

December 18, 2023

Gregory Lodge

Retired



Q: When were you at Shumaker and what was your position/practice area?

A: I started as a summer law clerk (with Phil Chubb) in the old Libbey Owens Ford building in 1981 and retired in 2019 as a partner in the Labor and Employment Law group. I worked multiple stints in the firm's Tampa, Columbus, and Charlotte offices in addition to Toledo.

Q: What is your current position and company?

A. I am retired from the law. I am a part-time traveler and farmhand on my son's farm, full-time grandparent, and dog minder.

Q: What did you enjoy most about your career?

A: Building long-term relationships with clients and helping them address and resolve workplace issues. Winning cases was fun (and losing was not), but helping clients avoid litigation was more rewarding in the long run.

Q: What is one thing you learned at Shumaker that has benefitted you ever since?

A: The importance of establishing and maintaining a shared culture and values that will carry a firm (or any entity) through good and bad times, change, and conflict. Despite all the change and growth in our firm over the last four decades, Shumaker had the same bedrock principles and values when I retired in 2019 as those that attracted me to the firm when I first started my career. I believe this is the primary reason why the firm continues to prosper and grow even when others have not.

Q: What is your favorite memory of your time working at Shumaker?

A: This is a hard question because there are way too many fond memories from my time at Shumaker. But a great deal of those memories involve working with and learning from some of the best — e.g., learning from Jack Hackett how to try a case before a jury, learning from Don Mewhort how to build credibility at the bargaining table, and learning from Rolf Scheidel how to be precise, accurate, and persuasive in defending an appeal before the Sixth Circuit. Equally memorable were the opportunities to pass along the knowledge gained from these experiences to younger lawyers and so participate in building the firm's institutional knowledge.

Q: What is the best advice you can give a new attorney?

A: Something I regret not doing more of when I first started: get involved with the local bar, attend meetings, and volunteer for stuff. You will develop relationships and trust with your peers that will last your entire career

Q: What news would you like to share about your personal or professional life?

A: Being a grandfather is great, but being retired and a grandfather is even better. And I am getting a lot of use out of my National Park Senior Pass.