Alumni Profile

A Past Full of Future

Law school alumnus finds his calling in the world of intellectual property law
Matthew Seiden '86 could argue that he had been preparing all his life for a career in intellectual property law. But the thought of attending law school occurred to him late in a successful journalism career—a career that he had been preparing all his life for. The timing was right for a career change. Seiden's legal career began at Arnold & Porter, a firm that currently employs more than 650 attorneys in six offices nationwide, plus one in London. During his early years at Arnold & Porter, Seiden continued his travels abroad as he was selected to help start up an office in Tokyo. During this time, he started to handle a wide range of technology development, transfer and licensing agreements and an array of other technology-based transactions involving complex intellectual property rights issues. When he returned to the United States, he continued to focus on this kind of work, and is now a partner in the intellectual property group, based in the firm's D.C. office. He still travels frequently, especially to Japan and other parts of Asia.

"Originally, I thought I would enjoy litigation, but I soon found out that my personality is better suited to making deals rather than litigating," says Seiden. "My deals involve two basic industries: information technology and related e-commerce and Internet law; and biotechnology—generally pharmaceutical and genomic companies," he explains. The scope of his work covers technology development, transfer and commercialization agreements, licensing arrangements and strategic business alliances. His clients are international companies and govern-