



## Edmond real estate lawyer puts heart in deals

EXECUTIVE Q&A WITH CHRIS GRISWOLD

By JAY F. MARKS   Comments [0](#)

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[Chris Griswold](#) has mastered the art of the deal.

He is a real estate attorney in [Edmond](#) who learned to value the law at an early age.



[MAP](#)



### MORE INFO

#### Personally speaking

→**Date of birth:** Nov. 27, 1973

→**Hometown:** Richardson, Texas

→**Residence now:** Edmond

→**Title/position:** Attorney, owner of Chris Griswold PC

→**Family:** Wife, Heather, son Troy, and daughter Mackenzie

→**Education:** Bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas Tech University in 1996, juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1999

→**Civic/church service/involvements:** Executive committee member of United Way Emerging Leaders, volunteer for American Lung Association, member of Leadership Edmond, member of Commercial Real Estate Council of Oklahoma City, member of New Covenant Methodist Church of Edmond

→**Favorite magazines:** Time, Men's Health, Field and Stream

→**Favorite Web sites:** [www.icsc.org](http://www.icsc.org), [www.cnnmoney.com](http://www.cnnmoney.com)

→**Favorite music:** James Taylor, The Eagles, The Cars, George Strait

Griswold learned to appreciate the intricacies of real estate law when he and his wife dabbled in home improvements as do-it-yourselfers.

Now he operates his own firm to help others with complicated real estate transactions.

*Q: What made you choose to go to law school?*

A: As a young boy, I worked alongside my father in his construction business. I learned a lot about the business world during those years — both good and bad.

My dad was a really good, salt of the earth, man-of-his-word type of guy, and he was taken advantage of more than once. I remember those times. It both hurt my feelings and made me angry that people would do others that way. So, I made up my mind to become a lawyer so I could help in some way.

*Q: What drew you to the real estate business?*

A: Right after law school and getting married, my wife, Heather, and I started buying, fixing up and selling little houses down in The Village. I couldn't have done it without the good construction knowledge which I acquired from my father, who was a wood and metal shop high school teacher and, afterwards, a successful general contractor. After having some good luck with that and making a few bucks, I decided to get a job as a real estate attorney. Not long afterwards, [Pier 1 Imports](#) in [Fort Worth](#) called and wanted me to come to work for them as one of their real estate attorneys. Since then, I've just been doing what comes natural — helping people do their deals.

*Q: Why is it important to have an attorney involved in real estate transactions?*

A: There are a lot of moving parts to your average deal, and these grow in number over time. Financing and loan documentation requirements, insurance

provisions and requirements, indemnity provisions, environmental concerns, estate planning implications, etc. It's just a good idea to have someone helping you through the process so you know what's happening and what to avoid.

*Q: What is your favorite part of your job?*

A: It would be getting to drive past one of the projects that I've been involved with and say "hey, I helped build and create that." Being a part of things which will live on past my lifetime makes me feel good and is very fulfilling.

*Q: What are your thoughts on the state of the industry?*

A: Although it's seen its fair share of challenges, it's still growing and evolving. True, things are different than they were prior to September of 2008. Lending requirements have changed, and I know it's harder for brokers, appraisers and lenders to determine comps for comparable properties. However, at least here in [Oklahoma](#), we're blessed with bright, visionary leaders. Projects like MAPS, Project 180 and the sheer hard work of my friends and colleagues will, at the end of the day, carry us towards a brighter future.

*Q: What do you like to do when you're not working?*

A: When I'm not working, I like to spend time with my son [Troy](#) (2 years) and daughter Mackenzie (4 months old). I also like to work out regularly and fish whenever I can.

*Q: What is your best fishing story?*

A: A few months before my father died, he and I set aside some time from our busy schedules and we went fishing together at our favorite hole (a location Griswold declined to disclose). At the time, I didn't know it would be our last time out together. ... We got there early in the morning and fished 'til dusk. I forget how many fish we caught that day, although I remember taking our share. What made it special was that we talked a lot about his life and all our times together. We really had the chance to share our hearts that day. I'm glad I have all that to remember.