



Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

Brad Knapp

New Orleans Partner [Brad Knapp](#) is a member of Locke Lord's Financial Services Litigation Practice Group. He primarily represents clients in the energy and financial services industries, representing them in bankruptcy and bankruptcy litigation, along with a wide variety of commercial litigation outside of bankruptcy court. Brad also assists clients with government investigations and regulatory issues.



More About Brad

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

It involved a title dispute over a large ranch in Aspermont, Texas, for our then client, the late T. Boone Pickens. The case meandered from a rural state court to Dallas County and then through bankruptcy courts in Dallas and Austin. One of the bankruptcies was dismissed as a bad faith filing because the debtor had no debts of any kind. Another one of the bankruptcies turned the plaintiff's lawyer against his own clients with scathing privileged communications attached to legal briefs filed with the court. A lawyer from Santa Fe — the author of a number of self-published manifestos — claimed his talking horse advised him about the future. The property itself had some connection to the classic Elizabeth Taylor movie *Giant*. I keep waiting for my work to slow down so I can write a book about the case.

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

I became fascinated with law when my grandfather became embroiled in some international legal problems, culminating in a prison stint in Switzerland. He smuggled messages to us in medication bottles, and we worked extensively to try to get him back to the United States, which, I'm happy to report, we eventually did. My current practice has substantially less drama.

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

I've been fortunate to get to work on very complex and fascinating matters. When I'm tired or a challenge seems overwhelming, I try to focus on finding solutions to the problem at hand. Ultimately, that provides the best satisfaction during my work day.

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

I am a junkie for New Orleans events, which generally are not relaxing but certainly provide a reset. Saints games in the fall, carnival parades in the winter, crawfish boils and festivals in the spring and exploring all the city has to offer. I also help coach my kids' various sports teams, which means a lot of time at the ballparks and soccer fields.

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

Singer-songwriter Townes Van Zandt. No explanation needed.

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

My favorite book is generally the last book I read. My favorites of the past year include Maurice Carlos Ruffin's *We Cast a Shadow*, Namwali Serpell's *The Old Drift* and Petina Gappah's *Out of Darkness, Shining Light*.



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