

The humorous side of law

The quintessential attorney is a skilled negotiator and can argue about anything before judge, colleague, or client. Vince Auricchio fits the image. Yet, his animated laugh is distinct. High-pitched, robust, the kind that makes you want to laugh, too, even if you're not in on the joke. Maybe it's the Italian in him that brings out the outgoing personality and the New Yorker turned Chicagoan that draws out the comedic side in Vince— you have to have a sense of humor to have lived in both the first and second cities of comedy.

Vince rents offices from Mauck & Baker, joining an assorted group of attorneys. He's a DePaul University Law School graduate and until a few months ago lived in Chicago with his wife and three children. He moved to Indiana for a change of pace and now wins respect from everyone in the office by commuting two hours into work each day.

Vince's legal career started in insurance defense and commercial litigation and then he moved on to medical malpractice defending hospitals and other medical groups. After starting a side business in real estate, Vince left to begin a real estate practice in 2006. He and many others considered this move a risk, despite the clientele he acquired on the side.

"I was always a gambler," said Vince. "I had some clients [but] it was insane to go out on my own, but God designed everything. He orchestrated all the parts because I had savings and my wife and I both had full-time jobs."

That was in 2006, before the recession. But Auricchio Law Office stood strong through a rough economy, becoming a law practice of real estate and personal injury law out of necessity. This isn't where Vince thought he would end up as he reflects on his vision of himself as a younger lawyer. He anticipated a career filled with grandeur, desires difficult to combat in the legal industry where power and influence dominate. Now, Vince considers his dreams of glory to be idolatry.

"I think God is doing something on my heart in that he's showing me that this world isn't what it's about, this world isn't about riches."

His faith and the law have always been intertwined in a way. Vince became a Christian as a child but drifted away from

faith until about two years out of law school as an adult.

"I'm such a person of extremes, [my conversion] had to be funny," said Vince. "I started talking about Jesus to everyone [at work] and the partners were like alright, alright calm down."

His co-workers noticed he didn't swear anymore or drink as often and he kept a Bible in his office when he became a Christian. He met John Mauck soon after who connected Vince to the Christian Businessmen's Connection and Christian Legal Society.

"I had been praying to the Lord to run into other Christian lawyers because I didn't know any because as naïve as this sounds, I thought I was the only Christian in Chicago who was a lawyer...and I've had brotherhood ever since."

But God has provided for Vince in more ways than just through Christian comradery.

"I'm not saying God is humorous, but God re-enforces things, and it strikes me as humorous," said Vince. In specific circumstances of the cases he's taken over the years he has seen the Lord work. Story after story of chance encounters and evidence that should have thrown a case, but miraculously didn't, have become proof to Vince that God has a plan for his professional career. He has walked with clients through difficult situations and shared the Gospel in the process.

But the Christian faith, for many, is full of trials—a reminder that we live in a sin-filled world.

"As we mature with Christ, as we walk deeper with him—faith is a muscle that needs to be broken down and built and we shouldn't be surprised that with each new crisis we continue to doubt," said Vince. "No one's told me, but through experience, the trials get harder."

His view of life comes through a lens of humor, always acknowledging the harsh realities in life that would be impossible to bear without faith. ■

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