

Getting to Know ACC St. Louis Board Member, Toni P. Douaihy

Title: Vice President, Assistant General Counsel

Company: Macy's, Inc.

In current position for: 14 years

Law School: Washington University in St. Louis

Undergrad: University of Missouri - St. Louis

- 1. If I was not an attorney I would be:** The owner of an eclectic shop selling small, beautiful (or funny) things for the home, and beautiful paper, pens and inks. Maybe in retirement, I'll take the plunge.
- 2. My hobbies are:** Reading, cooking and taking MOOCs of all kinds. Also, everyone who knows me knows that I take shopping to the level of "hobby" – I love fashion and design, old and new.
- 3. When I want to relax I:** Head to the beach with a good book (when in Florida). I head for the pilates studio, take a long walk or cuddle with my dog and a good TV series (when in St. Louis).
- 4. My music playlist is dominated by:** There really is no domination – I enjoy everything from Drake to Joan Baez to Mozart to Ella Fitzgerald to Justin Bieber to John Denver. If you are in my car, you'll hear it all!
- 5. My food guilty pleasure is:** I remember when I was growing up, I had to wait to see the Wizard of Oz when it was shown on TV during the Easter season. With streaming services, none of us have to wait for movies. But I do have to wait for the annual arrival of those delectable, small solid chocolate Cadbury eggs with the thin crackly candy shell – my mouth is watering just thinking of them (which is no problem since they are on the shelves right now)...
- 6. My favorite family vacation was:** Our last family trip to Zgharta, Lebanon to see my husband's family. The beauty of the country, the warmth of the family and friends who surrounded us and the fabulous Lebanese food made it such a wonderful trip. Also, since everything is so different, one cannot help but to really live in the moment and take in all the sights sounds and smells. Time slows down, and the focus naturally goes to the here and now – I love that!
- 7. My favorite type of book to read for pleasure is:** I love novels, especially historical novels. I highly recommend Fredrick Backman (*A Man Called Ove* and the *Beartown* series) as well as Ken Follett (*the Kingsbridge* novels). Lately, I have really enjoyed novels that are set on Japan and Africa (*The Shadow King* and *Snow Country*)
- 8. I became involved with ACC St. Louis because:** Our chapter has incredible people who genuinely want to be part of a community to support each other in our profession. Also, by getting more involved, I have had the opportunity to get to know some really terrific lawyers at our sponsor firms. Because of our sponsors, we can offer top notch CLEs and great networking events. The ACC has been an important part of my in-house career, and I have been lucky to meet so many folks who inspire me through the ACC.
- 9. I think the real value our members get from involvement with ACC is:** Again – it's the network of in-house counsel and the talented lawyers at our sponsor firms. On the national level, the ACC website

has so many valuable resources – templates, forms and toolkits that come directly from fellow in-house attorneys.

10. **My advice to attorneys new to the in-house status is:** Start by learning the business through your clients and colleagues – how areas of the organization work together to achieve the organizational mission, the goals and needs of the various parts of the business, what success looks like in the eyes of leadership, how to navigate the culture of the organization. This enables you to develop valuable relationships with your clients as well as gain the business knowledge that will enable you to be a trusted legal advisor and a true business partner with the acumen needed for success. Having a strong network of outside counsel with whom you can consult and come to understand the experiences of other organizations is really helpful, too (enter ACC)...

11. **The best way to get more involved with the ACC St. Louis Chapter is:** Put yourself out there – attend CLEs, the CCI and social events, and get to know other members. Getting involved on a committee or on the Board is a great way to really get to know the ACC community and it is gratifying to see this volunteer work come to fruition in the form of a really successful chapter that delivers valuable knowledge, networking and friendships.