

Natasha Breaux in The Texas Lawbook: Houston Federal Judge David Hittner Loves Jury Trials and Good Humor

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PRACTICES Appellate

Do you have enthusiasm for your job? Do you often laugh at work?

U.S. District Judge David Hittner, who was appointed to the federal bench in the Southern District of Texas in 1986, certainly does.

Indeed, he believes enthusiasm and humor are imperative to happiness in the practice of law, as well as in all professions. And being prepared is the key to success in the courtroom.

Enthusiasm is so important to Judge Hittner that 20 years ago he commissioned the production of a rectangular, glass paperweight with the word “ENTHUSIASM!” etched onto it.

He has kept it on the front ledge of his desk, in the very center, ever since. It serves as a constant reminder to be enthusiastic about whatever you are doing. As he explains: “No matter what you do for a living, you need to be enthusiastic. It is an important personality trait.”

Excerpted from *The Texas Lawbook*. To read the full article, click [here](#). (Subscription required)