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In addition to his practice representing emerging and mature companies in the technology, life sciences and energy sectors, Spencer B. Ricks devotes a significant amount of his time to pro bono work. As a cancer survivor, he is an active participant in survivorship support groups and forums.

Q. What's the most satisfying case or matter you've worked on so far?

A. Although entirely separate from my day-to-day corporate transactional practice, for me it would be a pro bono asylum matter I worked on early in my career. In that case, I represented a client who had fled to the U.S. from her home country after years of abuse, leaving behind two young children. After helping the client obtain asylum, I was able to help bring her children to the U.S. Seeing my client reunited with her children after several heartbreaking years apart was one of the most emotional and satisfying experiences of my life.

Q. What's the best piece of professional advice you ever received?

A. It is most important to care. About your clients, your work, your practice and your reputation. All of the other attributes of an effective lawyer (skill, knowledge, expertise, efficiency, practicality, empathy, etc.) will follow if you genuinely care about your clients and what you do.

Q. How has the pandemic affected your life and career?

A. The pandemic has enabled me to focus on – and prioritize – what really matters, both in life and in my career. Working from home, avoiding in-person meetings and interactions and other pandemic-re-



lated changes has been a challenge, for sure. But it has also resulted in additional time spent with family and connecting with clients virtually. Although I look forward to seeing clients and co-workers in person, it is nice to know that my work can be performed remotely and that many meetings can be held via videoconference if needed.

Q. What's the most important thing you've learned since you started practicing law?

A. I have learned to become comfortable with being uncomfortable. In my practice, I often deal with questions and issues for which there is no clear answer or precedent. While difficult at first, I have come to enjoy the challenge of providing practical advice (or seeking the assistance of others) in these circumstances.

Q. What makes someone a really good lawyer?

A. I believe a really good lawyer serves as more than just a knowledgeable resource or skilled technician. A really good lawyer is able to take difficult concepts and situations and distill them down into simple, actionable solutions for clients.

Q. As a lawyer, what are you most afraid of?

A. Spiders? Definitely spiders. But disappointing a client is a close second. MLW

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