

By Charlee Beasor

STUART BUTTRICK

Being a Lawyer 'the Right Way'

Stuart Buttrick believes in the power of community, particularly the Indianapolis community and its citizens working toward a common good.

Buttrick, a labor and employment law attorney at Faegre Baker Daniels, has a long list of civic involvement. And it starts at home, where Buttrick and his wife make volunteering a family affair and emphasize to their young children the importance of giving back.

“Ultimately, I just want (my children) to be happy and kind people. I won’t profess to be a good role model in that regard, but that’s what I’d like for them to be. We emphasize helping others in our house and doing things for others,” he notes.

“It’s good for the community and good for a person to help others. We’re all in this together.”

Buttrick serves as a director on several boards for organizations throughout Central Indiana, including the Indianapolis Zoo, Park Tudor school, the Woodstock Foundation and the Indiana United Methodist Children’s Home in Lebanon.

Lawyers are well-known to be short on free time, but Buttrick insists the commitment of volunteering is worthwhile.

“Indianapolis is a great place. . . . It’s hard not to be enthusiastic about where you live and what’s great about it. There are so many fun things to get involved with in Indianapolis and Indiana generally. I just

like to do it. It’s good for me. I need to always work on being a better person. I get as much out of it from the institutions as they do,” he offers.

What’s good for Indiana business is good for all

Buttrick’s involvement with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, of course, supports the entire state.

His efforts are two-fold – first, as editor-in-chief of the Chamber’s most popular compliance publication, the *Employment Law Handbook*; and second, through assisting in the speaker lineup and topic selection for the annual Employment Law Seminar, presented by Faegre Baker Daniels each spring. Buttrick also speaks at the event, and gives the introductory comments and welcome.

He points to one of his mentors, John T. Neighbours, a partner at Faegre Baker Daniels, for bringing him into the fold of working on the *Employment Law Handbook* 15 years ago. Neighbours edited the book for many years previously.

“I owe a debt of gratitude to John Neighbours, who has been one of my mentors, and primary mentor during my legal career. “As an associate, John got me involved in writing a chapter or two and was kind enough to transition that role of editor-in-chief to me,” he recalls.

Buttrick and the team of attorneys at Faegre Baker Daniels that works on the handbook produce an annual update that is always



Stuart Buttrick, in addition to helping his clients solve problems, focuses on always treating people with respect and decency.



Buttrick enjoys giving back to the Indianapolis community and teaching his children the importance of civic involvement.

they're friends. I call them my friends. I like to say I spend the day talking to my friends. That's how I feel," Buttrick emphasizes. "Being able to help folks on the management side sort through their problems, there is gratification for that. You're helping them solve a problem."

His objective is to treat people with respect and decency.

"You always want to keep in perspective that everything you're doing is impacting people. I've never worked with any clients who have done the wrong thing. But when advocating on behalf of a business, you try to do it in such a way that you can still do the minimal amount of harm to the individual. Because we are all people, and we are all in this together," he asserts.

He was taught to be a lawyer "the right way" by his mentors at the firm, including Neighbours, David Miller and Greg Utken. By "the right way," Buttrick means treating others collegially – especially when they are your adversaries.

"There's no need to make any of this personal. We all live in the same community, we see each other all the time. Do things ethically," he explains. "They drilled into us how to really practice law in more of a traditional fashion, where we are professionals and colleagues. That's something I aspire to."

Buttrick points to another mentor in his life, his first one: Mom. Growing up in Illinois, he was raised by a single mother who was a teacher, and she impressed upon him the importance of education. She also gave him the idea to go to law school.

"She's a tremendously hard worker, extremely talented teacher. I always grew up seeing the value of education. That was always a priority. Education is how everybody can better themselves, and I firmly believe that. Through her hard work and by stressing education, she helped me get off to a good start," he offers.

'Closet hairbangers'

Buttrick graduated from DePauw University in 1997 and the Indiana University McKinney School of Law in 2000. He joined Baker Daniels after law school and became a partner in 2009.

timely, says Matt Ottinger, Indiana Chamber director of publications and social media.

"This is our most popular compliance publication and the most comprehensive. It entails information on different employment laws and issues critical to the HR community," Ottinger notes. "This is the only book we update every year, and I appreciate Stuart's timeliness and enthusiasm and willingness to update this publication. It is imperative to keeping our members and customers informed."

Buttrick is happy to give back to the Chamber's mission of cultivating an environment of economic opportunity and prosperity for everyone.

"The Chamber does such good work on behalf of Indiana business. We wouldn't be

what we are without the Chamber. If I can help, in some small way, the Chamber do what they do, that's good for everybody," he maintains. "Ultimately, when business succeeds, everyone succeeds."

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

When Buttrick talks on the phone with his clients, he earnestly feels as if he is chatting with friends.

Buttrick represents the management side in labor and employment lawsuits and cases. He has argued cases in front of the National Labor Relations Board and in a number of federal and state courts and agencies.

"Ultimately, what I really enjoy doing is talking to people. Much of my day is spent on the phone talking with clients, but for me,

While at DePauw, he was on the school's tennis team and still hits the courts when he can, this time to watch his daughter play. He met his wife, Hilary (who is also a litigator and is currently a professor at the Andre B. Lacy School of Business at Butler University) during his senior year in college.

But don't think the Buttricks sit around the dinner table in deep legal discussion, he insists. They do, however, enjoy the shared knowledge of the legal field.

Soft-spoken and earnest, Buttrick lights up when discussing some other passions, including Libertarian politics. He calls himself an

"avowed Libertarian" (yes, he did pitch that Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson should have been included in the Presidential debates) and is a previous board member for the national party.

Another passion: music, especially 1980s hair bands.

"My wife and I are closet hairbangers. We spend a lot of time seeing live music, traveling to music festivals and we try to see live music whenever we can. We've had the privilege of meeting a number of cool musicians: Motley Crue, members of Oasis, Ride, Frank Turner, Dashboard Confessional, Everclear. We try to angle our way backstage whenever we can," he concludes.