

GET TO KNOW

Business Litigation Professional

By Andy Stonehouse

While most of us picture the typical world of a litigation lawyer to be played out in some TV-styled courtroom, local lawyer Ryan Frazier says the bulk of his work is really spent doing the behind-the-scenes work: depositions from witnesses, and lots and lots of legal writing

“Trials are becoming rare in this day and age, so for the most part, I’m at my office at my desk, working on the computer, trying to craft persuasive writing to convince a jury of what we believe,” Frazier says.

“But when I do end up in court, it’s always fun—it’s a rush, as it’s typically where you get to express the things that matter to a client. And it can be very fulfilling. You just have to be able to think quickly on your feet.”

Frazier, a member of Kirton McConkie’s litigation section, grew up in the Tooele Valley, attending Utah State and the University of Utah for his undergraduate work. Frazier said he’d always been interested in law, and after a brief period working for a newspaper, he was accepted to the University of Utah’s law school in 1997 and graduated in 2000.

“When I had an idea of what I wanted to do, I realized I was naturally drawn to court work,” he says. “I knew there were plenty of transactional attorneys out there, but that wasn’t what I wanted to do. And I’ve now been through a seven-week-long trial—that’s pretty amazing to have experienced this early in my career.”

While clerking as a law student, Frazier worked with the Utah Supreme Court and former Justice Leonard H. Russon, helping with a major case involving a referendum hoping to tax potential nuclear waste shipments through the state. He also worked for a while in Idaho Falls, and still remains a member of the Idaho bar, as well.

Since graduating, Frazier’s specialty has turned to litigation in employment and business matters, his biggest accomplishment being an \$89 million summary judgment in an antitrust case filed against Intermountain Health Care.

He’s worked on hundreds of landlord/tenant disputes, and also worked on real estate cases.

In his eight years at Kirton McConkie, Frazier has been selected as one of the Mountain States Super Lawyers’ Rising Stars for Business Litigation in 2008, 2011 and 2012, as well as being recognized as one of Utah’s Legal Elite by Utah Business in both 2006 and 2011.

With a very focused specialty, Frazier said it can be a challenge to develop clients, but his long and successful history in litigation has helped build him a solid reputation.

“Drumming up clients is really about relationships,” he said. “You’re typically hired because people know and trust you. We tend to spend a lot of time at community events like Corporate Alliance, working to build those relationships on a non-work level.”

Frazier has also kept busy as an active officer of the Utah State Bar since 2007, currently serving as the chair of the litigation section. He says he enjoys the opportunity to provide legal education and ongoing training to other attorneys in the state.

Frazier lives in Layton with his wife and four kids, and says he tries to do as much outdoor activity as he can—hiking is a particular favorite—as well as enjoying travel.

Originally appeared in the Law Day 2013 supplement in the *Salt Lake Tribune*, April 28, 2013.