



ANDY BOWMAN

Bringing Clarity to the Complex

By Anthony Schoettle

Most people run away from complicated jobs and challenges. Or at least they try to avoid them when possible. Not Andy Bowman.

Drawn to become a lawyer by his desire to help people, he ran toward environmental legal work because he “loved the complexity” of it.

That trait also has served Bowman well in his many volunteer efforts over the last two decades with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce. For all he has done, this year Bowman was named one of the organization’s Volunteer of the Year award winners.

Notably, he was the lead author and editor of the 10th edition of the *Environmental Compliance Handbook* published by the Indiana Chamber. Detailed by nature, the guide often must undergo complicated revisions as state and federal laws and regulations continually change.

This go-round, Bowman proactively came to the Indiana Chamber with a game plan for the many updates. His thoroughness and timeliness were greatly appreciated, offers Kerri Begley, Indiana Chamber vice president of business education and events.

“Environmental rules and regulations have such a major impact on many Indiana companies, so it’s imperative to keep our member businesses up to date on all these compliance and legal issues to help

ensure they don’t face costly penalties and fines,” she asserts.

“Andy made sure this publication was current and relevant as possible, making it a valuable tool for us to have in our business education library.”

Bowman, who first started working on the *Environmental Compliance Handbook* in 2002, is quick to dole out credit to others, and says he had much support from his employer, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum, while working on the publication.

“There are a lot of people who contribute to the handbook at my law firm. In particular, Jennifer Thompson, one of the partners, puts in a very significant amount of time,” Bowman shares. “We couldn’t have done it without her.”

Bowman and Thompson work out of Dentons’ Indianapolis office.

“We have worked together for 25 years,” Thompson notes of Bowman. “You couldn’t ask for a better person to work with. Even when I was a young associate, he was always open to my ideas. He doesn’t want the quick answers; he wants the right answers.”

Additionally, she says Bowman’s “writing, analysis and markups are an art.”

In addition to his writing and editing for the *Environmental Compliance Handbook*, Bowman also has been a presenter at various Indiana Chamber conferences and seminars pertaining to environmental issues.

“He knows how to make complicated issues understandable for a



Bowman says the detailed updates in the *Environmental Compliance Handbook* wouldn't be possible without the work of Dentons Bingham Greenebaum attorney Jennifer Thompson.



Bowman takes nature photos on almost every one of his vacations.

wide range of people in the audience," Begley commends.

Blazing a trail

Bowman, who earned an MBA as well as a law degree from Indiana University and a bachelor of science in economics from Purdue University, knew he wanted to be a lawyer by the time he was in middle school. "I was drawn to what I perceived about lawyers helping other people solve really complex problems," he recalls.

As a young attorney he became interested in environmental issues. "When I was in law school, they didn't offer any courses in environmental law," Bowman explains. "That area was still developing."

But when Bowman went to work at McHale Cook & Welch, Mike Guest, one of the firm's partners who was handling real estate and environmental law cases, took Bowman under his wing.

"The cases were very complex, and at the time there were very few policy documents or court cases," Bowman remarks. "You kind

of had to blaze your own trail. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management wasn't even created yet.

"Mike said this is going to be a huge area, and advised me to focus on it," Bowman remembers. "There was a good mix of technical and environmental issues with legal issues sprinkled in. I loved it, and that's pretty much all I've done. I enjoy it because it's challenging and always changing. No two cases are the same."

Bowman has provided environmental legal services to industrial, commercial and governmental clients for more than 40 years. He assists clients with permitting, remediation, transaction due diligence, enforcement defense and compliance counseling. What's more, he is a former chairperson of the Environmental Law Section of the Indiana State Bar Association.

Smile for the camera

Away from work, the Lafayette native and Indianapolis resident loves traveling, hiking, going to national parks and photography.

For well over a decade, he was a volunteer photographer and videographer for the theater department at Cathedral High School, where his children attended. He also was a volunteer photographer for the school's marching band. Over a 16-year span, Bowman uploaded about 10,000 theater and band photos to a professional account he maintained at his expense.

"My goal was to give these students and their families a way to share memories of these remarkable accomplishments for decades to come, something that was not available from my own school experience, save a handful of photos in the yearbook," Bowman expresses.

"Andy would come in for every dress rehearsal and every production," says Michael Moffatt, technical director for the Cathedral Theatre Department. "He took the most amazing photos and he had a database on Flickr, so we could access them anytime."

"He's definitely a very gifted photographer. He has a knack for catching moments on stage and expressions on faces like I've never seen before. Even after his kids graduated, he kept coming and volunteering his time. You don't find someone as giving as Andy very often. He's just given us a wonderful gift."

In addition to his co-workers at the law firm, Bowman credits his wife Patty, who he met in college, and his two children for supporting his professional and volunteer efforts. He even jokes that his wife has been willing to get up before sunrise on vacations so he can pursue his passion for wildlife photography.

"My wife has been extraordinary," Bowman praises. "She's just a wonderful person and has always supported everything I do: rather late nights working through client matters, the *Environmental Compliance Handbook* or photos for the theater department. She's also been a great travel companion. She's even willing to get up early with me to watch for bears!"

Bowman's son, Brian, is a principal software engineering lead with Microsoft in Redmond, Washington. He is the developer lead for the Xbox Game Streaming Developer Tools team. Bowman's daughter, Hannah, is a principal scientist in the Manufacturing Sciences & Technology division with Catalent at its pharmaceutical biologics facility in Bloomington.

He considers them both to be inspirations.

"They rub off on me because what they do involves a very scientific approach," Bowman says of his children. "I'm always learning from them." ■