

Member Spotlight

Andrew Karabetsos

Associate General Counsel

Capgemini US, LLC

Chicago, IL

Current position since: 1998

Years in-house: 18

Law School: University of Illinois College of Law

Undergrad: University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana AB, Political Science

Best thing about my current job:

I handle business immigration matters, and the most rewarding thing for me is each time I help a colleague achieve his or her dream of becoming a permanent U.S. resident or citizen.

Biggest accomplishment as an inside lawyer:

Many of Capgemini's employees are interested in gaining international experience, and we have many client projects that cross borders to provide such opportunities. At the same time, the immigration environment has become increasingly challenging... worldwide, not just in the U.S. I have built a strong in-house team of immigration professionals that does terrific work securing visas to meet our business needs despite the current challenges.

Worst job I ever had:

Telemarketing. This was before the "do not call" list and people angry about getting called made it abundantly clear that such a list would prove popular.

Best thing about ACC:

The resources and opportunities for continued learning. And, here in Chicago, the opportunities to meet and share views with others who are practicing in-house.

Most valuable life lesson that I still apply today:

My parents taught me the value of sacrifice and hard work. They immigrated to the U.S. and exemplified the sacrifices made by so many immigrants who come here to make a better life for their families, as well as their contributions to their new country. This made the choice of immigration law an easy one for me.

Advice I would give to new in-house lawyers:

Learn as much as you can about your company's business. Both the knowledge you gain – including general business knowledge – and the relationships this helps you build will serve you well in the company.

How I achieve work/life balance:

Coaching my son's little league games and attending my daughter's softball games. If I were not practicing law, I would probably be... teaching at the high school or junior college level. I enjoy helping people learn and get to the next level in their education or careers.

Favorite vacation spot:

Astros, Greece. I spent parts of a few summers there as a teenager and have fond memories at this wonderful beach town, swimming, octopus fishing and spending time with my extended family.

The place I have never been but would most like to visit:

I saw the "King Tut" exhibit when it came to Chicago decades ago and have wanted to visit Egypt ever since.

Currently reading:

Letters From a Stoic (Seneca)