

A moment with Mark Kajita

Mark Kajita, current President and Chief Investment Officer, takes a moment to talk about his time thus far as President of Baker Boyer. Mark took on this position starting January of 2014, taking on many of the roles of his predecessor, CEO Megan Clubb. He talks about what he enjoys with his new position, where he sees the bank going in the next 5-10 years, and spending time with his family.

BB: How have the first six months been going?

Kajita: You know, there's been a lot of learning in general. But I have to tell you, the one thing that has been great is working with such exceptional employees, especially the bank's Executive Committee, who take their jobs and careers so seriously. I can always rely on them, and learn as I'm going along.

BB: Are you enjoying it?

Kajita: Oh, I'm having a blast! The best part of this is being on the first floor. While working here at Baker Boyer, I've been on the 3rd floor and the 7th floor, but being on the main floor and getting to see my friends, my family, people I've known all my life come in and out of the bank, it's been great! And now I can interact with them a lot more than in the past.

BB: Any big aspirations for the company?

Kajita: One of the big things that I really want to make sure of is that our clients don't look at Baker Boyer just as "the community bank" but really as part of an extension of their family, their financial family. I want them to know that we can be there to answer any question, from how to work with their small business to how to transition assets to their kids or grandkids.

BB: What direction do you see the bank going in the future?

Kajita: I think we're going to be asked to take on much more of a consultative process with our clients. I think that banking, community



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banking in general, is going to change quite a bit over the next few years. I think you are going to see a lot more consolidation, and for some of those banks it's going to become much more transactional. Baker Boyer has never been that way; it has really been about relationships, working with small businesses and working with families. I think that the thing that's differentiated us for all these years, is the thing that's going to differentiate us for the next 50 years.

BB: Are you confident in the bank and its employees to be able to accomplish this?

Kajita: I am 100% confident in the employees we have, and in the services we can provide. This is the 8th year in a row that we are one of the Top 200 Banks* in the entire nation. That says something. Out of thousands of community banks, to be continually ranked as one of the top 200, that's

really impressive and that's telling me that our thought process is working. We need to just keep on doing what we do best, which is work in our clients best interest, and we're going to be fine.

BB: With your new roles and responsibilities are you still able to spend time with family and on hobbies?

Kajita: My wife told me once early on that I can either golf for four hours or fish for four hours, and I prefer to fish. I go on fishing trips with some buddies of mine and try to do that on the weekends. We were just at my son's jamboree for Boy Scouts. My daughter is going to be in the play for Walla Walla Community College this summer and now she is going to be looking at colleges since she is starting her Junior year in High School. So yeah, there is a lot of active family time.