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ICF International



2018 BARRISTERS PRESIDENT: MITCHELL PANTER

My first memory of Mitchell comes from our very first day of Civil Procedure I with Judy Cornett at the UT College of Law. Professor Cornett was calling the roll, and she visibly paused when she reached Mitchell's last name. We could all see the thought rolling through her mind: Could his last name really be Panter, like a pair of pants? With what I would come to recognize as his characteristic good-naturedness, Mitchell told Professor Cornett, "Don't be shy, pronounce it how you want to. I know you want to use that long A!" The class laughed, and that's how I, along with section 2 of UT Law's Class of 2013 first became acquainted with my future husband Mitchell Panter (pronounced, for whatever reason, like "painter").

Mitchell hails from McMinnville, Tennessee – pronounced MACK-Minnville, as those of you who've spent any time around Mitchell surely know by now. Mitchell is a proud graduate of Tennessee Tech, where he received his bachelor's degree in psychology. He specifically focused his studies on social psychology. After graduating a semester early from Tech with a perfect 4.0 grade point average, Mitchell attended the UT College of Law. Though law is not Mitchell's first choice career – R&B singer is his first choice and NBA player is his second choice – Mitchell still availed himself of every opportunity to prepare for his future practice while in law school. He served as a research assistant to Professor Judy Cornett, was a member of the Prince Evidence Moot Court Team, and, in his 2L year, competed for (and won) the coveted Advocate's Prize.

Mitchell returned to McMinnville after graduating with his law degree in December 2012 (again, a semester early), and he briefly practiced at a local plaintiff's firm there before accepting a clerkship with then-Justice Janice Holder of the Tennessee Supreme Court in July of 2013. Mitchell moved to Memphis and clerked for Justice Holder until her retirement. Mitchell absolutely loved both living in Memphis and working for Justice Holder, but he ultimately decided – with lots of persuasion from yours truly – to return to Knoxville upon completion of his clerkship.

Mitchell is a general civil litigator at Paine Bickers, where his cases range from commercial litigation to products liability and everything in between. He took on a new role last year: Adjunct Professor at the UT College of Law, where he teaches a Pretrial Litigation class.

Mitchell is in his third year as a member of the board for the East Tennessee Technology Access Center (ETTAC), a nonprofit organization that connects individuals with disabilities to adaptive technology tools and services to enable them to live more independently. ETTAC supplies everything from medical devices to computer classes to adaptable toys, and Mitchell is thrilled to be serving as the organization's Vice President this year.

In what little spare time he has, Mitchell likes spending time with our two dogs (and, begrudgingly, the cat that I contributed to our household), watching UT or Titans football games, and cycling, either in spin class or on the road.

When I think about that first day of Civil Procedure I and Mitchell's grand introduction to Professor Cornett, I think it perfectly



sums up Mitchell's personality and approach to life—Mitchell is the most "himself" person I've ever met. He is as equally comfortable discussing the Real Housewives of Atlanta as he is debating the latest Tennessee Supreme Court opinion. He is at home both in front of a jury and behind a karaoke microphone. He would gladly eat chicken tenders for every meal, but he also loves French wine. Mitchell knows what he likes and what he's good at, and he wholeheartedly embraces those things. And if he doesn't know whether he likes something? He jumps in headfirst to test it out.

Mitchell has been active in Barristers for a number of years. He has chaired the Athletics Committee and served as both secretary and Vice President. Mitchell is excited and honored to now serve as Barristers President for 2018, and I know that he will bring his sense of enthusiasm and dedication to this role.

