

## 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.