

# Attorney Chris Young Helps Put Business Dreams On Solid Ground

By Nicole Purcell

Over the years, people who practice law have somehow managed to acquire the title of sneaky, big city weasels, scamming the innocent for money. Chris Young, founder of the Business and Technology Law Group in Columbia, is doing his best to break the mold and better the reputation of lawyers.

"I love helping people and watching their businesses grow," said Young. And that's exactly what his business does. In 1997, he started a general business law firm serving small- and medium-sized businesses, as well as entrepreneurs. In 2000, that law firm became the Business and Technology Law Group, soon to be renamed BTLG.

Young works with his clients from the time the idea of starting a business pops into their heads and stays on board for any other advice needed by the client along the way. "It's exciting when people come to me with intellectual property, such as ideas that they are tossing around inside their minds. We sit down and piece their ideas together like a puzzle," said Young.

Traditionally, law firms derive their names from the founding partners or the prominent lawyers, so the name of Business and Technology Law Group is quite unusual. The atypical name is used to set Young's firm apart from the rest and to let the public know what they are about.

Young started this business with the idea that he can help people transform their vi-



Chris Young

sions into reality. The firm takes an active role in developing new businesses and handles all of the legal work accompanying such a task. Young loves being part of a team and works with the owners to make their businesses the best that they can possibly be. The firm also represents software development, such as copyrights and trademarks. Young is a small business owner himself and uses his own experiences to relate to clients on a more personal basis.

Young had no intention of pursuing a career in law, but certain events made it clear that he was destined to succeed in the pro-

profession. "In my freshman year of college, I was in a band and we got a job playing at a high school prom. The principal didn't approve of our choice of music and the volume at which we played and refused to pay us. We took the case to court and I ended up representing us before I even considered an interest in law. After we won, the judge congratulated me and encouraged me to pursue a legal career. I consider this to be one of my major accomplishments and it had a huge impact on my life."

Young finally decided to focus on law halfway through his undergraduate education. He started out with the intention of studying criminal law, but did not enjoy it enough to spend the rest of his life practicing it. After graduating from law school, he decided to pursue a business career with a foundation of law. He started his group right

out of law school with experience in software deals out of Korea and Indonesia. His small business is expanding slowly and he hopes to add more professionals to his firm of seven employees.

After attending Calvert Hall High School, a private school located near Towson, Young graduated from the University of Maryland at College Park and went on to attend law school at the University of Baltimore. He spends his free time with his wife and four children and considers himself a "fairly hip dad" for the time-being.

So what is Young's secret to success? "Find something you love to do and spend your life doing it."

Nicole Purcell is a senior at River Hill High School and is involved in a yearlong mentorship at The Business Monthly.