

FACE TIME

Turnaround ace

COX SMITH ATTORNEY MARK ANDREWS MERGES TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND BANKRUPTCY EXPERTISE TO HELP CLIENTS IN TOUGH TIMES

Mark Andrews, 50, a lawyer who specializes in corporate restructuring, creditors' rights and bankruptcy, has come a long way from his beginnings in Corpus Christi. With more than 20 years of law experience, Andrews has represented a diverse group of clients, ranging from Northstar Energy Inc. to Bag 'n Baggage Ltd. The Tulane University School of Law alumnus has expanded his practice over the years by taking on new types of clients and industries. As an attorney at Cox Smith for 24 years, Andrews has notable experience representing debtors, creditors and trustees in bankruptcy cases. He also has taught at Amberton University and Southern Methodist University. Andrews was interviewed by staff writer Nichole Bennett.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED? In Corpus Christi.

WHERE DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL? Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., for my bachelor's degree and then Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans for law school.

AS A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP? I always liked school and really wanted to be a teacher. I have taught at Amberton University, Southern Methodist University law school and at seminars for lawyers.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER COLLEGE? I had a very glamorous job at a law firm in Washington where I ran the copy machine. I learned a lot though, because at the time, they were handling a case representing Alaska against some oil companies over taxes. I paid close attention to what they were doing and it was a great learning experience.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THIS INDUSTRY? You get to know a lot of people as you get older. When people see that you have integrity and are an honest person, you gain respect and more clientele. I tell my clients honestly of their position and the possible outcomes.

WHAT'S THE BEST ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED? I was once told by a senior lawyer, "Whenever you have the chance to say something emotionally satisfying, don't," basically meaning to set aside differences and be professional in all situations.

DESCRIBE A DAY IN YOUR LIFE. Well, my lab must be walked at 5 a.m., and then I go for a run. I'm at the office by 7:30 a.m. and home by 6:30 in the evenings most days. My job is pretty emergency-driven, so it's hard to set schedules for the week. It's a constant balancing act.

WHAT ARE SOME CASES THAT STAND OUT? I always enjoy cases where I can help people and get big results for my clients. I worked on a construction case once where the principal was in danger of losing his livelihood. When we won the case, it was the most satisfying feeling knowing that not only did I get the results for my client, but I saved his job.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR BEST BUSINESS DECISION? Expanding the practice by taking on new types of representations. It is easy to stay in a comfortable rut of representing the same type of clientele, but I like learning about new industries and taking them on.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR WORST BUSINESS DECISION? Not taking certain business opportunities. I've passed up offers before because of not having enough time.

WHAT DO YOU TELL YOUR EMPLOYEES TO LEAD AND INSPIRE THEM? If you live by the basic human principle of treating everyone with respect, it will pay you dividends in the long run.

OTHER THAN PEOPLE, WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB? My job is very intellectually interesting. It changes with every case. Situations may be repeated, but there are always new people to meet.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE HAVING A CAREER AND A FAMILY? Most lawyers do spend more time at the office than preferred, but on the other hand, my career has allowed for unique experiences and opportunities. One time, for example, a client arranged for a limo to pick up my family and me from the airport when we took a vacation to New York City. It was a complete surprise, and we really enjoyed it.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE? Time that is wasted, most especially when time is of the essence. In this field, there are many processes to go through that cost time, and in effect, lots of money.

WHAT IS YOUR TOP CHOICE FOR A NEW CAREER? I would teach full-time at the college level if I had to choose a new career. I've always liked school and learning and love when I get the chance to teach. I taught at Amberton University and Southern Methodist University in the past and really enjoyed it.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT DALLAS? Dallas is very user-friendly. It's easy to get around and accessible for everything I do. The weather is great too. The mild winters are perfect for runners like me.

WHAT IS YOUR TAKE ON THE RECENT BAILOUTS? The government had to provide some sort of stimulus plan to avoid the market perception that something isn't being done about the economic situation. However, getting involved in too many stimulus efforts that don't yield results should be avoided. Like many people, I would like to avoid supporting companies that were run recklessly or in some cases even fraudulently. I support the TARP and much of the stimulus package. I favor long-term investments over short-term stimulus. As far as changes to the stimulus package, I would push more of the allocatable dollars toward long-term investments in energy independence, including development of more efficient batteries, more efficient engines as well as alternative sources.

