



Do What You Love

The many joys of a rewarding profession

BY ORELL ANDERSON, MAI

I have yet to be offered a better table at a fancy restaurant because of what I do for a living. Yet, after a quarter century in the business, I can honestly say that I am blessed to be a forensic appraiser.

Real property damage economics may sound like a dull career choice, but in reality, working as an expert witness has some great benefits. Here are just a few:

1. **Enjoyment.** I seriously love appraising. Getting to work with my team and service my clients is what I consider to be fun!
2. **Variety.** No two projects are the same. The variation in property types and detrimental conditions seems endless, and I have not felt stuck in a routine at any point in my career.
3. **Service.** I feel compelled to give back to the community, so I take every opportunity to coach, mentor and teach. Passing it on is a way of life in the appraisal profession.

4. **Scholar-practitioner.** Asking key questions about how changes in real estate and property rights can impact value (or not) has taken me into a world of scholarly research, writing, teaching and lecturing. This profession even led me to pursue post-graduate work. And everything I've learned becomes applicable in the day-to-day problem solving of appraisal work.

5. **Travel.** At any one time, I usually have jobs on both coasts and in between. Still, as much as I like travelling and seeing properties around the country, working with people in my own community always keeps me grounded.

6. **Inverse age discrimination.** The older, greyer and balder I get, the more work I get. People seem to think that the older you are, the more you know. And it just so happens that I keep getting older.

Truthfully, these aren't the reasons why I became an appraiser. That's another

story that involves luck, friendship and fate. But on a daily basis, this is why I keep showing up at my desk enjoying what I do.

As my generation of appraisers begins to retire, I hope a new generation will come to appreciate the many joys and opportunities this profession offers. ✪



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