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G&R Spotlight: Matthew Donehoo



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Meet **Matthew Donehoo**, our Director of IT & Innovation! In our latest G&R Spotlight, Matt shares how he sees tech impacting the legal industry, his vision for the firm's technological future, and what drew him to Gould & Ratner.

G&R: How do you see the evolution of technology impacting the legal industry?

It's pretty incredible how much technology has changed since I started in this industry, and I think we're about to see some of the biggest changes yet. AI is obviously a huge part of that. We're already seeing tools that can accomplish in minutes what used to take hours.

What excites me most is what that means for attorneys. I think AI has the potential to free them up to focus more on the things that drew them to the practice of law in the first place: solving problems, thinking strategically, and advising clients. When you combine that with the knowledge, judgment, and experience attorneys develop over their careers, I think there's a real opportunity for them to become even better advocates and trusted advisors.

Of course, not every new tool is going to be a game changer, and there's going to be some trial and error along the way. But that's part of what makes this such an exciting time to be working in legal technology. I'm looking forward to seeing where it takes us.

G&R: What do you envision for Gould & Ratner's technological future?

First and foremost, I want technology to just work. People shouldn't have to spend their day fighting with their computers or figuring out workarounds to get something done.

Beyond that, I think we have some really exciting opportunities ahead, especially with AI and automation. I'd love to see us continue exploring new tools, sharing ideas, and finding better ways to do things. I'm a big believer that some of the best ideas come from the people doing the work every day.

I want everyone at the firm to feel comfortable coming to IT with an idea, a question, or even just something that's been driving them crazy. Those conversations are often where the best improvements start.

G&R: What drew you to Gould & Ratner?

Honestly, it was the people. Throughout the interview process, I really enjoyed the conversations I had and got the sense that this was a place where people genuinely liked working together.

I was also excited about the opportunity to help shape the firm's technology and innovation direction. There's a lot happening in legal technology right now and having the chance to bring some new ideas to the table while working with a great group of people was really appealing.

After spending time on the consulting and vendor side, I was looking forward to being back inside a law firm, where I could build relationships and see the impact of our work firsthand.

G&R: How has your background prepared you for your role at Gould & Ratner?

I've spent more than 25 years working in legal technology, both inside law firms and on the consulting and vendor side. I've worn a lot of different hats over the years, from hands-on technical work to leading IT teams and managing major projects. Having seen things from both sides has given me a pretty good understanding of what works, what doesn't, and what attorneys and staff really need from their technology.

One thing I've learned is that technology doesn't have to be complicated to make a big difference. Sometimes the simplest improvements have the biggest impact. I enjoy figuring out how things work, solving problems, and making people's workdays a little easier.

G&R: What do you like to do outside the office?

My wife and I have three sons, so family keeps us pretty busy. I'm also a drummer in a band called Wally Dogger. We've been playing together almost as long as I've been working in legal technology. One of the things I love most about music is the creative process, watching a simple idea evolve into something really special that can last forever. There's something pretty amazing about creating something from scratch with a group of friends.

I've also gotten into distance running over the past few years, thanks to my two older boys, who run competitively in high school and college, respectively. Now I'm doing my best to keep up with my youngest! I've completed a few half marathons and am hoping to tackle a full marathon in 2027. I'm not sure whether that's a great idea or a terrible one, but I guess I'll find out!

Between family, music, and running, I manage to stay pretty busy outside of work.