



Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

Joseph Farside

Providence Partner [Joseph Farside](#) is a versatile corporate litigator with a national practice in three areas: antitrust, environmental and consumer finance. Joe's antitrust practice primarily involves pre-merger counseling and filings and representing clients before the U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission in investigations of strategic mergers. His environmental practice involves both private litigation and defending state and federal environmental enforcements, as well as compliance counseling. His consumer finance practice involves defending more than a dozen of the Firm's clients in residential mortgage-related litigation throughout New England.



More About Joe

Tell us about the most interesting or significant matter you've worked on in your career.

Following the 2008 financial crisis, I worked for years on state and federal lawsuits arising from the massive Bernie Madoff fraud. I was one of three Firm lawyers defending an international accounting and audit firm, which audited a major investment fund that had invested its money with Madoff. Investors in that fund sued our client in various jurisdictions, claiming their investments had become worthless due to the client's fraud or negligence in not uncovering Madoff's fraud prior to the financial crisis. This work was significant and interesting due to its high-profile connection to the recession that followed, the new law that was created therefrom and, not least, the opportunity to learn how Madoff's fraud worked and how simple it actually was.

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Understanding what the client's short-term and longer-term needs are and tailoring my advice accordingly. I attempt to give answers that are as direct as possible, without sugarcoating.

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

I am driven every day to be the best possible lawyer I can be and provide complete and timely advice to clients. I don't view matters as "difficult" versus "easy." Our goal is to help clients reach objectives. Some matters may require many steps or require briefing numerous issues. As long as we accurately apprise our clients up front about what is necessary to reach their objectives, it becomes a matter of focusing on each task in a way that creates the highest chance for success.

What do you do to give back to the community?

I serve on the Boards of two great organizations. One is the Roger Williams University School of Law's Pro Bono Collaborative, which pairs law firms with law students for dedicated pro bono work, such as immigration and prisoner re-entry. Locke Lord has long been a participant in the Collaborative. The other is the Providence Children's Museum, an institution that provides interactive and creative learning opportunities for children across Rhode Island.

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

Getting quality time with my wonderful wife and three young children is always the perfect outlet after a busy week. I've also been a saltwater boater and fisherman my entire life and like to fish for striped bass whenever I can. Rhode Island, being the Ocean State, is a perfect place for me to keep connected with the sea. Now that my children are becoming old enough to experience this with me, it is even more fulfilling.

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

I'd like to be a charter captain and take people fishing for a living.



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