



Spreading Roots of the Family Tree

MOST OF YOU are reading this fresh after the holidays, and I hope it was a joyful time with your family. Each year the holidays bring back wonderful memories for me—the smell of the Christmas tree, the brilliance and warmth of the lights and especially the bright wrapping on all the presents. Now that I am a father, I get to see the joy on the faces of my children Christmas morning. It reminds me of what life and work is all about.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again. It's all about families. That's why we're parents, and that's why we're lawyers. As lawyers we are lucky to be in a position to help people with both problems and opportunities in their lives. It's easy to forget that our jobs often put us in this unique position—a position we never should take for granted.

**IT'S ALL ABOUT FAMILIES.
... AS LAWYERS WE ARE
LUCKY TO BE IN A
POSITION TO HELP PEOPLE
WITH BOTH PROBLEMS
AND OPPORTUNITIES IN
THEIR LIVES.**

You don't have to practice family law to have an impact on families. Much of the work we do eventually affects families, and the public recognizes that. In a State Bar survey, the public told us that they think our main priorities should be to protect Arizona families and provide them a strong voice in the justice system.

Because of my familiarity with all the wonderful lawyers I've met, I tend to think of all of us as a family. Webster agrees. One of that dictionary's definitions of a family is "a group of people who are generally not blood relations but who share common attitudes, interests or goals." This certainly describes lawyers as a group, and I'm proud to have you as my family.

So as you begin this New Year, don't forget to take a moment to remember the privilege and responsibility we all share in making this place better for all families. 🌲