



Michael Dalton
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At the time of this interview, Michael Dalton was a partner with Mayor, Day, Caldwell, Keeton, L.L.P. in the firm's Bankruptcy Section. Over 30 years experience, Mr. Dalton first served as law clerk to the Honorable John Singleton, Jr., United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Mr. Dalton received his BBA in 1964 and his law degree in 1967 from the University of Texas at Austin. As a well respected industry leader, Mr. Dalton represents various organizations throughout the U.S. Among his responsibilities, he handles litigation for companies whose debt is as high as \$5 Billion.

professional

What are the 2-3 most valuable lessons you learned in your career?

Honesty is at the forefront and then taking responsibility for your actions. There are a lot of people working on a lot of projects and there are a lot of hands in it. You need to take accountability for what you've done and make sure it's done right. I've had a couple examples in my career that that's really come to the forefront. It's just better to be honest and accountable for what you've done and try to help out each other as much as possible.

How did a mentor impact your career?

A lot of times people work hard and don't get as focused and they only see the person above them, but they're really not personally involved with that person. When you have a mentor that really cares about how you're coming along, both spiritually and professionally, that really makes a big difference. It's really such a nice thing to fall back on and know that this person is someone you'd like to be like and shares the same values that you have and motivates you even that much more.

How do you deal with difficult people?

Difficult people are really a study in personalities and knowing what that particular person wants and to make sure you please that person. If you're a patient and disciplined person, you can take a step back and look at what that person really needs and wants and be able to accomplish that and make them extremely happy in a way that you feel that you've done the best job that you can do, but also made the client very happy.

personal

How do you define success? How has your definition evolved?

In business I define success as hard work, doing the best you always can do and giving it 110 percent at all times. Personal life: I define success as being a good friend, being a good husband, being a good father, being a good grandson and just being good to people outside of your immediate family.

How do you prioritize your time/values? What are your priorities?

I prioritize my life three ways. Spiritually, professionally and my family life. My guiding principles are my faith in Christ and that relates to how I interact with my wife and my children. It also flows into how I conduct myself in the professional world.

spiritual

How has God changed your life? How has your choice of faith in God changed your life?



God has changed my life in knowing that He is there every day for me. If I seek Him out every day, my life will be more fulfilling. In everything that I do, I know that He is watching over me and providing peace in all the decisions that I make and I know that He is in control of my life. If I give that control over to Him, then I will be a more peaceful person.

How does your faith help you in your professional life?

I think it helps me as far as being honest and in handling stressful situations. Your professional life is really driven by your honesty and the relationships that you build. If you're honest with people, then you can build those relationships and have future business and I think that's very important. Second of all ... stress ... I think it's very important to rely on Christ during those difficult times. If you're at peace with yourself and you rely on Him, then He can get you through those stressful times and everything seems to come to you much easier.

How has God /faith changed your perspective on fulfillment, significance and success

He's changed my perspective on all three of those in regard to fulfillment. Basically in knowing that if I do the best job that I possibly can, then I am fulfilled in everything I do, whether it's professionally ... or within my family or having a friendship. Significance ... I think God looks at everything you do as significant. I think that as long as you're doing your best, that is significant to Him. It's not about how major the act or major the accomplishment you achieve, if you're doing something in His word and in pursuing what he wants you to do, I think that is significant in itself, no matter how small it is. Success, I define it as being in your professional life, but more importantly in your spiritual life and within your family and I think all those are factors in success, not just monetary success.