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John M. Alton

Why did you decide to become an attor-

ney?

My father was a well respected trial lawyer and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I practiced with his firm for 17 years before leaving the defense side for a injured party plaintiff's practice with attorney Frank Ray.

What experiences (work and personal) help you to be a better attorney?

The best preparation I had for a career as a Alton trial attorney was participation in organized sports throughout my childhood. The com-



petitive instinct required for sports is similar to what is required to be a successful trial lawyer. In addition, my wife and three children provide a great support system that leads to a balanced life.

What made you choose your primary area of law?

The law firm I joined in 1977 specialized in civil trial practice in defense of lawsuits for personal injury and wrongful death due to the negligence of motor vehicle operators and medical care providers. I have practiced exclusively in those areas for 30 years. the last 13 of which have been on behalf of the injured party plaintiff.

What makes your law firm unique?

Since I am a sole practitioner, the client has my undivided attention. There is no delegation of work to other attorneys with less experience which often happens in larger firms. I even answer my own phone without having a legal assistant screening my calls.

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