

He's related, by marriage, to former U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall.



BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 26, 2010

TOP 40 UNDER FORTY 2010

Kevin C. Newsom

Newsom, 37, has achieved more in his young legal career than many attorneys will achieve in their lifetimes. The partner and chair of the appellate litigation group at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP has served as Alabama's solicitor general and has won cases in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Education: B.A., Samford University, 1994, J.D., Harvard Law School, 1997

City of residence: Vestavia Hills

Family: I've been married to my college sweetheart, Deborah, for 15 years; sons, Marshall James (7) and Chapman (4).

What was your first job? The first job I recall having was a paper route for two apartment complexes out off Highway 280. My best friend drove the car; I hung out the window and threw the papers (and undoubtedly broke a few porch lights).

What's one interesting fact about you that most people don't know? I am related (if only by marriage - hey, you take what you can get!) to the country's most influential judge, Chief Justice John Marshall. His wife was Polly Amblar. My mother's family comes from the same line of Amblers.

What's been your most notable career achievement? I suppose either clerking at the U.S. Supreme Court, which was the thrill of a lifetime, or perhaps arguing and winning a case there, which I did about two years ago for Gov. Riley. Winning in the Supreme Court certainly beats losing - which, I'm sorry to report, I've also done.

In 10 years you'll be: Probably right here at Bradley Arant. My wife has her doubts - we've moved around a lot. But this is home.

What's your five-word guiding business principle? Just outwork the other guy.

What's your least favorite thing about living in Birmingham? We spent five years or so in Washington, and I miss that city's energy. It's palpable.

Who has been your most influential mentor in your career? Bob Long, who is the head of the appellate practice at Covington & Burling in Washington. I had always assumed (hilariously, in retrospect) that I wanted to be a full-time law professor. I never viewed myself as long for law-firm life. Bob showed me just how enjoyable private law practice could be.

What's the worst advice you've ever received? I must have repressed it.

What's the main characteristic a great leader must have? Above all else, a leader must be willing to work harder than those he intends to lead.

What's your dream job? Stay-at-home dad. Followed closely by Chief Justice of the United States.

What one word would you say best describes you?

Conscientious

What's your biggest pet peeve? Able-bodied people who ride elevators one floor. Unacceptable.

What's the first Web site you check in the morning? August through January

(i.e., football season), probably espn.com. February through July (i.e., offseason), probably "How

Appealing," a blog devoted to appellate litigation.

What's the first thing you do when you get to the office? Throw back a Milo's sweet tea. No, I didn't get paid to say that (although I was in a Milo's commercial once - really, check the vault).

How many hours do you work in a week? 60

If you could have dinner with three people (living or dead), who would you choose? I'm tempted to say something like James Madison, Abraham Lincoln and Tiger Woods ("What were you thinking?"), but, in truth, I'd rather stick with the three I've got - my wife and two boys.

Last book you read? I recently re-read Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. Timely.

What's your favorite book? Plenty of contenders here - I'd say probably St. Augustine's *Confessions*.

What's your favorite quote? One choice line from Austin Powers comes to mind, but it's way too juvenile to admit to in public.

What's your favorite vacation spot? Pebble Beach, Calif.

