



Focus on the Future

Guest Predictions: Peter H. Miller

Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions a set of questions that affect us all.

Peter H. Miller, Attorney at Miller Zimmerman, PLC www.millerzimmerman.com

Miller Zimmerman, PLC is a general practice law firm located in Leesburg, Virginia. The principals are Peter H. Miller and Eric V. Zimmerman. Mr. Miller has been practicing since 1989 with a focus on civil litigation, corporate matters, domestic relations and estate planning. Mr. Miller is admitted to the practice of law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Miller lives near Hamilton, Virginia with his wife and three sons.

Mr. Miller is active in numerous church and civic matters, including youth sports. He often donates his time to non-profit ventures. In addition to providing his clients excellent service, he is committed to returning value to the community.

Q: Which changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?

A: The ease with which clients and professional colleagues are able to procure, share, store and retrieve electronic data has progressed significantly. This also mirrors the client's knowledge of how to use technology to secure new information that helps move their legal matter forward. Overall my clients seem to be better acquainted with electronics and software. This helps place their information in front of me more promptly in a useable format that helps me advance their legal matter.

Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?

A: The volume of data being transferred, coupled with a growing expectation that everything should be instantaneous, can at times create an unreasonable expectation of the need to compress professional deliberation. Careful consideration is still the key to top quality professional advice.

Q: How will globalization affect your professional area in the near term?

A: Due to my location in the metropolitan Washington, DC area, my law practice has become quite diverse from a cultural perspective. My clients come from all over the world, and I really enjoy that aspect of my work. Those professionals who are able to reach out and embrace all cultural backgrounds will engender good relations, while those uncomfortable with such changes will be closing doors.

Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?

A: Economic changes are causing parallel changes in how my colleagues and I are being influenced to conduct litigation. As a result, it is wise to help clients select battles carefully with a solid understanding of the implications of what they are seeking.

Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?

A: Young professionals entering the work force are often burdened by carrying the cost of their education, while the cost of key human services (such as health insurance and housing) are so significant, that they may be forced to delay starting a family. My concern is that while young professionals might be accelerating their careers, they may be losing perspective in regards to their personal and family lives.