**Unpredictable Adventure**

*Key Themes as I look into the rearview mirror:*

* Start with a solid base. Judicial Clerkships, Working in Washington at one of the many different Federal Agencies or Quasi Government bodies.
* Know yourself, and don’t feel bad that your gifts aren’t the same as someone else’s gifts
* Don’t try to enter into a segment of our profession solely because you think that’s where you will make a lot of money
* Be honest with yourself and find a way to get unvarnished feedback—feedback is a gift.
* If you are a motivated person, it’s difficult to stay idle and not want to advance. Find someone to help you through this critical part of your decision-making
* Don’t be afraid to take on stretch assignments. Every manager was once an individual contributor, and they had to find the courage to take the leap.
* Use the tools that your company offers you! (HR tools and courses, development plans, 1:1 planning). Your use of these (or lack thereof) is known by management.
* For attorneys interested in “Corporate”, really think hard about the type of corporate that you are interested in. (Big difference between growth companies and distressed companies)
* Culture matters, and it can make or break your career
* Every lawyer will do better if they “know” their business and how their company makes money.
* Every lawyer will do even better if they truly love their business, particularly if their business has or engages in a broader social purpose. Great feeling when you can honestly be a company ambassador.
* Stay connected to each other. It’s amazing how valuable professional contacts/friendships have been for me over the span of my career. Involvement in professional organizations is very helpful. Find ways to bring insights/information back to your company.