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This week's Q&A with

Brian Raynor

Chicago Bankruptcy, Restructuring and Insolvency Partner [Brian Raynor](#) has a broad practice in workouts and general corporate representations. His restructuring practice has included multiple debtor representations but has more recently focused on creditor representations and risk management for clients navigating distressed scenarios. On the workout and corporate side, Brian focuses primarily on resolving disputes among principals of high-growth companies, representing debt funds and providing standby advice on a variety of legal issues that clients encounter on a day-to-day basis.



More About Brian

What's the biggest challenge you've faced in your career?

Starting as a restructuring attorney straight out of law school was daunting. The practice is statute heavy, but it also requires a comfort level in a courtroom, proficiency in litigation, fluency with corporate transactions and an understanding of market norms that a junior attorney can only learn through experience. For my first few years practicing law, it was a lot to absorb. But over time, this broad base of experience has allowed me to approach problems holistically and find solutions that account for a variety of risks.

What inspired you to become a lawyer?

It is more of a "who" than a "what": Vincent LaGuardia Gambini, Esq., from *My Cousin Vinny*. His advocacy skills and fashion sense should inspire us all.

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Focusing first and foremost on my clients. A lot of ink has been spilled on the "business of law" and law firm metrics — recording hours, profits per partner, rankings, etc. Those are all important, but I constantly remind myself that a spreadsheet cannot and should not displace what is at the heart of this profession: trust, skill, counsel and delivering solutions. When I keep my focus on the clients, good things happen.

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

In the span of 13 months, I married my wife, made Partner, adopted a dog, moved and became a dad. Very soon thereafter, my wife and I moved again and had our second child.

This warp speed transition into suburban dadhood has not left a lot of “relax and reset” time carved into the weekend calendar, which is perfectly fine. When the opportunity does present itself, I like to exercise, read, watch my beloved Cornhuskers suffer through another 4-8 season and occasionally embarrass myself on a golf course.

If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

My old man. He was brilliant, principled, hardworking and, above all, devoted to his family. I only knew him as a child, so having dinner with him now, as two adults, would be a dream.

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

Owner and operator of “Bacon’s Ranch” — a to-be-established dog rescue named after our very own Bacon Bits Raynor, a 12-pound Shih Tzu/tyrant who wandered the streets of Chicago before finding his way into our home.



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