

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

DECEMBER 2022



CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Company, Title, Years of Service

C.D. Smith Construction, Inc.
Legal Counsel
5 years

College/University and Law School

University of Wisconsin - Madison
Boston University School of Law

How Do You Define Success?

Success for me is demonstrating the value of the legal department by foreseeing and forestalling a course of action that carries more risk than reward.

Who Inspires You?

C.D. Smith relies on a core of field employees to translate our company values into physical creations. Having been raised by a carpenter, there are superintendents in the field that I have known for many years who are consistent, dedicated, and industrious beyond compare, and these are the individuals who inspire me most.

What's One Thing—Industry-Related or Not—That You Have Learned in the Last Month?

If a baby is sick when developing a baby tooth, the nerves in the tooth may not completely grow in. When the baby - now a four-year-old - jumps off the couch and hits and breaks said tooth on a coffee table, the child will experience very little pain because of the lack of nerves.

How Long Have You Been a Member with ACC-WI? Why Did You Join?

I have been in the ACC for four years. After starting my current role, many colleagues and outside counsel encouraged me to join. I have been lucky enough to speak with outside counsel on employment law panels over the years.

Do You Participate in Any Pro Bono Service or Volunteering?

I am fortunate to volunteer as the President of the Saint Mary's Springs Academy Foundation Board of Directors, where we aim to support the students and faculty of a local parochial school with an amazing heritage. I recently joined the Board of Directors for the Arc of Fond du Lac as well.

What Do You Love Most About the Legal Profession?

The variety; on any given week, my position can take me from a review of property rights in the excavated footprint of a future hospital to a mediation in a conference room overlooking the downtown skyline. I am lucky in that I am the legal outlet for all facets of our organization, so I work alongside many different personalities and professions, sorting out the best way to communicate with employees, management, and executives based on each person's needs and the company's best interest.

What Podcast or Series Do You Recommend?

I just started watching White Lotus on HBO and can't get enough of the slow-building tension.