

5, 10, 15 AND 25 YEARS **AFTER** LAW SCHOOL



NICK MATICH '13

PRINCIPAL
McKOOL SMITH
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK:

I represent innovative and creative clients, helping them navigate the intellectual property system to protect their technology, ideas and businesses. At McKool Smith, everyone is a trial advocate, so most of my work is intellectual property litigation of some stripe, with a heavy dose of non-litigation strategy and advising.

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY

OUTSIDE OF WORK? My wife, Elise, and I have four sons and one daughter, and spending time with them is usually my focus, but I like trying to learn some new skill with them. During the pandemic we did a lot of gardening, planting roses and laying new sod in our front yard. Watching the garden grow and enjoying the springtime was wonderful. Recently, I've spent my Sundays on woodworking or handyman projects around the house.

ARE YOU WHERE YOU EXPECTED

TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER AND LIFE? I assumed I'd be practicing law, but the path my career has taken has been totally unexpected. After clerking, I went to Williams & Connolly, but left when a friend asked me to join a smaller appellate boutique where he worked. Through serendipity, I later ended up in the West Wing of the White House and then the Patent and Trademark Office. I had no plans to do either of those jobs, but they were both fascinating opportunities. Both were also unusual but excellent preparation for the litigation and advising I do now.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR

LIFE 10 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL? Professionally, I love learning new things, in patent cases especially. I've gotten to learn about how semiconductor devices are made, how proteins fold (I didn't know they did!) and how cellular networks function. Diving into the technical details is always great fun. Personally, being a husband and father is the most important thing. I love that Elise and I share the task of helping our children grow in virtue and that we have our immediate family nearby and a community in our church and children's school to help us do that.