

This is the final edition of Locke Lord's NextGen Q&A series!
We hope you have enjoyed learning more about Locke Lord's rising leaders.



NextGen

This week's Q&A with



Nick Dickerson

Houston White Collar Criminal Defense and Internal Investigations Partner [Nick Dickerson's](#) primary focus is defending corporate and individual clients in actual or threatened government prosecutions, internal investigations and parallel civil enforcement actions. He has extensive experience dealing with DOJ, SEC and other government agencies as well as corporate audit committees on issues including fraud, bribery, self-dealing, crisis management, environmental and international trade compliance. He also maintains a broad business litigation practice, handling matters such as contract disputes, product liability, trade secrets, deceptive trade practices and insurance and indemnity claims.



More About Nick

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

The first big criminal case I worked on still stands out as one of the most interesting, largely because of the personalities involved. We represented an individual indicted in Houston for running a timeshare telemarketing scheme in a true family affair, as his wife, ex-wife and adult son were also charged. While out on pretrial bond, our client was indicted again, this time in Las Vegas, for an unrelated biodiesel tax credit scheme. Obviously that complicated things, but in the end we were able to resolve both cases favorably.

What has helped you to become successful in your field?

Recognizing that the law, and particularly litigation, is not one-size-fits-all. Our legal system isn't perfect, but it is essential to understand the different ways it can work to your advantage to achieve the best possible outcome, whether that means all-out war or quiet resolution. One of the things that keeps this job interesting is getting to know each client, understanding their business and tailoring the approach in a given case to their specific needs.

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

My desire to win, or more specifically, to not lose. I've always been competitive and was drawn to the adversarial nature of litigation. Taking complex challenges and finding ways to simplify and overcome them has proven to be very rewarding, particularly when a client's livelihood or freedom is on the line.

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

My two favorite activities are seeing live music and playing outside. I've seen shows from just about every musical genre and era, and they never cease to inspire me. Exploring the outdoors through hiking, biking and camping always helps me reconnect and put life in perspective. Recently, my wife and I have found great joy in sharing these passions with our three young kids.

What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, Houston?

This one's easy — the restaurants. I've lived in Houston for 14 years and would put its restaurants up against just about any other place I've visited. Houston's food is especially set apart by its diversity (from local staples like Tex-Mex and BBQ to the gems in Chinatown and Little India) and ability to fit any budget.

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

Growing up, I wanted to be an international rock star. It didn't take me long to realize I had zero musical talent, but fortunately my backup career as a lawyer has worked out well so far. Now that I'm a little older, I'd settle for SCUBA instructor, ski bum or wilderness guide.



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