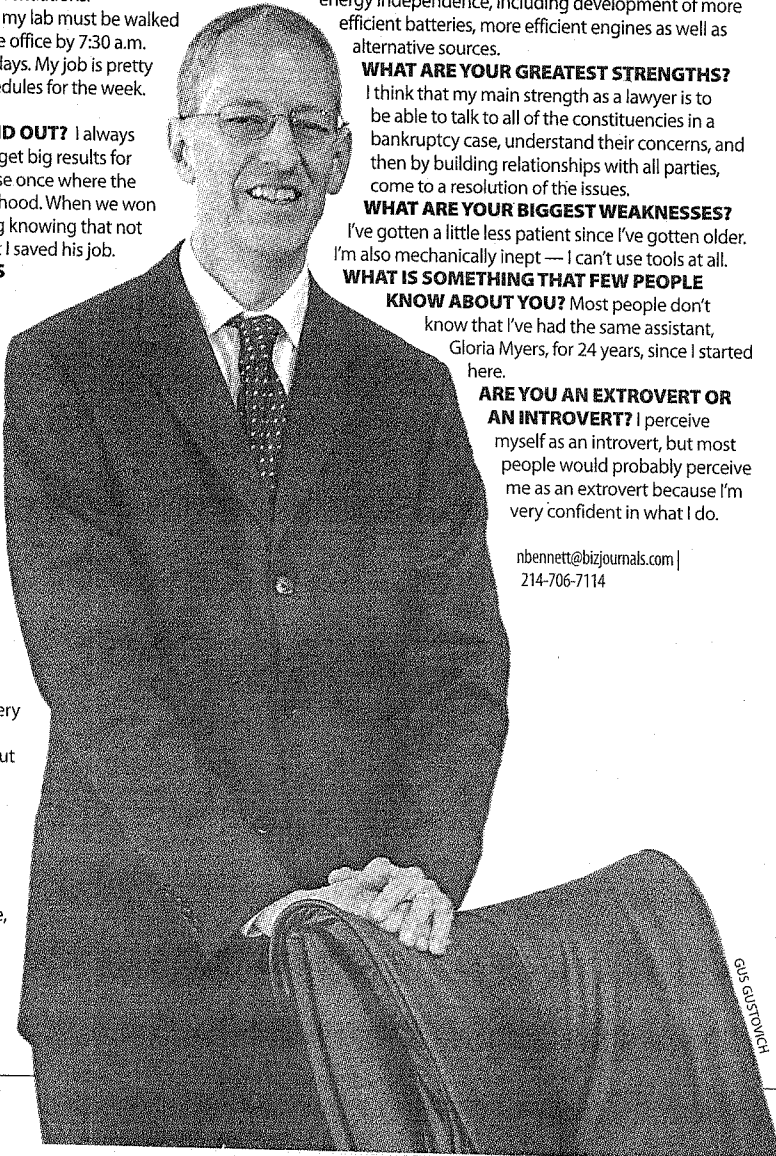
WHAT ARE YOUR GREATEST STRENGTHS? I think that my main strength as a lawyer is to be able to talk to all of the constituencies in a bankruptcy case, understand their concerns, and then by building relationships with all parties, come to a resolution of the issues.

WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESSES? I've gotten a little less patient since I've gotten older. I'm also mechanically inept — I can't use tools at all.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU? Most people don't know that I've had the same assistant, Gloria Myers, for 24 years, since I started here.

ARE YOU AN EXTROVERT OR AN INTROVERT? I perceive myself as an introvert, but most people would probably perceive me as an extrovert because I'm very confident in what I do.

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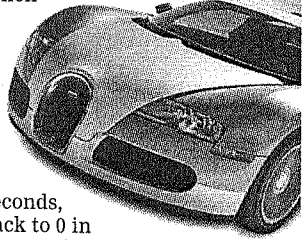


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■ If you're among the rare few feeling r these days, stop by the **Park Place Bentley** dealership on Lemmon Avenue and see if you can drive a Bugatti Veyron EB 16.4. Priced at a \$1.6 million, the Veyron is allegedly the world's fastest and most-expensive street-legal car. It can go up to 253 miles per hour, packing 1,001 horsepower in an 8-liter, 16-cylinder engine with turbochargers. Park Place is hosting the Veyron for a short time to gauge interest from its customer base in actually buying the luxury cars. The dealership could sell them full-time in the future. When driving a Veyron, you know how **Ton** must feel when he dons his armor and becomes Iron Man. The car can go from 0 to 60 mph in about 2.5 seconds, and then back to 0 in another 2.3 seconds. The guy who rode in the two-seater with us, professional **Butch Letzinger**, showed us what that felt like briefly when he was behind the wheel, and the accelerator a little punch. We felt the gear and the world outside became a bit blurry. Letzinger quickly slowed, unperturbed by the car's power. We, on the other hand, were impressed. We didn't test the car's full capabilities here, but out to Interstates 635 and 75, wary of getting into a \$1.6 million wreck. But the car handles well — it darn well *better* — and let us snake through traffic smooth as Kentucky sippin' bourbon. Some day, when our investments come back going to buy one.



■ Uptown's new **Hully & Mo Restaurant** — owned by celeb-sports Stars **Mike Modano**, **Brett Hull** and partners **Eddie Cervantes**, **Tin** **ington** and **Cliff Gonzales** — held a VIP opening reception. About 500 attended the event, including Modano's singer/actress/wife **Willa Ford**, **M Wayne Swearington**, **Kirby Schlegel** and a gaggle of Stars including **Daryl Sydor**, **Marty Turco**, **Richards** and **Brenden Morrow**. ... **Dirk Nowitzki** and **JJ Barea** will be signing autographs at Mavs free fan festival March 22 on the **AT&T** held in conjunction with the NBA's Noche program. From 1-5 p.m., scheduled performers include **Chon Arauz**, **Baby Boy**, **DJ Pato**, **DJ** and of course the muy caliente **Mavs Dance**.

■ World-renowned interior designer and former Dallasite **James Magni** has returned to the city with an exhibition of his newest furniture at **Cory Pope & Associates** on Turtle Creek Boulevard. Magni has designed for the **Frit** headquarters, and other local notables. He is currently working on the Beverly Hills hotel "American Idol" judge **Simon Cowell**.

■ **Park Cities Prime's** own pianist **Adrian** reportedly played a small, private welcome dinner recently for former **President George W. Bush** and his wife **Laura**. The loyal Brit played "Hail to the Chief" for W. ... Another ivory-tickling tidbit: television show **Hot On! Horn** and **Castle Hills** development are presenting **Night at The Majestic** with pianist **Danny** in concert, accompanied by members of **The Worth Symphony** on March 27. The performance will benefit **Star Children's Charity** and **The eNetwork Foundation**.

Staff writer **Jeff Bounds** contributed to this r

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