

FACE BEHIND THE BUSINESS



FINDING ANSWERS: Nathan Smith is a barrister in the Tauranga CBD.
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Debating and helping people part of the job

Legal Disputes & Litigation Ltd

Name: Nathan Smith.

Age: 34.

Location: Devonport Rd, Tauranga.

What is your job? Civil litigation barrister — basically I deal with legal disputes and court work. My specialist areas are contract disputes, property and leaky homes claims.

How long have you been working here? I have been working as the director of my own company for six months. Prior to that I worked in legal firms in Tauranga and Auckland for 12 years.

Why did you get into it? I like a challenge. I always enjoyed debating and I like helping people.

What's your favourite part of the job? Winning a case for a really deserving client. I also really like finding an answer to a tricky problem.

What was your most memorable or embarrassing day? My most memorable day was obtaining a payment of more than \$1 million for some really nice people who had a leaky home. My most

embarrassing day was my very first court appearance as a junior law clerk. I was sent up to the high court at the last minute and in front of a packed courtroom my nerves got the better of me — I mistakenly told the judge I was acting for the wrong side!

What were you doing before this? I was an associate at Cooney Lees Morgan and, prior to that, at Sharp Tudhope.
Number of employees? I work on my own (Law Society rules do not allow barristers to work in a firm).

How do you go the extra mile for your customers? I get out and go and see them at their businesses or homes whether they are in Welcome Bay or Whakatane, Katikati or Kaiaua, or Te Puke or Taupo.

What do you do after work to unwind? I have two young children so there isn't much spare time but I do enjoy unwinding in the garden after work with them. I also love cycling, jogging, fishing and water-skiing — roll on summer!
What does the future hold for you? Possibly another child, although the jury is still out on that one.