

BUSINESS PROFILE

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Scott Fegley: Bucks County Lawyer

by Anita Donovan

If you have an image of a lawyer as someone who grills the opposition's witnesses, cajoles the judge, and dazzles the jury, Scott Fegley will set you straight.

"It's not at all like 'Law and Order,'" jokes the attorney in his serene Yardley office near the Oxford Valley Mall.

"The fact is, the majority of cases never get to court.

Most disputes are worked out and negotiated by the parties involved.

And most of the time, everyone is satisfied."

Fegley, a graduate of Lafayette College with a law degree from Villanova University, worked for firms in Princeton and Philadelphia before opening his practice in Bucks County.

For more than 12 years, he was principally engaged by insurance companies as a defender of automobile insurance company clients involved in accidents.

"I was all over the place, plus back and forth to Philly every day.

It was okay when it was just my wife and me but as our family grew, I knew it was time to settle down in private practice.

Now I live only 10 minutes

from my office, so I can juggle my schedule when I have to."

In addition to his wife Carolyn, Scott has three special reasons for keeping his calendar flexible: twin daughters Courtney and Diana, and little sister Gabrielle.

"If they are doing something at school or after school, I can get out of here and be there in a few minutes to watch them.

Sure, sometimes I have to come back and work till late to get the job done, but it's worth it.

I don't want to miss these years with them."

Today, Scott specializes in three areas of law: employment law, personal injury, and business law.

All of these, he says, usually are settled by negotiation, with very few going to trial.

"With employment issues and business matters, most problems can be avoided by good planning in advance.

If employers follow the law and make their practices and expectations clear to both supervisors and workers - usually through an employee handbook of some sort - there is less room for misunderstanding.

I help companies do that."

Scott also takes on some employee issues as well, but

he says usually a phone conference is enough to determine whether a client has a case or not.

Since Pennsylvania law does not recognize a lot of employee issues that some other states do, many employee grievances are not actionable here.

"When we do find something that is actionable, we can usually resolve it through negotiation. People have learned that it is less expensive to compromise than fight."

Business law also is primarily a planning operation, says Scott.

"By spelling out agreements with partners, vendors, and clients in advance, you avoid all the little things that can come up in the course of a business, such as insurance, or the death or departure of a principal.

It's best to get it right from the beginning."

While personal injury matters are not something one can plan ahead for, Scott believes a careful negotiation can expedite cases that could drag on in the courts.

"It's always best to find an outcome that is fair to all parties if possible.

Of course, when there is no choice, we do go to court,



Scott Fegley

and usually find a just solution there."

In his spare time, Scott served as a Lower Makefield Township Supervisor from 1994 to 2005, and served on the Bucks County Open Space Task Force.

"I wasn't born here," Scott says, "but I moved here after my parents settled here, and now I'm pretty much a Bucks County guy."

You can contact Scott's office, located at the Makefield Executive Quarters in Yardley, at 215-493-8287.