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PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE 2018

ON THE RISE



PRINCIPAL

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Experience:

McKool Smith; 2005-present
Summer Associate, Summer 2004

Education:

Temple University Beasley School
of Law, 2005
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,
2002

What drew you to a career in law?

As an engineering undergraduate student, I had a summer internship working in a computer lab managing a bank of servers that worked in a distributed computing environment (harvesting the combined power of various different computers and servers to model complex computing problems – in this case, drug interactions). As part of that, I was required to work in a high security lab with very few other people, surrounded by computers, all of which required the room to be air conditioned to 55 degrees. So, even in the height of summer when I came into the lab, I was required to wear a heavy coat and didn't have much human interaction. I wasn't happy, and figured I didn't see myself working in this environment for a career. As such, I started searching for other ways to leverage my engineering degree and fell back on the law. My mom always told me that I'd make a good lawyer since I was an argumentative child. Falling back on that was a natural next step.

What is the top quality that you've used to succeed in the profession?

A client once told me that it's a combination of extreme technical competence that allows me to fully understand the specifics of any technology case, along with my real world skill at reading people and exposing falsehoods during cross-examination. Most engineers aren't people persons—they know how things work, not how people behave and interact. The ability to understand the technical details of highly complex inventions and products, combined with the ability to explain these concepts to judges, juries and others has been an asset throughout my career.

What's the best advice anyone has ever given you? Follow your passion, not the money. If you take the time to determine what you love to do and how you wish to spend each day, and if you conform your career to that guidepost, you will nearly always be successful. ■