

My credentials: JD, New York University School of Law; BE, chemical engineering & BA, political science, University of Delaware

My work location: Wilmington, Delaware

Words I live by: Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it.

My personal philosophy: The best way to excel at your work is to find a way to enjoy your work.

What I'm reading now: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

My first Job: Math tutor

My favorite charity: Women Against Abuse

My interests: Traveling, watching Philadelphia Flyers hockey, and making cocktails

My family: Loving husband, parents, sisters, brother-in-law, and nieces

Company: Fish & Richardson P.C.

Industry: Law. Intellectual Property

Company Headquarters: none

Number of employees: 1,159

CEO: John C. Adkisson



The Changing World of STEM

A woman in a chemical engineering class is not the unicorn she once was. We are certainly seeing more and more resources, programming, and incentives being devoted to increasing diversity in STEM fields, and I expect that will only continue in the future. We are seeing some industries and some specific companies take intentional steps to close the gender gap; the goal is to make that universal.

We need to provide women opportunities to advance in STEM fields and help them succeed when they get those opportunities. Mentorship and sponsorship are critical to doing so. Making sure that women have the tools they need to get to the next level, and that they are supported by women who are already there, will help to usher in

the next generation of women leaders in STEM.

Breaking Down Barriers for Women in STEM

The biggest barrier to closing the gender gap is lack of intentionality. We need to continue to work together to increase the accessibility to, and attractiveness of, all different types of STEM fields for women. Too often we leave these things to be pushed by societal change, as opposed to driving the change ourselves.

STEM companies need to continue to be leaders in this endeavor by taking bold and intentional steps to recruit, retain, and advance women, and by trumpeting those steps to show service providers and other businesses the benefits of a diverse workforce.

My Own STEM Experience

I have been fortunate over the years to have had many great mentors who helped shape my career in a STEM field. I have had the opportunity to work with women with very different backgrounds, different personalities, and different approaches to work and management. And I have seen them all succeed in their fields.

I've also had the opportunity to work with men who recognize some of the difficulties women face in STEM fields and have tried to be part of the solution. I believe (and hope) that future generations will only see more and more of that.