



ISRAEL PIEDRA

ATTORNEY AT WELTS, WHITE AND FONTAINE PC AND NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Hometown: Nashua

Age: 28

WHAT WAS THE JOURNEY TO SUCCESS LIKE? HOW DID YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

I still have a lot to learn and do, so I wouldn't call myself a "success" yet. But I've made it to this point because of supportive family, friends and colleagues. I was born in Nashua, grew up in Milford and got a great education in the public schools there. That's where I developed my interest in law and government. I was fortunate enough to be accepted at a great school (Bates College), where I spent four amazing years. Law was always my chosen career path, so on to Boston College Law School I went. I've been practicing at Welts, White & Fontaine ever since graduating in 2015. In 2018, I ran for and was elected to the New Hampshire House of Representatives.

WHY ARE YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS FIELD?

There are challenges and problems to solve every day. I am a litigator, and I enjoy researching novel legal issues and then arguing about them to a judge. It also is a position where you can impact change. If my client has been wronged, I feel empowered to do something about it. It is a good feeling to have the tools to help someone in need.

WHAT IS THE BEST LIFE OR CAREER ADVICE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

Don't let the peaks get too high or the valleys too low.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT LIFE OR CAREER LESSON THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED? HOW DID YOU RISE ABOVE THE CHALLENGE?

I started my third year of law school thinking I had a job waiting for me on the other side of graduation. It didn't work out that way. Most of my classmates had employment lined up. It was a challenge going through each month of the school year, then bar exam preparation, then the bar exam itself, without knowing how I would start my career. But hard work and luck won out in the end.

WHAT KIND OF BOOKS DO YOU LIKE TO READ? WHY DO YOU PREFER THIS GENRE?

Most of the pleasure reading I do is through an informal book group with old friends. We typically read fiction; I also enjoy non-fiction about sports and government.

WHO WERE OR ARE YOUR MENTORS? WHY DO YOU CONSIDER THEM A ROLE MODEL?

Of course, my parents are my primary role models. At work, the senior attorneys at my firm (Jack White, Mike Fontaine, Jay Leonard) are invaluable mentors. Stephanie Minter, the librarian leader of my middle school book club, also has been an important mentor. There are many others.

HOW DO YOU GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY AND IT'S NEIGHBORS?

I'm fortunate to be serving my first term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. There, I do my best to serve the needs of my constituents and community. I regularly serve as a volunteer judge for Nashua high school mock trials, and for the New Hampshire "We the People" civics competition. I am a member of the Windham Community Concert Band, and have played in the pit orchestra for the Peacock Players.