

Top Washington Lawyers

Corporate Finance



Tom Knox

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You might say Knox's fate took a giant leap forward in 1978, when his older brother saved every cent of his lawn-mowing money and bought an Apple II computer.

"He and I spent hundreds of hours programming it after school," recalls Knox, now 42 and the father of four children himself with wife Kathy.

He took business and intellectual property law courses in the 1980s — technology law was just developing — and landed a job at Tucker, Flyer & Lewis in 1987. And that's when he started to craft a technology finance practice. He joined MoFo as co-chair of its emerging companies and venture capital group this year after six years at Shaw Pittman. His clients include Acterna of Germantown, Telarix of Vienna and webMethods of Fairfax.

But he counts his work with start-up Riverbed Technologies in 1999 and 2000 as perhaps his most significant.

"Over a 14-month period, I helped CEO Wayne Jackson, CFO Todd Headley and CTO David Rensin build a company that sold for over \$1 billion," he says, noting that Aether Systems acquired the company.

Knox confides that he'd love to be an astrophysicist — perhaps even an astronaut — but for now the closest he'll get to the stars is the planetarium dome at his kids' Bethesda school, where he volunteers teaching astronomy.

"The kids love it," he says. "It's a great way to teach a little math, physics and even Greek mythology (through discussion of the constellations)."

For fun, he loves to log onto nineplanets.org, nasa.gov and the Mars Rover site (<http://marsrovers.jpl.nasa.gov/home/index.html>).