

In a world where heroes are quick to disappoint or fall from the pedestals on which we've placed them, it is the every day man, the average Joe, who most often deserves the accolades. This is a story about an average Joe. He doesn't slay dragons, leap tall buildings in a single bound, or rescue damsels in distress while riding his trusty steed. Instead, he brings justice to the world using pen, paper, and words. As a boy he excelled in school and life. His college years were spent honing his skills of point and counterpoint while on law review and the University of Nebraska Law School moot court team. And a small ember of a desire for justice was sparked.

That law school graduate quickly became a respected leader in the legal community and well-known among medical malpractice attorneys. His passion for the legal profession was apparent when he was nominated to the prestigious Robert Van Pelt American Inns of Court. His colleagues entrusted him with the honor of leading the Nebraska State Bar Association and Nebraska Defense Counsel. He welcomed the honors and leadership roles, but the most important to him was always that of a good counselor and steadfast advocate.

This attorney constantly strives to maintain a high level of professionalism by treating his fellow colleagues with the utmost respect. His reputation of fairness, understanding, and integrity precedes him. He can quote you the finer points of a Supreme Court case from 1972 and in the next breath discuss his well-considered opinions of the most recent episode of a reality TV show. Many will laugh at that thought, but it is a great example of why this man is successful. His focus is to put you at ease and he extends this courtesy to his staff, colleagues, and clients.

He never fails to thank his staff when a defense verdict is handed down or satisfactory settlement is reached because victories are best shared with his team. His unflinching support for LLPA, the respect for his staff, and the graciousness in which he practices daily shows us that he recognizes and understands our importance in a successful legal community and truly appreciates our assistance.

His incredible work ethic and pride in his profession are passed on through his mentoring of young attorneys inside and outside of his own firm. He's known for being quick to offer help and encouragement, while inspiring confidence in each attorney's own abilities. Through these actions he has built solid relationships in the legal and medical community.

He understands and exhibits the importance of a balanced life. Hard work, focus, determination, and preparedness at the office, deserves some relaxing moments on the green. He encourages that same balance in the work place.

So, you see, a hero doesn't have to wear a cape, carry a sword, or ride a trusty steed. He can be a normal guy that wakes every morning, kisses his wife goodbye, and greets his staff with a Diet Pepsi in his hand. Neither his importance in the legal community nor his role in balancing those scales of justice are diminished by the fact that he occasionally leaves the office at 5:30 p.m. or takes his wife on a much needed vacation. In reality, those qualities are what make him the successful attorney he is today. His calm demeanor, ability to laugh at himself, and quiet confidence is something to be admired and emulated, not downplayed. This man does deserve a cape, a big "S" on his chest, and a blockbuster sell-out movie for what he does day-in and day-out. And yet he puts his suit coat on one sleeve at a time, prepared to use those well-considered, extensively researched arguments against his adversaries. So, at the very least, I believe he deserves the honor of being named LLPA's Boss of the Year.