

JOHN OWEN

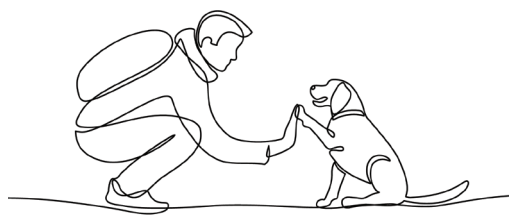
FIRM: Coats & Bennett, Cary

HOMETOWN: Cary

UNDERGRAD: Duke University

LAW SCHOOL: UNC Law School, 1996

PRACTICED LAW: 27 years



FAMILY: Wife Denise

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Find more joy and share it.

2024 WORK-LIFE CHANGE: Cut back on the number of days I am working as part of the glide path to retirement.

GO-TO STRESS RELIEVER: Go for a long walk with the dog. The dog reminds me to be present in the moment and to enjoy simple things.

BUCKET LIST: Visit New Zealand

BIGGEST RISK: Leaving a good engineering/management career to go to law school.

LEGAL WORK MYTH: It is all about conflict, when it is actually more about relationships and understanding your client.

FAVORITE LAWYER JOKE: Only lawyers can write 80 pages on a single subject and call it a "brief."

LAST SHOW BINGE-WATCHED: "Love, Death + Robots." It is alternately hilarious and thought provoking.

SPECIAL DISH: The now-closed Magnolia Grill's famous panko crusted chicken with lemon caper sauce, prepared by my wife Denise.

FAVORITE FICTIONAL ATTORNEY: Mitchell McDeere from "The Firm."

FAVORITE N.C. HANGOUT: Umstead State Park

LEGAL INSPIRATION: The challenge of continuous learning and a great example in Professor John Conley.

BEST PROFESSIONAL ADVICE: A wise lawyer told me argument is not just about facts and law, it is about telling a compelling story.

FICTIONAL COURTROOM WHERE YOU'RE THE LAWYER: The trial to determine if Lt. Cmdr. Data is sentient in "Star Trek Next Generation" because of the importance of the issue to a fundamentally good "person."

ALTERNATIVE CAREER: Wine and craft beer merchant.

2024 MILESTONES: My 13th year of waiting for Patrick Rothfuss to finish and release the sequel to "The Wise Man's Fear."

DEFINE SUCCESS: Knowing you made a positive difference.