

ALM | DAILY BUSINESS REVIEW
FLORIDA LEGAL AWARDS
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PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Never Lose Your Sense of Humor Says Bill Geraghty

Bill Geraghty of Shook, Hardy & Bacon is a 2023 Florida Legal Awards Distinguished Leader honoree.

What would you like to get rid of or stop doing in the legal profession? The billable hour! An evil necessity, and it's still going strong after all these years.

What is your No. 1 survival tip in a work crisis? Never lose your sense of humor – whatever the crisis is, you WILL get through it and people will appreciate that you saw levity when everyone else is panicking.

What do you think you are better at than others? I don't think I am necessarily "better" at anything in particular, but I listen more than many other trial lawyers, and by listening to others, I often pick up ideas and thoughts that are better than my own.

What has been the most significant change in the legal profession in the past 10 years? There have been lots of significant changes in the last 10 years, but I would have to say COVID. We now can do depositions, hearings, and many other things via Zoom, Teams, and other video-conferencing tools that make litigation much cheaper and easier than ever before. Some things need to be done in person, but being able to do all of these things by video is revolutionary!

What advice do you have for aspiring legal professionals? Be patient – practicing law is a career and you should look at it that

DISTINGUISHED LEADER



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way DON'T be patient - ask for and demand new opportunities, challenges, experiences, and work all the time. That's the only way you will get experience, improve and evolve.

Knowing what you know now, what would you tell your young self when you were graduating? Spend more time with your family and friends and less time worrying about the next trial, deposition, assignment, etc.

What are you most proud of achieving in your career? Having dedicated and loyal friends and colleagues who are always willing to go into battle with me, no matter what the odds are or what's at stake.

What's your idea of an idyllic retirement, and are you going to pursue it? Retire?? I am way too young to retire!! But all kidding aside, I am looking forward to reading real books, novels, fiction and putting aside depositions, medical records and legal briefs, and memos. I never seem to have the time for 'fun' reading which I really miss.