

## Riding high: Tiffany's sense of self deeply rooted in Arizona spirit

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The Tiffany in Tiffany & Bosco PA, a nearly 39-year-old legal firm in the Camelback Esplanade at 24th Street and Camelback Road, ropes cattle. And that's just one of his many interests.

He's been known to box, run like hell with a football, make the touchdown and then kick the extra point at St. Mary's High School. (He holds the record with three others who scored five touchdowns in one game.) He once reigned as homecoming king at Arizona State University.

And, he gardens. Just ask and, when the time is right, you'll get a bushel of tomatoes.

"What you see is what you get," says son Mike, a risk management consultant, of his father Michael Tiffany. "He is a great guy."

Michael Sr. says "enjoy what you do, work hard to be good at it and be fair. ... Sometimes, you have to accept defeat and then move forward."

These lessons were handed down to his four children, says son Christopher Tiffany, an associate broker with Cushman & Wakefield of Arizona Inc. The two work in the same building.

"It's refreshing to be able to bop into his office whenever I want to. He's on the third floor and I'm on the 10th, so I've got him there," Christopher says.

Dad didn't give anyone a free ride, his kids say.



Michael Tiffany, managing attorney at Tiffany & Bosco PA, enjoys many pursuits, especially cattle roping. As a St. Mary's High School football player, he is one of four who holds the record for five touchdowns scored in a game.

"My father really made us work for what we have. Although we were considered wealthy growing up, there were no hand-me-outs, so to speak," Christopher says. "Well, maybe my sister (Michelle) got a few for being the only girl."

"This tough love made each one of us successful as it relates to our individual character and drive," he says.

Mike says his father always takes time to listen. "With him you get someone who focuses."

"I never knew he did all this stuff," he marvels. "You learn it from family friends and as you get

older. He never wanted to pressure us." Michelle, the lone daughter, a onetime accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers and now a stay-at-home mom, says she respects her dad.

"When people talk about him, they always say how honest and trustworthy he is. They are two characteristics I try to emulate," she says.

Just as a matter of course, the senior Tiffany says he likes to work on complicated things and make them simpler. He actually enjoys working with documents.

"I roll up my sleeves in real estate. Our job is to make our work product simple for the client."

Tiffany said he particularly is proud of the work he did with the inventor of the big wave machine at Tempe's Big Surf.

It's probably not surprising that relaxing to Tiffany means being active. He's the first to say his family thinks he's crazy to be roping. He turned 68 on Oct. 3. ("My oldest son always tells me that old is 20 years older than I am. I hope that remains true for many more years.")

Tiffany says he read a book by Will James when he was young "and I was captured. I wanted to be a cowboy."

His family lived at Camelback Road and Central Avenue when it was considered out in the country and horses roamed the property. Tiffany says he started roping when he was 11, but by the time he hit his early teens, he realized that if he wanted to be with his friends he needed to play football, baseball and basketball.

"I always missed it. I knew I would get back to it some day. I made the time," Tiffany says of his rediscovery of team roping about eight years ago.

"I find it peaceful, relaxing and enjoyable. I don't think of the office when I'm in the box ready to steer," Tiffany says. "There's a little cowboy in us all."

Tiffany competes at the amateur level, including in the U.S. Team Roping Championships. He practices two to three times a week at Pretty Penny Ranch on Thunderbird Road, east of Hayden Road.

"Arizona has more ropers per capita than any state, including Texas and California," he says.

Tiffany recently bought a horse named Bucky because "he just has a better mind" than the one he was riding. Fellow ropers will understand how important this is.

For all his physical accomplishments, Tiffany is open about one phobia: "I couldn't jump on a horse, I'm afraid of heights.

#### **Profile: Michael Tiffany**

**Title:** Managing attorney

**Company:** Tiffany & Bosco PA

**Spouse:** Patsy

**Children:** Christopher, Michael Jr., Paul and Michelle Georgeoff. Nine grandchildren

**Education:** Graduated in 1961 from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science in business; graduated in 1966 from the University of Arizona with a juris doctorate

What's the most important thing you look for in your job? "I want to be challenged. The same routine every day would bore me."

What keeps you up at night? "If at all, a difficult problem for a client."

What's the best gift you've ever received? "A pony when I was 8 years old. In my adult life, my wife, Patsy, has given me a number of thoughtful gifts. One of them is a restored oilcloth map of land that my grandfather and father owned in Northern California."

How do you contribute to charitable causes? Which ones? "My wife, Patsy, and I both contribute our time and money. Although we are involved in some of the higher-profile charitable

and cultural organizations, we find the most satisfaction in supporting needy individuals and families and promoting education.”

What’s your favorite way to relax? “Team roping. Although it is physically demanding, I have a clear mind and I am relaxed when I finish that activity.”

What is your most treasured memory? “When my pony gave birth to a foal in a corral behind our home.”

Do you think Arizona will be a better or worse place 25 years from now? Explain: “Better. I have lived here my entire life, and it just keeps getting better. Although there will be obstacles, I have confidence in our leadership.”

What do you think makes an effective business leader? “There are so many skills and virtues that make an effective business leader, but the single one that comes to my mind is courage.”

What is the proudest moment in your career? “Being given the highest rating of ethics and competence by my legal peers.”

Who or what has had the most influence on where you are today? “My dad. He died when I was 21, and several of his friends told me at his funeral that he was ‘honest in business and his marriage.’ I never forgot those words.”