

For attorney Tony Anderson, advocacy occurs at all hours of the day.

As partner at Thompson Coburn LLP and member of the management committee, Anderson is also co-chair of the firm's diversity committee, which offers the Thomas F. Eagleton Scholarship to first-year law students who represent diverse backgrounds, including those who identify as LGBTQ.

Outside of work, Anderson is a board member and governance chair of Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and Leaders (SMYAL), a nonprofit that offers housing for homeless LGBTQ youth, health education programs and recreational events.

He also avidly supports Team D.C., a nonprofit organization established to educate the LGBTQ community on the benefits of participating in individual and team sports. Anderson, who has completed 30 marathons, 70 half-marathons and countless 10K races, firmly believes in the benefits of athletic engagement.

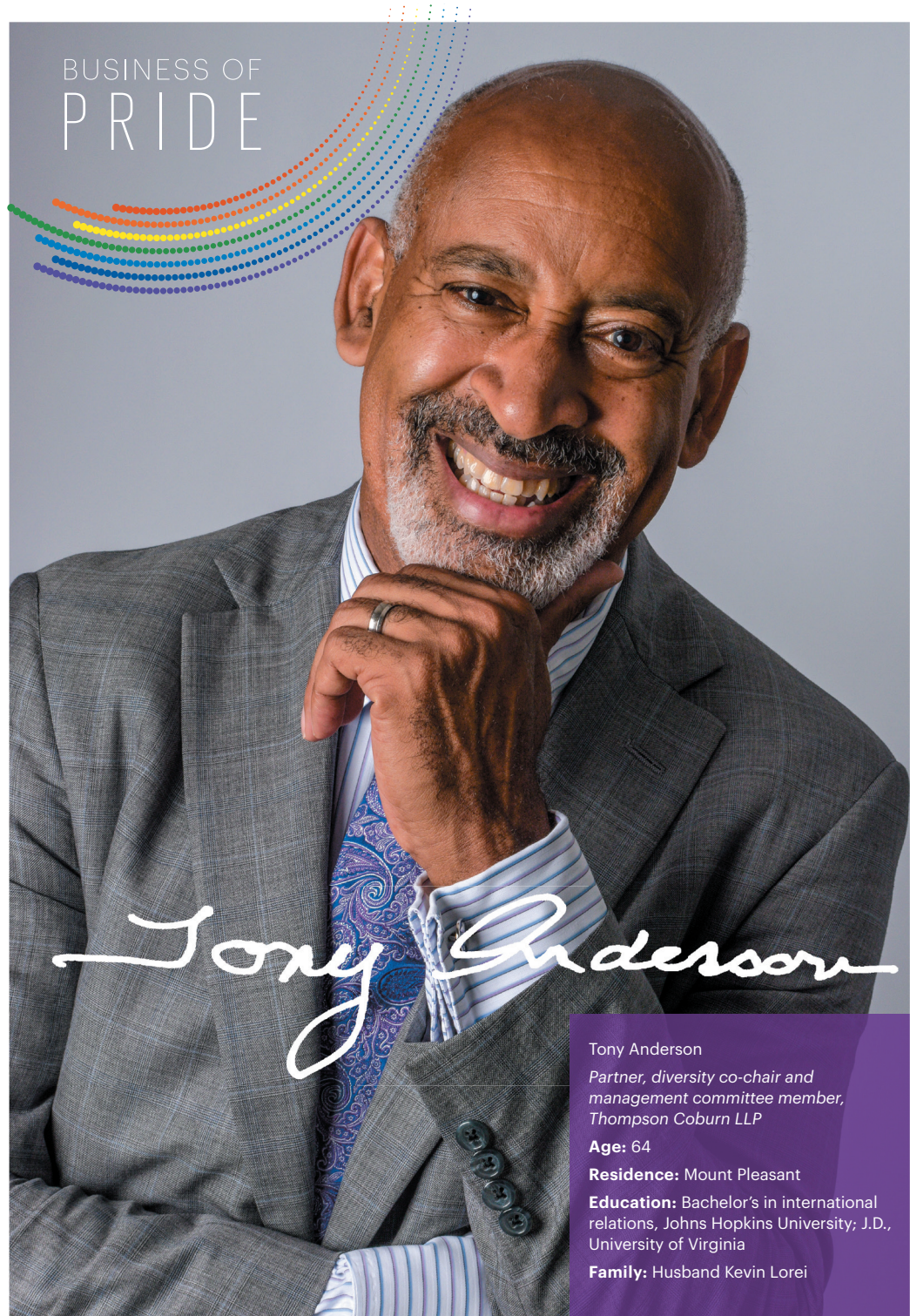
"I can't say enough about what it is to build community through sports," Anderson said. "Frequently, LGBT youth and adults have remained in the closet or stayed away from sports because of either actual homophobia or fear of homophobia. There's something to be said for engaging in a sport, and just being yourself."

As part of that work, Anderson is also a founding member of the Team D.C. Scholarship Committee, which offers financial support to college-bound, LGBTQ-identifying high school seniors who demonstrate academic and athletic excellence.

At his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University, where he now sits on its board of trustees, Anderson was one of its first alumni to participate in the Baltimore Scholars Program, a Hopkins scholarship program for students from Baltimore city public schools.

"[Scholarships] are really encouraging individuals to be themselves," Anderson said. "They say, 'You are important. We are acknowledging you.' Scholarships, in that regard, do a lot more than just provide money. The acknowledgment that somebody is valuable cannot be overstated."

— Abigail Fine



Tony Anderson

Partner, diversity co-chair and management committee member, Thompson Coburn LLP

Age: 64

Residence: Mount Pleasant

Education: Bachelor's in international relations, Johns Hopkins University; J.D., University of Virginia

Family: Husband Kevin Lorei

Q&A | THE GIVER

► **Proudest moment in advocating for LGBTQ rights:** Other than being myself and getting married — and I don't know if that qualifies as advocacy — my proudest moment was standing in front of the White House with my husband the day that the Supreme Court decision came down on marriage equality.

► **Most frustrating moment:** I think I would have to go back to

the Supreme Court's decision in the *Hardwick* case [in 1986], where the Supreme Court basically allowed the state of Georgia to criminalize same-sex relations. I realize that was a while ago, but the impact of the Supreme Court saying, "You are illegal," basically, was fairly difficult to take.

► **How has the environment for LGBTQ workers changed in the past few years?** The environment has been

improving and continues to improve, to the point where — we're not quite there yet — someone's sexual orientation is a nonfactor in terms of one's working ability. We live in an environment where — and I'm saying this as a Washingtonian — we have a supportive structure across the board.

► **Who has most inspired you in your work?** Some of the attorneys at the forefront of equality rights,

especially Paul Smith and Roberta Kaplan.

► **What should be next in the fight for LGBTQ equality in the workplace and beyond?** There are multiple places where we need to take steps, but I'm very concerned with where we as a society are on trans rights. I think we have to continue to make advances for the rights of trans individuals.