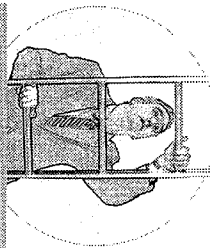


“It’s refreshing to come to work and do something different every day”

CAREER PATH



Name: Matt Elliott
Age: 38
Title: Managing Partner
Company: Beckman Lawson
Location: 200 E. Main St., Suite 800, Fort Wayne
Founded: 1980
Education: Bachelor’s degree in economics and English from the University of Michigan; law degree from Harvard University

What is your philosophy for the practice?

We always focus on client service, and we’re flexible. Each client demands a different approach ... That’s what drives us. We assess each client’s goals first, and everything we do after that is driven by those goals.

What do you most enjoy about your job?

The variety of the work. At any given time we have 30 to 40 cases going. It’s refreshing to come to work and do something different every day. I also have like-minded partners who contribute to a comfortable and supportive work environment.

What has your work taught you about life?

There are always two sides to the story. It sounds counterintuitive, but to be the best advocate for your clients, it helps to try to understand the other side’s viewpoint.

You recently won a favorable settlement for a group of local residents involved in a predatory lending case with the Fort Wayne Neighborhood Housing Partnership. Tell me about

Why you got involved in that case.

The case was a chance to help people who needed it and give them a voice in the legal system. We felt it was the right thing to do and in the end, it was gratifying to get cards and letters from people I had never met who appreciated our work on their behalf.

What are your goals for the future of the practice?

As a practice, we want to continue to serve the small and medium-sized business clientele. Our goal is to continue to grow and have some fun doing it. We’re a Fort Wayne-based firm, and we intend to stay here to contribute to the city.

What sets you apart from your competitors?

We are a full-service law firm focused on Fort Wayne. We have the talent and experience of a large firm, but our midsize and local focus allows us to be very personal and flexible in our approach with each client.

By Lauren Caggiano. To submit an idea for “Career Path,” e-mail us at news@fwbusiness.com or call (260) 426-2640.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matt Elliott, managing partner at Beckman Lawson, recently won a favorable settlement for local residents in a predatory lending case.