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Douglas Lobel

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Douglas Lobel

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP Age: 51

Family: Married, three children

Hometown: Long Island, N.Y. Law school: George Washington University Law School

Memorable case: E-Trade Financial brought me in to replace its existing counsel at the close of discovery to defend a \$200 million lender liability suit. We overcame long odds in convincing a Salt Lake City jury to find for a D.C.-area bank over a Salt Lake business and its prominent local lawyer. For Douglas Lobel, it's all about personal attention. That, and winning a lot.

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It's required for any top lawyer, he says: "I think you have to hate to lose, and I think you have to love to win. I think you have to be willing to do whatever it takes to achieve the best result for your client."

In pursuit of that, the Cooley Godward litigator prides himself on being accessible to clients around-the-clock, a feat that comes at significant personal sacrifice.

He works in a broad array of industries, representing clients on complex litigation, class action lawsuits and arbitrations around the country. In addition to corporate work, he also handles criminal cases in federal, state, trial and appellate courts, though his practice focuses on representing local companies, or companies with a big local presence, in Virginia courts.

His intense ethic has earned him a cohort of loyal clients, including Science Applications International Corp., E-Trade Bank, Qwest Communications, Teleglobe Communications, Hanger Orthopedic and Iridium Satellite LLC.

"Doug makes you feel as if you are his only client," says John Brunette, general counsel of Iridium Satellite.

"Doug has compiled an almost too-good-to-be-true record in defending E-Trade in a number of significant lawsuits," says John Buchman, general counsel of E-Trade Bank.

The Long Island, N.Y., native has been cut out for law since a young age. "My parents would say I liked to argue a lot," he says.

Beers + Cutler

But ultimately, it was the drama of the courtroom setting and the opportunity to solve problems that drew him to the profession. "I see it as a sort of intellectual chess game," Lobel says.

His creativity also comes out through his horn. Lobel is a jazz trumpet player on the side, though he has less time for it nowadays than he used to. He has played since he was 5 years old, and considered going to music school, but his parents weren't too thrilled about the idea, he said. Now his three sons all play trumpet.

"If I could do anything [other than law], I'd be a jazz trumpet player. If I wasn't good enough to be a professional, I would probably write travel books and travel around the world," he says.