

MEMBER ON THE SPOT



NAME: Charles Dennen
PRACTICE AFFILIATION: Archer & Greiner, PC
YEAR ADMITTED TO BAR: 2013
OTHER BAR ADMITTANCES: Pennsylvania (2013)
RESIDENCE: Philadelphia, PA

HIGH SCHOOL: Woodbury HS

COLLEGE: Rutgers—New Brunswick, Rutgers College '08

LAW SCHOOL: Rutgers Law – Camden, '13

WHAT LED YOU TO A LEGAL CAREER: My father is an attorney and, I think at least in large part due to that, it's always something I was interested in. My time as a paralegal in New York solidified by desire to become an attorney.

BEST PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTE: Loyalty. I pride myself on never forgetting the people who have helped, loved, and supported me along the way.

GREATEST FAULT: I have a tendency to get too bogged down in the minutiae. Sometimes it's more important to see the big picture.

WHAT I DO TO RELAX: Spend time with my fiancé. I'm also a big sports fan and enjoy exercising to blow off some steam.

HOBBIES: Traveling, running, cooking, wine, eating at new restaurants, sports.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Tinto

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW: The Wire. Breaking Bad is a close second.

FAVORITE MOVIE: Braveheart

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: *Last of the Mohicans* or *The Killer Angels*.

I give a different answer to this all the time so I'm taking the easy way out and listing both.

FAVORITE VACATION PLACES: California Wine Country and Paris

FAVORITE WEBSITE: TripAdvisor

FAVORITE MUSEUM: The Smithsonian, the Barnes Foundation, and the Rodin.

FAVORITE WEEKEND GETAWAY: Cape May

ENJOY MOST ABOUT PRACTICING LAW: The law is always providing new challenges or problems that need to be tackled—I think that is especially true in the environmental litigation field. Every case has its own set of intricacies and nuances that make it unique and challenging.

MOST ADMIRER PERSON AND WHY: My parents. I have always emulated the balance they struck between demanding careers and being wonderful parents. As I have gotten older, I have grown to appreciate more all the time and sacrifice it took for them to be so involved in our family while also maintaining successful careers. My goal every day is to strike that balance as well as they did. I also need to sneak in a shameless plug for how much I admire the person my sister has become.

WHEN AND WHERE HAPPIEST?: A Friday or Saturday night with nothing to do but hang out with my fiancé, cook a nice meal, and open a bottle of wine.

CHERISHED MEMORIES: I feel very fortunate that I am surrounded by wonderful people who have given me so many great memories. To name a few: car-ride conversations with my dad on the way to soccer games/tournaments all over the east coast; nights around a fire with my high school friends; living in a house with my college friends during senior year; and countless family gatherings.

GREATEST FEAR: Disappointing the people who have always loved and supported me.

ALTERNATE CAREER CHOICE: General manager of a Major League Baseball team.

GREATEST LESSON LEARNED FROM PRACTICE OF LAW:

You can never be too prepared. The more prepared you are, the more comfortable and confident you can be in letting your natural ability take over. Also, treat everyone with courtesy and respect. Although the practice of law can be adversarial, the world is round.

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO DINE WITH: Barack Obama

PET PEEVE(S): Tardiness. Also, when drivers don't wave to acknowledge that I moved over to let them pass.

LIFE'S HIGHLIGHTS: Graduating from law school, traveling, and spending time with family and friends have all been pretty great so far, but meeting my fiancé and developing the relationship I now have with her daughter stand out above else. I hope to have many more highlights ahead.

GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Being happy in both my personal and professional life. I like to think that my greatest accomplishments are yet to come, but you can't ask for much more than happiness and balance as a 32 year-old attorney.

#1 PROFESSIONAL GOAL: To make partner at Archer and be well-respected by my colleagues, peers, and adversaries alike.

#1 PERSONAL GOAL: To be as good a parent as my parents and raise children who turn out as well as my sister has. It is also very important to me that I maintain and grow the friendships that have meant so much to me.

LIFE EXPERIENCE(S) WITH GREATEST IMPACT: Two experience stand out above all others: (1) Early on in college, I was not as focused on my academics as I should have been. I had a moment of clarity during my sophomore year that I was not on track to become the person I always wanted to be. I promised myself in that moment that I would do everything I could to never feel that way again. (2) Meeting my future wife and becoming such a big part of her daughter's life.

ADVICE TO YOUNG LAWYER: Work hard and never lose sight of what you want. Being a lawyer requires a lot of hard work and some long hours but it also has incredible rewards. If you are doing something you enjoy, it makes that hard work and those long hours much more tolerable. Also, take a moment every so often to assess where you are compared to where you want to be.

HOPE TO BE DOING IN 10 YEARS: In 10 years, I would like to be a partner at Archer and coaching my kids' sports teams.

FAVORITE QUOTATION: "Play for the name on the front of the jersey and they will remember the name on the back." Tony Adams, soccer player. It applies in so many contexts.

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