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This week's Q&A with

John Emmanuel

***John Emmanuel** is a Partner in Locke Lord's Regulatory and Transactional Insurance Practice Group based in the New York office. John advises property and casualty companies, both admitted and surplus lines insurers, life and health insurance companies, agents, brokers and other intermediaries across the United States with regard to insurance regulatory and compliance and general corporate law matters. In addition, John represents clients with respect to administrative matters before state insurance departments. He is a Co-Editor of Locke Lord's Excess and Surplus Lines Law Manual.*



More About John

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Without a doubt, it's the people — both clients and my colleagues — that I work with day in and day out and the relationships I have been able to build and appreciate. It started early in my career, when I was able to learn from my mentors as an Associate working in an environment that promotes collaboration. This collaboration helps us provide better service to our clients.

How did you know that you wanted to practice law? // What inspired you to become a lawyer?

Growing up, I always knew I wanted to be a lawyer. While there were a number of legal shows on television at the time (think *L.A. Law*), it was the problem-solving aspect of the practice of law that I found appealing. I enjoy taking an issue and being able to solve it or finding out a client's desired end goal and developing the best path forward to get them across the finish line. It is that challenge that led me to pursue a career in law.

What drives or motivates you on your hardest days/during your most difficult matters?

The biggest motivator is knowing how important the work is that we do for our clients. Our clients rely on us to help their businesses, from starting a new company, expanding their suite of products or managing the day-to-day regulatory environment. They come to us for advice, and making sure that we meet the client's needs and expectations each and every time motivates me on the most difficult of days.

What do you do to relax and reset after a long week?

I'm usually catching up with friends and taking advantage of the many events and attractions that happen across New York City's five boroughs. It may be seeing a musician in town for a concert, catching a last-minute Broadway show or getting a chance to see the exhibitions at one of the museums in the city, be it the very popular Metropolitan Museum of Art or the lesser-known Museum of the City of New York.

What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, New York?

What I love about living in New York is being able to explore a new neighborhood to see what it has to offer. Each of New York City's neighborhoods has a unique culture unto itself, and it's enjoyable to pick a location, grab the subway and head to a new and unexplored part of the city. You can support the local shops, try new restaurants and experience the architecture that could take you back in time or give you a glimpse of the future. After 10 years of living in New York, there are still many areas and attractions that I have yet to discover.

What would be your fantasy career if you weren't a lawyer?

You would probably find me running my own coffee shop on a beach somewhere. What could be better than enjoying a cup of coffee, reading a good book and hearing the waves crash in the background? While I chose a career in law, I suppose it could still be a reality upon retirement.



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