

INDUCTEE

Matthew John Markling, J.D.

Graduated: 1989
Married: Katie
Children: Declan, Nevan, and Ian
Resides: Lakewood, Ohio

Following high school, Matt enrolled at The Ohio State University and earned his way into the Honors Program. Not content with academic achievement alone, Matt involved himself in many leadership organizations serving the student body. Fellow OSU colleague, Ana Brown, relates that "Matt took on leadership roles in the Student-Alumni Council, the OSU Athletic Council, the Homecoming Steering Committee, and numerous honor societies. Matt was also elected by the student body and his peers to the highest positions in the Undergraduate Student Government - the most visible and influential student organization on campus. In fact, Matt is the only person in the history of OSU to have served as the USG President, Vice-President, and Assembly Speaker."

In 1994, Matt earned two separate undergraduate degrees, with honors, from the OSU College of Arts and Sciences – (1) Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, Distinction in Economics (economics major) and (2) Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, Honors in Liberal Arts (political science major). In 1997, Matt earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence, *Public Service Fellow*, from the OSU Moritz College of Law. In 1998, Matt earned his Master of Arts from the OSU College of Education, specializing in Educational Administration.

Matt is currently working toward his goal of completing his fifth academic degree – a Doctor of Philosophy from the OSU College of Education, again specializing in Educational Administration. His doctoral advisor at OSU, Philip T.K. Daniel, states that Matt is "one of the brightest, more capable students I have worked with in the study of law and education in my thirty-eight years in higher education and has been the recipient of several fellowships. I can attest to the fact that he has a store of knowledge of a great deal of law including statutes, executive opinions, and case law."

Matt is the founder of the state-wide law firm of McGown & Markling Co., L.P.A. and serves as General Counsel for the Ohio Education Service Center Association. Matt is among the less than one percent of Ohio attorneys who have earned the prestigious distinction of being renowned as an *Ohio State Bar Association Certified Specialist in Labor and Employment Law*. Also, Matt has consistently been selected by his legal peers as one of *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the specialty of Education Law. He is currently a longstanding adjunct faculty member with the University of Akron School of Law.

Matt recently served as President of the Lakewood City School District Board of Education. Matt's service on the school board earned him numerous awards and he prided himself with always putting pupils ahead of politics. In just his first term, Matt was bestowed the lifetime distinction of *Master Board Member Award* by the Ohio School Boards Association. Understanding that these are the golden years of parenting, Matt declined to seek a second term on the school board to cherish every possible moment with his wife and their three young sons.

Matt's law partner, Susan McGown, states that Matt "is passionate about his work in the field of education as a school law attorney, education professor, and elected school board member. In every arena in which Matt is engaged; he displays integrity, uncanny intelligence, and the ability to understand the perspective of all constituents."

Phillip T.K. Daniel adds that "Matt demonstrates intellectual independence in a positive way. He thinks for himself, draws his own conclusions, and forms his own opinions. He has a well-honed gift of engaging in alternative argument; clearly can see both sides of an issue and does so graciously and with the conviction that all parties have positions that merit consideration."