

MEMBER PROFILE

VANTAGE POINT

PATRICK PARSONS

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IF YOU WROTE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, WHAT WOULD ITS TITLE BE AND WHY?

Patrick Parsons from Pittsburgh Pennsylvania—Born Under an Alliterative Sign.

ADVICE TO YOUR 20-YEAR-OLD SELF?

You have gotten by on natural ability for most of your life. Some people are naturally good at things, but very few are naturally great. Surprise! You are neither, and very soon everyone is going to be as smart or smarter than you. Asking questions, being thoughtful, and putting in the work is going to be the only way you are going to be successful. Also, if you could figure this out BEFORE you go to law school and practice for three years, it would make life much easier on the both of us.

FAVORITE QUOTE?

"Any log'll split if you hit it enough times." - Unknown

FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

The ability to create and problem solve. I like reference and teaching fine enough, but the days when you have the opportunity to look at a problem, take a step back, and come up with an unexpected solution that actually makes a lot of sense—those are good days.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU MOST?

Thoughtful people. Anyone can be reactionary in the moment. But when someone has obviously sat down, taken some time, and thought about something—whether they reveal that to me through compliment, criticism, gesture, whatever—that's really meaningful to me.