

Attorney Spotlight Brad Barback

TBRL: Describe your involvement with the BRBA.

BB: I chaired the BRBA Construction Section for two years and am the immediate past chair. I've participated in many other BRBA activities, such as Law Day, presenting at CLE by the Hour, the softball tournament and others over the years.

TBRL: Tell us about your education.

BB: I majored in international trade and finance as an undergraduate at LSU and graduated from LSU Law.

TBRL: Where are you from?

BB: I was born and raised in the Baton Rouge neighborhood of Shenandoah.

TBRL: What is your favorite BRBA activity or event?

BB: It was the annual softball tournament during the hottest week of the year. Hopefully we can get the tournament back up and running soon.

TBRL: If you were not practicing law, what would be your alternate profession?

BB: Lately, I've convinced myself I could be a rancher. But that's probably just because I've been watching "Yellowstone." I might like to open a sandwich restaurant, where we serve open-face sandwiches that you're supposed to eat with utensils. It'd have white table cloths and a classical violinist. It'd be a place you could take your biggest clients and still feel confident ordering a meatball po'boy, because it'd be served open-faced over toasted French bread, and I'd suggest you'd eat it with a spoon. It's a highly superior way to eat a messy sandwich. You'd have the option to order it "heathen style," like a normal sandwich, but the wait staff would give you a hard time about it. Our tagline would be "Sandwiches served on the upper crust, for the upper crust," but it's said half in jest. We'd welcome everyone, even the dregs of society, lawyers.

TBRL: Where do you practice law?

BB: I practice out of McGlinchey Stafford's Baton Rouge office.

TBRL: Why did you choose to practice construction law?

BB: That's where the work was. I "grew up," so to speak, litigating construction matters. I was fortunate as a young



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attorney to work with a couple of great attorneys whose practices mainly consisted of construction litigation. It was a great fit because, for a few years prior to law school, I worked for an industrial contractor. Having real-world construction-project experience was extremely helpful as a young construction lawyer, particularly in gaining credibility with clients.

TBRL: What is a common misconception about construction law?

BB: That it's boring. Every case is different. Factually, you are always having to learn new, technical subject matter, and the legal issues can touch on many different areas of law.

TBRL: Why should BRBA members practicing construction law join the BRBA Construction Law Section?

BB: There is absolutely no reason they should NOT join. The cost is negligible. The section roster is full

of some of the best lawyers, not just in Baton Rouge, but in the country. We meet regularly to have presenters from inside and outside the section provide relevant CLEs. The most valuable part is being able to connect with some of the best construction attorneys around. It's really interesting because the nature of our practice means section members are often in competition with one other, yet everyone is willing to share advice and insights. We have CLE presenters planned for September and November.

TBRL: What is the best piece of advice you have received?

BB: Well, recently I heard, "Don't suffer imaginary harms," and I like that a lot. To me, it means don't stress about things that haven't happened yet and are out of your control, and don't worry about what other people think of you (because they're not thinking about you).

TBRL: What are your leisure activities?

BB: Leisure activities? I have three kids, ages 15, 11 and 8 and bill hours for a living. I'm basically a volunteer Uber driver outside the office.

Interview by Pamela Labbe, Ph.D.,

communications director of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and staff liaison of the Publications Committee.