



JOSHUA CHRISTIE

Navigating New Waters

By Matt Ottinger

Joshua Christie has spent his entire 15-year legal career with Ice Miller LLP en route to becoming a partner in the firm.

In the past year and a half, he also emerged as a valued partner of the Indiana Chamber and its members during the unpredictable twists of COVID-19. According to Jennifer Elkin, senior vice president of marketing for the Indiana Chamber, he was “instrumental in the Indiana Chamber’s work to assist the business community during the pandemic.”

Through an expeditious assembly of team members from Ice Miller, Christie led webinars and one-on-one guidance to help Indiana companies negotiate the short- and long-term obstacles presented.

“His experience and compassion was evident as he and the team advised thousands of attendees over the course of several months on key legal matters they were facing,” Elkin commends. “(Christie) has continued to provide support through the Chamber’s COVID

Resource Center (web site), through which we are proud to partner with Ice Miller.”

Rough sledding

Christie asserts that what’s been most daunting is that employers were faced with a rather textured challenge.

“I think what sent everyone into a tailspin was that employers were trying to view what is both potentially an economic crisis and a health and safety crisis,” he points out. “We knew what could happen in a recession or depression, but on top of that, the physical safety and well-being of the workforce was something I don’t think anyone had dealt with before.”

Christie focuses on his firm’s business group to help clients with legal matters. That role expanded during the pandemic.

“Myself and my colleagues who work with a lot of businesses found ourselves on the phone as counselors more than anything else,” he relays. “We had a whole team of people who jumped on it and the issues we’d be grappling with. I spent a lot of time advising people on the Paycheck Protection Program, for instance, and the other available stimulus money ... Employers were just kind of lost.”

It’s not just clients, but the firm itself and other service-based businesses that have had to adapt as well.

“Those of us who were getting up to speed on what our clients were dealing with were also advising ourselves as a client,” Christie

Josh Christie's assistance during the pandemic made a great impact on businesses and helped many stay afloat during tough times.

recalls. "There are some silver linings with everyone figuring out the technology we need and what we can do outside of the office but building a culture now can be difficult.

"How do you integrate a new team member?," he asks. "I've talked to individuals who took another job during the pandemic and never saw the inside of their office or met a single one of their coworkers."

Outside the Maine

Years before embarking on a legal career, Christie's passion for traversing new territory surfaced after high school. A central Indiana native and Park Tudor High School graduate, his passion for the outdoors took him on a quest to Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

"I headed out there and started exploring and fell in love with Maine," he remembers. "It's a spectacular place. I got lucky. As soon as I got on the campus, I realized it was the place for me."

Ultimately, the beckoning call of his home



Through consultation, not litigation, Christie relishes the opportunity to help Ice Miller's clients "get from point A to point B."

Capital development

Today, Indianapolis has become more than a suitable home for Christie, his wife and 11-year-old daughter.

"It looks so different than when I left in the late 1990s," he states. "It's even different than when I moved back up here in 2006. The areas downtown: the cultural districts,

He shares that he has a larger stake in the matter.

"I'm also the national recruiting partner for Ice Miller so I'm professionally invested in keeping talent coming to central Indiana," Christie states, adding he was recently on the board for the Central Indiana Land Trust as well, thus continuing his passion for nature.

The business of business law

He credits Ice Miller's "collegial" atmosphere for keeping him at the firm, recalling how he's evolved into his current role.

"When I was in law school, I didn't know there was anything other than litigation. I thought that's just what lawyers did," Christie remarks. "I sought out more transactional work and I enjoyed it. I spend a lot of my time problem-solving and helping both sides get from point A to point B and be happy because it helps them grow personally or grow their business."

He points to Ice Miller attorneys past and present like Harry Gonso and Richard Thrapp as being critical resources in his professional development.

"They've both been in the Indiana business community for a long time and I learned a ton from those guys ..." he credits. "I learned it's not just about answering the legal question; it's about helping your client figure out what they're trying to figure out. We give legal advice, but we're in the relationship business."

Christie calls the recognition of being an Indiana Chamber Volunteer of the Year humbling and unexpected.

"We'd have 1,000 people on these (webinars) and they were asking smart questions," he concludes. "To help businesses navigate these unprecedented times has been one of the most fulfilling things I've done in my career." ■

Christie's passion for the outdoors led him to attend college in Maine. He now shares the beauty of the Pine Tree state with his family – shown on a recent trip to Blueberry Mountain in Evans Notch.



state lured him back from the mountains and ocean. He cites the reputation of Indiana University's Maurer School of Law, coupled with in-state tuition and a generous scholarship, as too great an opportunity to resist.

"My wife is also from Indianapolis and we were engaged at the time and we were ready to be closer to family," Christie says. "And we'd always wanted to live in Bloomington. I'm a lifelong, rabid IU basketball fan so that entered into my mind too."

the cultural trail, the Monon (Trail). It makes the city a vibrant place to live."

Christie has been on the board for IndyHub, an organization for young professionals supported by corporations and grants, for several years.

"To see the vibrant culture that's particularly surrounding the downtown area is great," he notes. "In a lot of ways, Indy has had all the benefits of a big city but is more accessible than other cities like it. We're trying to make sure Indy remains attractive for new talent."