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This week's Q&A with

Lauren Fincher

Austin Partner [Lauren Fincher](#), a litigator in Locke Lord's Administrative and Regulatory Practice Group, helps clients navigate and resolve a range of disputes with the government. Such disputes often involve regulatory compliance and enforcement issues, including inquiries and investigations by state attorneys general and federal agencies, such as the Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission. Lauren's skillset enables her to effectively communicate with regulatory bodies and engage in creative problem-solving, while being prepared to litigate, if necessary. Her diverse practice ranges from antitrust matters to administrative litigation. While many of Lauren's clients are health care companies, her practice spans multiple industries.



More About Lauren

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

The ability to engender client trust — the kind where you get called for both pressing legal problems and to share in good news or something humorous they read that day. To me, advocacy is knowing and caring for clients. I very much enjoy helping them distill complex legal issues and efficiently determine practical next steps based on business goals.

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

Gratitude. It works wonders to reframe tough times by reflecting on how grateful I am to be positioned to do good work that has a meaningful impact on our clients. Focusing more on this — and less on the challenges — motivates me.

Who has had the biggest professional influence in your life? // Did you have a mentor? If so, tell us the most important things you learned from them.

I still have a copy of the essay *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf, given to me 16 years ago by a judge I worked for in Louisiana. This judge continues to be an incredible mentor and fierce advocate for women in the law, and I appreciate her wisdom and guidance. Inside the cover, she selected memorable quotes from the book and encouraged, no matter what, to always "leave a little space just your own — your room of your own." From the Firm, I have been fortunate to have a number of mentors, but Dallas Partner John McDonald and former Austin Partner and current Vice President for Legal Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin Jim Davis instilled in me a desire to always be and do better.

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

Spending time with my two little comedians, I mean children, tops the list. They have a penchant for impromptu dance parties, which, in addition to high entertainment value, is a great distraction from the busy work week. I am patting myself on the back for recently convincing my 5-year-old daughter that I have lawyer superpowers that enable me to read her mind and know when she is telling a fib. Comes in quite handy.

Tell us your favorite book, movie or TV show and why you like it.

Hard to choose, but one of my favorite books is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. The concept of a painted portrait transforming over time based on the subject's (questionable) life choices is fascinating — it certainly made an impression on me the first time I read it.

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

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