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This week's Q&A with

Ashlee Knuckey

Chicago Business Litigation and Dispute Resolution Partner [Ashlee Knuckey](#) helps clients assess legal risk and develop practical, business-focused strategies to manage and resolve issues. She maintains a cross-functional practice handling litigation and regulatory matters, primarily in the health care, insurance and food industries, among others. Ashlee's counseling regularly includes regulatory diligence issues and regulatory approvals for proposed transactions.



More About Ashlee

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

I love being faced with complex issues. The more moving parts, the better. Keeping many facts, stakeholders and competing interests in mind simultaneously is an exciting challenge. I enjoy thinking through moves several steps ahead, like a giant game of chess. I also have a reputation for being responsive and available to jump into action at any hour. Even when it requires personal sacrifice, I'm willing to do whatever it takes to help my clients. My family includes several firefighters and we joke that, in my own way, I love running into burning buildings to solve problems and try my hardest to "save" my clients.

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

I have three younger sisters who could be called my first clients. It remains my job to counsel, guide and advocate for them. From the time I was about 8 years old, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer. This love of helping and fighting on other people's behalf has driven me throughout my entire life.

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

I value getting to know my clients on both a personal and professional level and establishing relationships built on trust and loyalty. I want to understand clients' personal drivers as much as their professional ones, and I love getting a call about a client's child getting the internship they were working for or winning the big game. That connection and the trust my clients place in me motivate me through anything.

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

Spend time with my loved ones. I have a 7-year-old daughter, Sophia, and a 5-year-old son, Dylan, and we have a tradition of getting mani-pedis together to wash away the really tough weeks.

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

My favorite movie is *Backdraft* — a 1991 Ron Howard film about two brothers who are Chicago firefighters. The camaraderie among the characters spoke to me at a young age. There's also a line from the pivotal moment in the film where the lieutenant tells one of his men, "You go. We go." It's my favorite line from any movie.

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

This is a little-known fact, but my fantasy non-lawyer career is to be a screenwriter or director. I love the escape from reality that film and TV can provide, and I would love to craft and bring to life great characters for others to enjoy.



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