

JEFFREY E. OLEJNIK

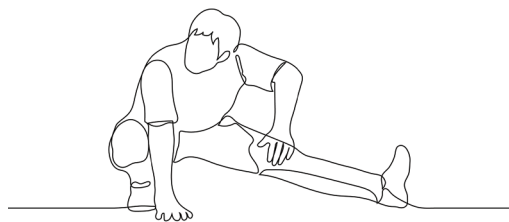
FIRM: Brooks Pierce, Greensboro

HOMETOWN: Raleigh, but moved a lot with dad's job

UNDERGRAD: William and Mary University

LAW SCHOOL: University of Virginia, 1983

PRACTICE LAW: 40 years



FAMILY: Wife, Michelle; daughters, Kaleigh and Megan and sons-in-law, Luke and Hugh

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Stretch more before getting on my bike, try to consistently go to gentle yoga once a week.

2024 WORK-LIFE CHANGE: Delegate and mentor more.

GO-TO STRESS RELIEVER: Long bike ride, off road, or long lap swim during the summer.

BUCKET LIST: Hike Machu Picchu

BIGGEST RISK: Following my law partner, an expert skier, down a serious black diamond run at Sun Valley while in Utah for depositions.

LEGAL WORK MYTH: That the only thing lawyers want to do is bill more hours.

FAVORITE LAWYER JOKE: A lawyer dies and is greeted by Saint Peter at the Pearly Gates. The young lawyer complains, "This is a mistake, I wasn't meant to die this young." Saint Peter responds, "Young? According to your timesheets you're 93."

LAST SHOW BINGE-WATCHED: "Killing Eve"

COMFORT FOOD: My mom's spicy meatloaf with mashed potatoes and green beans.

FAVORITE FICTIONAL LAWYER: Atticus Finch from "To Kill a Mockingbird."

FAVORITE N.C. HANGOUT: North Topsail, where our friend Joe has a house with a great deck and even better view from the crow's nest.

LEGAL INSPIRATION: My love for economics and how that fits with analysis of business deals gone bad.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE: Advice received: The best way to settle a case, get a good settlement for your client, is to show the other side you are prepared and ready to try the case.

FICTIONAL COURTROOM WHERE YOU'RE THE LAWYER: The courtroom in "Boston Legal," with Denny Crane (actor William Shatner) as my "senior partner" who helps me try the case.

ALTERNATIVE CAREER: Teach high school economics and coach the cross-country team.

DEFINE SUCCESS: A client who appreciates your effort and recognizes that you were always prepared for negotiations or hearings.