

CITY, COUNTY and LOCAL GOVERNMENT Law Section

A Section of The Florida Bar

Member Spotlight

June 2020

Meet **Don Crowell**, Chief Assistant County Attorney at the Pinellas County Attorney's Office and current Chair of the City, County, and Local Government Law Section of the Florida Bar. Don has been with the Pinellas County Attorney's Office for over 20 years, beginning his practice in the areas of environmental, land use, and real estate law, followed by managing the litigation team, to currently focusing on law office management, Fire and EMS Administration legal support, and public finance. Let's hear what Mr. Crowell had to say during our Member Spotlight interview!



What was your first job?

My first job was as a 14-year-old kid I got a job in a neighborhood sandwich shop with my best friend. We made Cuban sandwiches, deviled crabs and stuffed potatoes from scratch. I learned how to work hard and that feeding people food that they really enjoy is very rewarding! Having money in your pocket is also a path to freedom.

What do you like most about being a lawyer?

I enjoy the intellectual stimulation. The puzzling through the vagaries and supporting your position (which is hopefully but not always) your client's position. I especially love the practice of Local Government Law due to the variety of issues that are always in play. There are constantly new challenges and fresh new questions with which to wrestle.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

I love to fish, especially this time of year (Red Snapper Season!), scallop, boat, cycle, spend time with family, cook (and eat!), and play guitar.

What is one thing someone meeting you for the first time would never suspect, or be surprised to find out?

I used to have long (really long) hair and played rock music in bars from about 16 years old until I graduated college (which was a longer period than it should have been!).

If you could go back in time and speak to yourself at 10 years old, what would you tell yourself?

Don't waste your time (it is more limited than you know) worrying about people who don't care about you or understand you. There are a lot of people who do (or will). The rest just are better left to their own issues. That and your parents aren't perfect, but they know a lot more than you do and they won't be here forever and aren't always wrong! Learning to work in the yard to earn things isn't about the parents making you do things so they don't have to, it is a valuable lesson in hard work paying off.