

Follow Your Heart

Attorney Richard Baron On How To Achieve Success

Corp! magazine recently spent "10 Minutes With" Richard Baron, manager and principal with the law firm of Foley, Baron and Metzger. Here are excerpts from that conversation.

Corp!: What one word describes Richard Baron?

Baron: Interested.

Corp!: What drives you professionally?

Baron: Trying to do the very best for clients.

Corp!: Who mentored you?

Baron: I had a professor at Michigan State University who was a mentor in the sense that I ended up working with him on photographic and other scientific related work, but he got me into flying. That opened up a lot of opportunities for me.

Corp!: How has that influenced you?

Baron: It's important to know people at the firm care about their progress on both a personal basis and a professional level. I try to take a personal interest in their long-term development.

Corp!: Any recent success stories?

Baron: We had a client who was being sued on a food poisoning related case. We were able to explain to the other side why they didn't want us on the case. And they agreed.

Corp!: Your best business decision?

Baron: Starting my own firm with Clyde Metzger and Tom Foley.

Corp!: Your worst decision?

Baron: I missed out on buying a piece of property at a better price than I ultimately paid for it.

Corp!: Who's the most interesting person you'd like to meet and why?

Baron: Stanford Ovshinsky [president, chief scientist and technologist] at Energy Conversion Devices. They've been in the news for a number

of years, doing cutting edge stuff. He seems to be a visionary.

Corp!: What's one of your pet peeves and why?

Baron: People spending too much time e-mailing and not enough time talking to people face-to-face.

Corp!: The best advice you can give someone else?

Baron: Follow your heart.



Richard Baron of Foley, Baron and Metzger is an avid pilot.

Corp!: Your favorite car?

Baron: I drive a Jeep and have driven one for years. My wife drives a Ford hybrid and we're real happy with both of them, although they're both different purpose vehicles. But I've also got an airplane, a Mooney 231, a turbo-charged single engine plane, and that's high on the list. It's a 1982 model that I've had for 13 years.

Corp!: If you had to start over, what would you do?

Baron: I really like practicing law. I'm also fortunate in that the type of work I do allows me to have other interests, like photography, aviation, and science, all of which play a role in the work I do. ■