

BUFFALO Law Journal

VOL. 85 _ NO. 22 _ APRIL 1, 2013 _ EST. 1929

Five questions with...

Kenneth Friedman

Partner

Hodgson Russ LLP



You're a lawyer with a busy schedule and yet you make time for community service. Why is that important to you personally?

Finding time to do important things is like saving money. People who are successful at saving money save from the first dollar earned, not from what is left over (the last dollar) because there is never anything left over. It is the same way with time. With a busy schedule, there will never be time left over. Community service is the most important thing a person can do. You must plan your other work around the time you make for community service. We all must serve and teach our children to serve.

What organizations do you and/or your law firm support through community service?

Hodgson Russ supports over 200 organizations. We provide financial, legal and personal involvement and support. Personally, I am currently very involved with the Buffalo History Museum, the Shaw Festival, the National Federation for Just Communities, Insyte Consulting and others. Our cultural and regional assets are essential to the success and quality of life in Western New York.

Generally speaking, the legal community seems to make it a priority to "give back," with law firms and individuals involved in a number of projects and initiatives. What does that say about the profession?

While there are many people critical of the legal profession, lawyers wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Emancipation Proclamation. There are many great men and women in the legal profession who have taken leadership positions in business, government, charitable institutions and other important organizations. I am proud to be a lawyer and (of) the lawyers upon whose shoulders I stand.

Is it more than just writing a check/making financial donations?

It is much more than financial support alone. Whether it's providing service as a board member, serving on a board committee or actually doing the work of the organization, the commitment of time, expertise and enthusiasm is what makes lawyers valuable additions to community service organizations.

Do you have a favorite charity here in Western New York?

The term "charity" is a term with several meanings. Charitable institutions or not-for-profit organizations support many things, including those in need of charity or giving. I support organizations that are thought of as charitable, as well as not-for-profit institutions that add to the quality of life in Western New York, and I count among those the Buffalo History Museum, the NFJC, the United Jewish Foundation, the United Way, WNED, Leadership Buffalo, Tapestry Charter School, the Shaw Festival and many more.

— JANE SCHMITT