICH OF YOUR COLLEAGUES DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?

- ▶ There are too many to list.

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

- ▶ There are several things I enjoy about working here, but mostly the people that work here and our wonderful clients.

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

- ▶ Regarding patent law specifically: we need to fix patent eligibility under section 101. More generally, most people seem to have a negative perception of lawyers (everyone has a lawyer joke...); however, if you've ever needed one, you know how helpful and important a great lawyer can truly be. I wish more people had that perspective.

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

- ▶ IP law is constantly changing. The patent litigation practice in general is challenging as it requires lawyers to explain difficult issues involving complicated science and technology to judges and juries; but that is also what makes it so fun and rewarding.

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

- ▶ We often work with clients—from solo inventors to major corporations—on their most valuable assets, and helping protect those assets is very rewarding.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LAW CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

- ▶ As lawyers gain experience, they sharpen their abilities to think critically and strategically and to solve complex, challenging problems. With that, they become more adept at seeing the “bigger picture,” so to speak, including the policy objectives underlying a particular ruling or law. That perspective is important to becoming a great lawyer because it helps you better serve clients and also helps you better understand the impact the legal system has on our communities.

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST LESSON YOU'VE LEARNED?

- ▶ The importance of work/life balance and that you can't achieve that balance without a really great team.

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

- ▶ I wouldn't. IP law is the only kind of law I want to do.