



State Bar of Texas Blog : State Bar of Texas Blog : News & Features on Lawyers & Attorneys & Legal Professionals in Austin, Dallas, Houston & TX

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Posted on December 17, 2012 by [Teri Rodriguez](#)

For Random Profiles, we randomly pick one of our 93,000-plus attorneys and do a Q&A. We've found that every Texas lawyer has an interesting story. Will yours be next?



Best thing about being a lawyer: It opens doors and it gives you the opportunity to help folks that need it.

If you could be anyone else for a day, who would it be? I would love to be a CEO for a major corporation or a leader of a country, but I can't think of a single person.

Most important career lesson: Build a strong referral network and manage your costs.

Favorite food: You can't beat my grandmother's apple pie or a good Chicago-style hot dog.

Favorite TV program: Sportscenter & anything on Food Network.

Family: Married to my college sweetheart Debbie since 1994. We have two children – Bethany, a high school freshman, and Caleb, a fifth grader.

Areas of practice: Banking, Bankruptcy, Business Law, Probate, Real Estate, Wills, Trusts & Estate Planning.

Education: Wheaton College (B.A. 1993) in Political Science and Biblical & Theological Studies; The University of Texas School of Law (J.D. 1996).

Culinary talent: Along with three other dads, I cook for 100-150 people every Sunday night at our church. I also cook for my kids and their friends at a tailgate at our house before Friday night football games and before home swimming meets. I make great chili and macaroni & cheese, and I can grill about anything.

The last movie I saw: Lincoln.

Community Involvement: I'm heavily involved in the community. I currently serve as the immediate past chairman of the board of the Research Valley Partnership (our local economic development corporation), vice president of the Bryan-Brazos County Economic Development Foundation, and vice chair of the Board of Directors of Bryan Texas Utilities. I formerly served as president of the Bryan School Board and as president of the Bryan Business Council, in addition to many other civic, nonprofit and church boards.

Favorite saying/quote: The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it. – *Thucydides*

Pet peeve: Clients not paying their bill.

Favorite restaurant: This has been the toughest question to answer. Locally, either The Republic for fine dining or Shipwreck Grill for casual dining. I love Bella on the River in San Antonio. And, you can't beat a good Giordano's or Lou Malnati's pizza in Chicago.

Hobbies: Sports and whatever the kids are up to.

If I had more time, I would: Spend more time with my family.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing attorneys today? Commoditization of legal services caused by a lack of understanding of the value that attorneys bring. I also think some lawyers' actions have sullied the reputation of all.

If you weren't an attorney, what profession do you think you would be in? Politics.

What has changed the most technologically or practice wise since you have been licensed? Transition from legal research in books to online legal research. Also, the increasing use of cloud computing. We have come a long way from the old 386 that I used in law school.

How do you think the practice will change in the next 15 years? The commoditization of law will continue, and you will see a shift towards multinational law firms or boutique firms with not much in between.

Chris has a private practice, [Peterson Law Group](#), in Bryan

You can also view [Chris' TexasBar.com profile](#).

Prizes

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