

Get to Know

Megan Bussey

Is being an attorney what you thought it would be? How are things different from what you imagined?

Things are pretty close to what I envisioned! All the things I imagined it would be like are the reasons that contributed to why I wanted to be an attorney. I love to challenge myself and learn new things. I especially appreciate being in the patent space because the landscape is constantly changing.

What is your go-to piece of advice you have for upcoming associates?

My piece of advice is to take on every project for a client as if it was your own client! Have the same level of focus to carry those projects across the finish line as if you were the lead partner. **I have found that taking ownership of the project, as opposed to focusing on getting something off your to-do list, makes a big difference in the associates' performance.** Working as a member of the larger client team and taking proactive actions when working on assignments has a huge impact in good relationships within the firm and with our clients. When everyone is working together as a team, our clients get the best quality work.

What has been the biggest difference between being an associate and being partner?

For me it's business development. It's a lot easier to go out there and reach out to potential clients and work on developing new relationships with Counsel/Partner as your title than it is as an associate. You have more independence to build relationships and the business, so the title is a big help.

After becoming an attorney, what made you want to stay working as an attorney?

I really like who I work with at the firm and the clients I get to work with! I have been very lucky that **I have great people on my team, and I have great clients**, which make the difficult parts of being an attorney much more palatable because I'm dealing with people I genuinely like.

What surprised you most when you left the classroom? What is the most important thing you took away from your time in law school?

I think, as most attorneys would say, there's very little similarity between law school and being a practicing attorney. In fact, I never even took a single patent course in law school! I took an IP Surveys course because I chose to study abroad during the semester that I would've had time to take more focused patent courses.

I think the most important thing I took away from my time in law school is being able to quickly assess what information is important and what information is not relevant. We're constantly given a lot of information, particularly in the patent space. You need to be able to determine quickly and efficiently what the key details are.

What's a story you've heard/witnessed during your tenure as an attorney that's always stuck with you?

I'm not sure if it's so much a story, but when I was a very junior, first-year associate I was working with a senior attorney on a project and I was getting super nervous about the portion I was working on. I kept going back and asking questions and the attorney said to me, "I will never give you an assignment that we can't fix if something goes wrong."

It made me feel very supported. Being an attorney for only six months and having somebody say, **'I'm here with you. We're in this together. You're not alone. We're a Team,'** made me feel more confident and able to lean into my instincts and trust my abilities. That has always stuck with me. As I've become more senior and I mentor junior associates, I try to keep that in mind and give them the same reassurance that we are working as a team for the betterment of the client and they're not out there alone.

What is your proudest moment?

My proudest career moment really is making partner, even though it is just the starting point of my new journey. For me, having been with the firm since I was a summer associate, it meant a lot to be given that vote of confidence that people who have known me my entire career believed in me. As a working mom of two young kids, having made it this far during a period of my life where I have been pulled in a number of different directions felt like a really big accomplishment.

What drew you to Big Law and what has made you stay?

I wanted to work with people who are the best at what they do! We have great teams, great attorneys, and it's a total bonus that we have fantastic clients that I get to work with on a regular basis. The people I work with and the clients I work for have been the defining factor of what keeps me here.

What are your hobbies/interests outside of law? How do those skills/interests help your practice?

I like to garden - I have a big garden at my house and I grow fruits and vegetables. I also like to go out to concerts. While my hobbies don't directly help my practice, it does keep me a more balanced and happy person, which definitely makes me a better attorney.

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