SPOTLIGHT New Lawyers

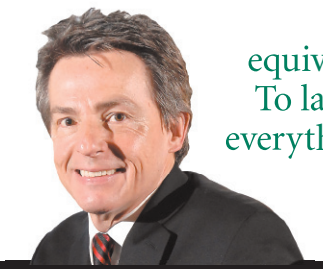
Practical tips for new lawyers

***Indiana Lawyer** has been recognizing exemplary attorneys in our state since 2006 with the Leadership In Law awards. In recent years, we have asked the honorees – both seasoned veterans and those with only a few years of experience under their belts – to share practical advice that they received or, in retrospect, wish they had received, as young attorneys. New lawyers entering the practice in 2014 can soak up the wisdom shared and learn from these lawyers' experiences.*

"I wish I had known when I graduated law school that . . .

"...the practice of law is a business as well as a profession."

Michael B. Bishop, Cohen Garelick & Glazier, 2012 Distinguished Barrister



"...lawyer work has no equivalent of a semester break. To lawyers, a fresh start where everything comes to rest at once is a romantic fantasy."

Donald R. Lundberg, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, 2012 Distinguished Barrister

"...clients need constant care and feeding."

Mary E. Solada, Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP, 2012 Distinguished Barrister

What are your tips for achieving a work/life balance?

"Take time out from your practice to develop your other interests."

Brianna J. Schroeder, Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP, 2014 Up And Coming Lawyer

"Imagine your funeral; imagine who you would want there and what you would want them to be saying about you. Now, work back from there, and let that be your guide for today and every day."

Marion Superior Judge Timothy W. Oakes, 2014 Distinguished Barrister

"Learn to say no. I believe strongly in community involvement, but it is impossible to be involved and a part of everything."

Scott Evernham, Old National Bancorp., 2014 Up and Coming Lawyer

What is the most important lesson you learned from your mentor?

"When clients make an issue a priority, you are best served by making it your priority as well."

Rubin Pusha III, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, 2014 Up And Coming lawyer

What's something you've learned over the years that you wish you could go back in time and tell your younger self?

"Don't sweat the small stuff and its corollary, everything is small stuff."

James A. Strain, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, 2014 Distinguished Barrister

"Trust your instincts. That little voice in the back of your head (or sometimes in the pit of your stomach) is usually right."

Scott Enright, Emmis Communications Corp., 2014 Distinguished Barrister

The best advice I could give a recent law school graduate is . . .

"...work with people you like."

Stephen E. Reynolds, Ice Miller LLP, 2012 Up And Coming Lawyer

"...be imaginative about your employment prospects, the legal field is very broad."

Andrew L. Campbell, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, 2012 Up And Coming Lawyer

"...stay in touch with your law school and undergraduate classmates. They'll turn out to be your best clients, referral sources and peer mentors."

Margaret M. Christensen, Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP, 2012 Up And Coming Lawyer

What's the most important thing your mentor has taught you?

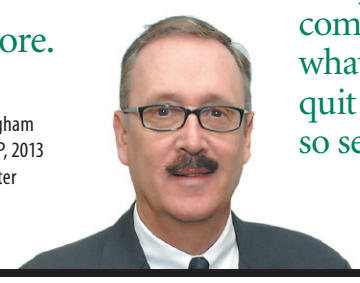
"Think long-term. With a legal career that will hopefully span nearly 40 years, a few bad days are bound to happen."

Timothy A. Emerick, Barnes & Thornburg LLP, 2013 Up And Coming Lawyer

What advice would you give your 25-year-old self?

"Listen more. Talk less."

Kevin P. McGoff, Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP, 2013 Distinguished Barrister



"Stay intense and compassionate about what you do, but quit taking yourself so seriously."

David Cutshaw, Cohen & Malad LLP, 2013 Distinguished Barrister