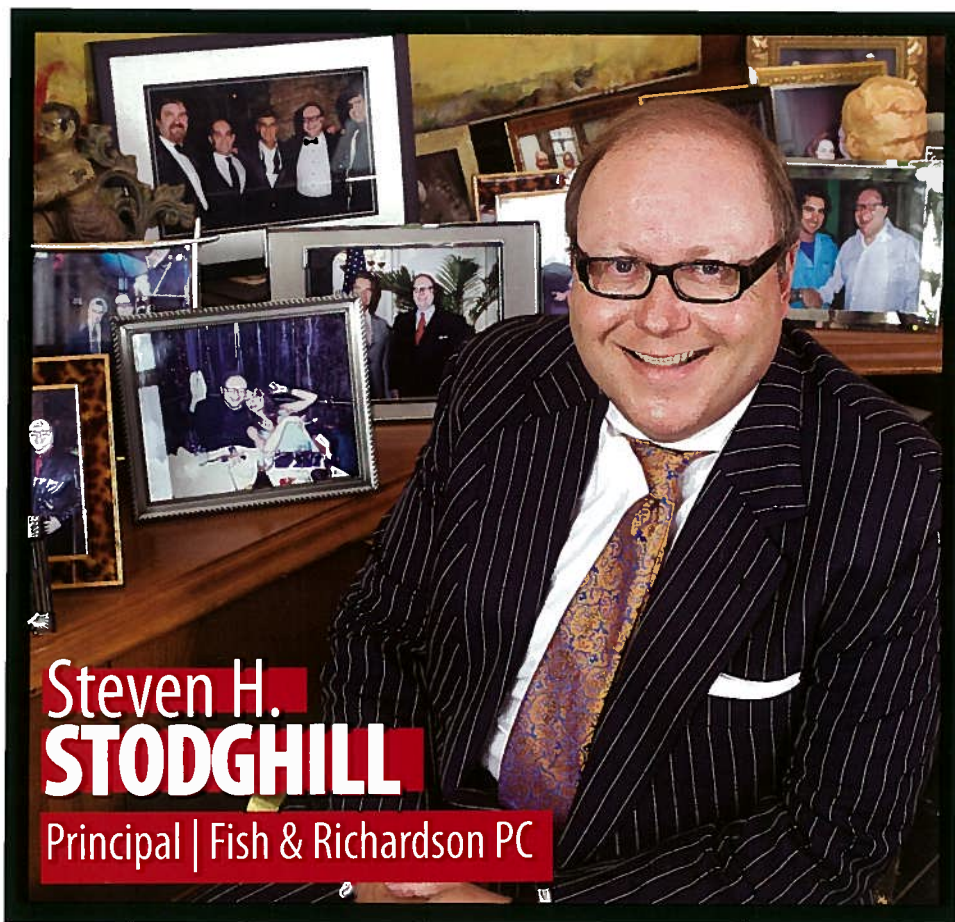


COVERING THE
DALLAS-FORT WORTH
METROPLEX

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**Steven H.
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FIRST JOB: Starting at age 13 and continuing into college, I worked on my grandfather's ranch in Rockwall. I baled hay in 105-degree Texas heat, shoveled oats, plowed fields and worked with cattle. I know it sounds cliché, but working hard at a young age gives you a tremendous respect for hard work and prepares you for professional life. It also made me realize I didn't want to be a rancher when I grew up.

WHY LAW: Like many boys, I wanted to follow in my father's footsteps. He has been a lawyer since the mid-1950s when he started in the Dallas County District Attorney's office under Henry Wade. Watching him as I grew up was probably the biggest influence on my decision to go to law school.

WHY BUSINESS DEFENSE: What I most enjoy is finding solutions to difficult and complicated situations. No two cases are ever the same, so each case requires a new and unique defense. Clients often feel trapped when they come to me with a problem. But then we sit down,

survey the situation and prepare our defense, which helps the client and me at the same time. There are many ways to get out of a box if you are creative and resolute.

DEFENDER MISCONCEPTIONS: When a person or business is sued, most people automatically think the accused has done something wrong. The misconception that my client is "bad" simply because someone sued them can be infuriating, but it also gives me an opportunity to set the record straight. Anyone can slap together a complaint and file it at the courthouse, alleging any manner of things. At the same time, each and every lawsuit needs to be taken seriously. It is my responsibility to make sure that my clients get a fair shake.

GREATEST ON-THE-JOB CHALLENGE: Six years into my career, I left Akin Gump to start my own law firm with my current law partner Tom Melsheimer, who was coming out of the U.S. Attorney's Office at the time. As anyone who has started a business can tell you, it's a great challenge. We just put our noses to the

grindstone and it paid off. Six years later, we had a successful 25-lawyer firm and were representing great clients such as Intel, Yahoo, Mary Kay, Alcatel, the Dallas Mavericks and several Texas billionaires.

PROUD MOMENT: I'm most proud of the strong relationships I have with my clients. Particularly, I am happy with the results of my 15-year representation of Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner in dozens of lawsuits and other matters. I have been fortunate to work on incredibly interesting and cutting-edge matters with Mark and Todd, beginning way back in the Broadcast.com days. Over the years, we've also become good friends.

GREATEST FAILURE: Any significant failure I can point to likely was caused by me holding back when I should have attacked. I've learned to follow my gut and remember Jim Murray's eulogy for boxer Jack Dempsey in the *Los Angeles Times*, which said, "When he went down, he got up. When he got hit, he hit back. When he bled, he laughed. When he got hurt, he attacked."

ADMIRED FOE: "Michael Clayton" undoubtedly is the most interesting attorney I've gone up against. Of course, that's the name of a movie character played by actor George Clooney, who I've known for some time. A couple years back, I was at the Cannes Film Festival with Todd Wagner when George invited us to dinner along with actors Matt Damon and Matt LeBlanc. We got into a discussion about the absolute best college experience a person could have based on academics, athletics, social life, city and the rest. George didn't want to admit that my alma mater, the University of Texas, was as good as it gets, but he finally gave in after I hammered him with the facts. Actually, Matt Damon helped my argument when he said he'd been to Austin, and that he'd give up his years at Harvard for four years at UT in a heartbeat.

TOP 2008 CASE: I represented the producers of the award-winning documentary, "TV Junkie." The film, which was honored at the Sundance Film Festival, focuses on the career and crack cocaine addiction of former "Inside Edition" correspondent Rick Kirkham, who our firm also represented. The producers created it from more than 3,000 hours of Kirkham's footage. His ex-wife sued him, the producers and HBO after claiming that she was owed money from the film and that the privacy of the couple's sons was allegedly invaded when they were included in the documentary. In February of this year, a Dallas County jury agreed that our clients were not liable on any of the claims. The verdict freed up the producers to market the film and continue to spread its powerful anti-drug message.

TREND OUTLOOK: In these challenging economic times, we are seeing a trend toward more value-based and other alternative billing practices. For law firms, it forces us to rethink the status quo in terms of billing, and to be more determined and efficient in our work. For clients, it allows them to better focus their legal costs, and likely get more bang for their buck.

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