



Darin Rumer had studied psychology and worked with children – apt training for his current work advising family law clients on such things as divorce and child support.

One thing you wish everyone knew about your job? Practicing family law encompasses a broad range of areas and it's interesting. In addition to dealing with family dynamics, I often interact with psychologists and therapists regarding children. There are also a multitude of issues in family law, including a division of retirement accounts, real property, tax implications, business interests and sometimes criminal law. Helping my clients get the best result possible, not only financially but for them personally and their children, is extremely gratifying.

Darin Rumer is principal of Joseph, Greenwald & Laake PA.

If you could trade places with one person for a day, who would it be? I would love to play college football. I'd probably have to choose **Deshaun Watson**, quarterback for Clemson.

What's your best habit as a leader? Those around me say that I am a good mentor and good communicator. I try to be pretty clear in communicating what my expectations are, and I give constructive feedback.

What's your worst habit as a leader? At times, I expect that others would do things the same way that I would approach a problem.

Worst mistake when filing for divorce: Many times people approach a divorce with highly charged emotions. Rather than looking toward mediation or collaborative divorce, they rush to file a complaint and take a really aggressive approach — which sometimes is needed — but it's hard to pull back from that aggressive posture.

Most memorable case: I've represented authors, scientists, television personalities, physicians, researchers, federal employees, Secret Service agents, housewives, etc., so there's lots of stories. The one that comes to mind is a client who committed adultery. His wife had her mother move into the master bedroom with her. The mother-in-law was vicious. She made hostile comments to my client passing him on the stairs or anywhere else in the house. He took to sleeping in another room. The mother-in-law did her best to cause him misery. Finally fed up, the wife and mother-in-law started beating on the bedroom door while my client was changing his clothes. Ultimately, the mother-in-law went and got garden shears and an axe and chopped through the door, resulting in my client calling the police. I obtained a civil protective order for my client. But, for months he talked about the images of his mother-in-law with those shears and what he thought she intended to do to him.

Key to a successful marriage: Communication. I see so many couples that fell apart after years of miscommunication, which leads to frustration and, later, bitterness. Men and women see things differently and have different world views, but sharing them permits the other partner to understand your perspective. There is no right or wrong, but keeping the feelings in never leads to resolution.

Favorite vacation spot: Maui, Hawaii or anywhere that it's warm with water.

Which businessperson would you most like to dine with? What one question would you ask? Steve Jobs. What gave him such a drive to succeed?

What word or phrase do you most overuse? "Moreover" or "notwithstanding"

What's one thing you're glad your employer didn't know about you before you were hired? My former modeling career. I want to be taken seriously.

What's one thing you can't live a day without? Coffee

Best lesson from a mentor: As a divorce attorney, you often receive a lot of harsh letters and vitriol from other attorneys — not all, but some. I had a really good mentor. I received a particularly nasty letter from an attorney, which was upsetting to me as a young lawyer. The mentor asked me to draft a harsh reply letter. My first draft wasn't harsh enough. He said, "I want you to go back to your office and spell out everything this attorney has done, point by point, and don't hold back." I wrote a really harsh letter. When I took it in for my mentor to review, he read it over, said, "This is excellent," and then balled it up and threw it in the trash. He explained, "Your reputation is all you have. This attorney has a reputation before he ever gets in the courtroom. You're better than him and don't ever need to stoop to his level. Now, go write a letter that you'd be proud to show a judge and not have to explain." That's been good advice throughout my practice.

Which D.C.-area business leader do you most admire? I really admire Kevin Plank, CEO of Under Armor. He started the company when he saw a need for better athletic-wear. He has kept his business local and he has been instrumental in promoting the I-95 corridor. Most importantly, he gives back to the community and his alma mater (even though I went to Clemson).

What is one thing about which you are consistently dishonest with yourself? The amount of time I will take to complete a task. I often try to take on too much with only so much time to do it in. (My secretary just walked in and said my age.)

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