

CCBA Attorney Profile: John Gilroy



1. What drew you to the practice of law?

I was brainwashed at an early age.

2. How did you end up practicing law in Clackamas County?

Again, brainwashed. No really, I was drawn to the collegiality of the attorneys/judges and the history of the bar here. It's a unique and good place to practice law. It is also in my blood a bit, I suppose.

3. How long have you been an attorney? What other kind of work have you done?

I graduated from law school in 1998. I worked as a prosecutor in Washington County until 2003. Prior to law school I worked as a legislative aide to Senator Packwood in Washington D.C. and if we are going way back....I've been a waiter in Empire, MI; a fisherman on the Bering Sea in Alaska; a mail carrier in Santa Clara, CA; and a greyhound handler in Fairview, OR.

4. In what area (s) of law do you practice?

Criminal Defense and Personal Injury. Also, as a Pro Tem Judge with Judge Karen Brisbin.

5. What is your educational background? How do you feel it prepared you for the work you do now?

B.S. Political Science from Santa Clara University; Institute for European Studies, Freiburg Germany; J.D. from University of Oregon. It's not so much what I learned in school but what I learned at home. As the youngest of seven kids in a family that doesn't shy away from debates, I learned at an early age how to argue a point and have my voice heard (and how to take a beating).

6. What aspects of your work do you enjoy the most? And the least?

I enjoy being in court. I do not enjoy taking my clients' worries home with me, but I know that's part of the job.

7. What have you learned about being an attorney that you did not expect?

I have learned that I have a lot to learn.

8. What advice would you give to new attorneys, or attorney hopefuls?

I would tell them that you can do this job and be an effective advocate and at the same time treat opposing lawyers, court staff and judges with respect.

9. What do you hope, or expect to be doing with your career five years from now?

I hope to be heading into my fifteenth year in private practice with my law partner and all around great guy, Jeff Napoli . . . and opening our satellite office in Palm Desert, CA..

10. Who is your favorite CCBA member(s) and why?

Bob Herndon and Art Knauss. I grew up next door to them and they, in many ways, helped raise me. Despite the fact I vandalized at least one of their homes as a child and wreaked havoc at another, they continue to be excellent role models. I think they are great examples of how to carry yourself both personally and professionally.