

I mean, the research and writing part of the legal practice has always been my primary focus. Going from being a law clerk to then being an associate in a big law firm where that's pretty much what I was called upon to do, to realize that it was pretty much what I like to do and civil appeals seemed logical place to take that.

Well, like anything in law I think it's a fairly specialized skill, both, identifying what the legal errors were and being able to communicate them in writing to the court of appeals, because that's primarily what they're going to rely on is the written work product. There is often an argument at the end of the case as well, but that tends to be really short, can only focus on a few discreet things. It's usually the written briefs that matter the most.

You have to be able to recognize first a potential issue, a problem below, and then research it and analyze it to figure out whether it was in fact, an error and one that would be deemed important enough to merit, some sort of relief. Then the second thing is to then write that in a brief, in a way that is clear and understandable and compelling to a very busy appellate judge, who's going to be reading it.

I graduated from college at the University of Wisconsin, I went to law school at Duke, after that I clerked for a Supreme court justice in Minnesota for a year, then I went to work for a large law firm in Washington, DC, and did that for about three years, moved to Colorado, I worked for a midsize law firm for a couple of years, and then I was a [inaudible 00:01:44] lawyer at the Colorado Public Defender for the seven years for going to private practice.