

Finding a Healthy Work-Life Balance

Mauricio Escobar, Senior Associate, Houston



Finding a healthy work-life balance is important for all of us, especially during a pandemic. Houston Senior Associate **Mauricio Escobar** finds that balance by pushing his creative boundaries. Once a cast member in a Tony and Emmy Award-winning musical, Mauricio is also a music producer and electronic music artist. His new single – Un_Known – was recently released on [Apple Music](#), [Spotify](#), and other streaming platforms. ([Linktree](#))

We chatted with Mauricio to learn more about his music, his passion outside the law, and finding balance:

How were you introduced to music?

I grew up in South America. When I was 8 years old, my family moved to the United States. Growing up, music was a staple in my home, especially jazz. It was only natural for me to participate in our school band and ensemble. When it came time to select my instrument, I picked the trumpet because that is the sound I heard growing up. I participated in school band and ensembles until high school, where I had the opportunity to play at “music’s biggest night,” the Grammy’s.

Your undergrad degree is in Music Theory, how did you select that major?

Actually, early on, I explored computer science. I soon realized that I was truly passionate about music so I changed my major to Music Theory. This path allowed me to really take a deep dive and explore composition techniques and how composers apply those techniques to distinguish their sound. At its most fundamental level, music is comprised of a collection of only twelve notes. My training allowed me to get “under the hood” to understand how, for example, Mozart and Beethoven used those same twelve notes to create a sonic spectrum and composition technique that gave each composer a unique sound.

Tell us about your early career in music.

My first job outside of college was as a professional musician at Walt Disney World. I thought that I had achieved the pinnacle of my professional career. Collaborating with all of the professional musicians throughout Walt Disney World gave me joy and was an experience that, at the time, I thought could not be matched. Then, I had the opportunity to audition for a Broadway show where the requirements for a performer were unique—the actors also had to be musicians with dance training. I was selected to that Broadway show and it took me to London’s West End, Broadway in New York, and touring across the United States, Canada and Tokyo.

There was a pivot into your law career, when did that happen?

Like many in my generation, I was deeply affected by the events of 9/11. Watching the news coverage made me realize that law is impactful and would allow me to be part of important change so I enrolled in law school.

How do you feel your music background has helped your approach to your practice?

I am a litigator. In a case there are two theories, two points of views, presented to the judge or jury. Sometimes each side uses the same case law to present their arguments and it is my job to convince the jury and the judge that my application of the case law is the best in that particular circumstance.

In addition to being in court, litigation allows me to “get under the hood” of case to assess a client’s case, pick apart an opponent’s legal arguments, research and find precedential cases, take depositions, etc. In these exercises, I am able to drill down to the minutiae - to the heart of the arguments, to those unique twelve musical notes so to speak, and find the differences that would help us win our case and deliver a result that our client would be happy with.

Can you share how your previous career helped shape your approach to client service and collaboration?

Collaboration is at the heart of being a musician. Early on, I learned to work in bigger groups and perform in unison with one purpose. As a performer on Broadway, it was my job to always perform my role to the best of my ability. Though I may have been performing that particular show for the 2nd time that day or the 100th time that year, there is likely someone in the audience who was seeing it for the first time. If it’s not their first time, maybe they’ve seen the show multiple times and they are ardent fans. In either case, I owe it to them to perform well and for me to bring my A-game. I believe that an important part of servicing our clients is to work efficiently and in unison with my colleagues and to always bring our A-game.

I also strongly believe that every work product that we create is a reflection of us individually. When I perform or put out music, a personal side of me is always revealed on stage or through that song. It’s the same for writing a brief or arguing in court. My work is an authentic part of me that I am producing for the world to see and I want for it to always be the best. I apply that same approach to my interactions with clients and how I advocate their legal interests.

Your latest single is available - when did you create it?

I started on this single in early February of this year. The concept for the single came pretty quickly. The difficult part was outside of work allocating enough time throughout the week to be able to work on it and other songs that I have in the pipeline, in addition to time with family. I hope to be able to have a 6 track EP released sometime this year or early next year.

I had the amazing opportunity to be part of an independent corporate monitorship that had me working overseas for a large part of the past three years with other amazing members of the firm. Our assignment ended in 2020 and then the pandemic hit. The time back home in a way afforded me the opportunity allocate more time to my creative goals, which is an important element for how I think I can achieve my career goals. Being able to find that balance has been even more important in the past year, while we all have had to deal with the pandemic.

