

David C. Tolley

Job: Associate, Latham & Watkins LLP, Boston | **Age:** 34
Graduated: University of California, Berkeley School of Law
Bar admission: 2009

Up & Coming LAWYERS

Following the path of his father and grandfather before him into a legal career, David C. Tolley focuses his practice on the health care industry. Recently named the best supervisor for 2015 within his firm based on the feedback of colleagues and peers, Tolley serves on the board of directors for the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Chapter of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.



Q. *What's the most satisfying case or matter you've worked on so far?*

A. A pro bono case where I represented a victim of violent crime in the state of Massachusetts who had been denied access to state benefits that are designated for victims of violent crime. It was a long process and we fought very hard and ended up arguing an appeal before a District Court judge before my client was awarded full benefits. It was a life-changing event for her.

Q. *Professionally, what keeps you up at night?*

A. What keeps me up at night is thinking about how the health care industry is changing and what it is going to look like 10 years from now. The industry is always changing and there is always something new.

Q. *If you hadn't become a lawyer, what field would you have entered?*

A. I would have been a musician. I grew up playing classical music and I was in a bluegrass band in college.

Q. *How many hours a week do you work? Did you anticipate it was going to be that much?*

A. I think it's what I expected. My father and grandfather were both lawyers, so I had an idea what the profession looks like. My hours vary — when I'm not traveling or in trial, I always try to get home for

dinner and put my kids to bed, and I almost always succeed at that.

Q. *Would you tell someone about to graduate from college to pursue law school?*

A. It depends on the reason. There are so many great reasons to pursue a legal career but I think it's really important for people to be informed. What do we do as lawyers? What does our day-to-day look like? What are the options for people after they graduate from law school? I would encourage someone interested in pursuing a legal career to understand their rationale for it. It's a huge investment of time and money and not something to undertake lightly.

Q. *What's one thing about you that might surprise people?*

A. I went to divinity school before law school.

Q. *If you could work on any famous case in history, which one would it be and why?*

A. The 1966 U.S. Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*. It would have been a fascinating case to work on and it is a great example of the kind of impact one case can have on generations and generations to come.

Q. *Describe yourself in one word.*

A. Sincere. **MLW**