

Interview with Jason Beitchman, Rayman Beitchman LLP

BY: SAM HALL,
HALL LEGAL COUNSEL



1

Q: You were called in '08 in Ontario (and '12 in B.C.), worked for many years at a large Bay Street firm and then launched your own firm. How has that transition gone?

A: It has been really exciting over the last year to know that I could build my own practice. I like the diversity of my files and developing direct relationships with my clients. Having a smaller firm allows me to represent smaller businesses and individuals. There is a completely different feel to it.

2

Q: Anything you know now that you wish you'd known before you took the leap?

A: Renting photocopiers is really expensive.

3

Q: Which living lawyer do you admire most?

A: Is Denny Crane still alive? Seriously though, that's a hard question to answer. I have a soft spot for lawyers that fight for the underdog.

4

Q: Like Saul Goodman?

A: I admire his entrepreneurial spirit.

5

Q: What is your greatest fear as a lawyer?

A: Limitation periods. And award-dinner speeches (unless it's Justice Winkler).

6

Q: What is your idea of perfect lawyerly happiness?

A: Talking to judges. The only time when I am truly in the moment is when getting peppered with questions from the court on an appeal or a motion.

7

Q: What is your greatest extravagance in your everyday life?

A: Ha! With a young family and a new business, I will let you know when I have a chance to splurge on something for myself.

8

Q: What is your favorite journey?

A: I have had the chance to be counsel in a few different provinces over the years. My lawyer's bucket list includes appearing in as many different courts across the country as I can. I argued part of a class action appeal in Manitoba a while ago. We were fortunate enough to get leave to appeal to the S.C.C. Knowing that I could convince the Supreme Court that our case had an issue of national importance was something I feel pretty good about. Unfortunately, the appellant went bankrupt—the case was permanently stayed and we never got to argue it before the Supremes.

9

Q: Before law, you were in the publishing business, any favorite reads?

A: My favorite law geek book is the biography of J.J. Robinette, written by George Finlayson. For Can-Con, I am a big Mordecai Richler fan. I recently caught up on George R.R. Martin's *Song of Fire and Ice* series and am waiting for the next book to come out.

10

Q: So, who's your favorite character from *Game of Thrones*?

A: From the books, it's Jon Snow. From the T.V. series, Tyrion. (As a purist, there are differences between the books and the series.)

11

Q: From whom have you learned the most about the practice of law?

A: Clerking was such an important experience for me in developing litigation judgment. The Federal Court is unique in that you are matched up with one judge for the whole year. I spent that year seeing what persuaded, what didn't and how cases got decided.

12

Q: Any tips for the aspiring solo?

A: Whatever stage you are at, try to meet as many people as you can. Go to the TAS CLE's, the cocktail parties and get-togethers. Go to conferences, lunches and coffee meetings. That will help you. Plus, developing relationships with all the smart, interesting people in law is the best part of the job! ▀