

The JLegal



Personality Questionnaire Experience

Paul Petersen



Legal Director
Asia-Pacific and Japan
at NGA Human Resources

Every month, JLegal takes a light-hearted look at the PQE of a senior in-house counsel. This month, Paul shares his many talents - as air traffic controller, scriptwriter, architect and rugby coach!

- What is on your mind at the moment?
Why being a sole regional lawyer is akin to being an air traffic controller - work is always being re-prioritized/re-routed based on which of my internal client has the greater escalation leverage/deal value, yet everyone has to be kept happy and the work completed/the planes landed safely.
- Which talent would you most like to have?
The ability to speak mandarin... why did I learn French (badly) at school? Mon erreur!
- What is your idea of misery?
Doing M & A due diligence for a top tier firm day in day out... and then having the time written off.
- What do you most value in your friends?
Their remarkable ways to insult me yet retain my friendship.
- If you weren't a lawyer you would be a ...
Seriously, a scriptwriter for a British sitcom or a stadium architect or a rugby coach (I coach kids rugby in Singapore).
- What is your most precious possession?
My family (wife is sitting next to me at the moment looking at this question).
- Where were you born?
New Zealand.
- Where is the best place you have ever been to?
Gallipoli, which is more poignant as my great-grandfather was an ANZAC there in 1915. I just sat on the beach for hours taking in the history.
- What is your greatest regret?
Perhaps practising in NZ and Australia for too long before moving to Asia. The breadth of legal work in this region is always interesting and challenging.
- What do you consider your greatest achievement?
Two beautiful children whom for one day I can regale with my war stories from legal practice ("fetch my pipe and slippers kids...").
- What is the strangest thing you have seen?
Unprintable.
- What is your motto?
What would the Hoff do?
- Top 3 favorite movies of all time?
Goodfellas, The Shawshank Redemption and Rudy.
- What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
Pure honesty...we all tell little white lies.
- What is your greatest extravagance?
In Singapore, owning a car.
- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?
If I could be slightly less better looking so that I would also be judged on my legal talents.



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visit our website or contact us: t | +65 6818 9701 e | singapore@jlegal.com

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