

CORPORATE **BIG** OF THE YEAR

Big Brother Patrick & Little Brother Kentrell



I have been an attorney with Hand Arendall Harrison Sale in Mobile since 2008. Soon after joining the firm, Caine O'Rear (an experienced Big and attorney in our firm) made a push for us to form a corporate partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters and challenged everyone in the firm to consider volunteering to be a Big.

To be honest, I had some initial hesitation about signing up. At home, my wife was pregnant with our third child, and I was already volunteering to coach my kids' sports teams and Cub Scouts. On top of that, I was trying to navigate the beginning of my new law practice, as well as serving as a Lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. After some soul searching and seeing the ground swell of excitement from other members of the firm deciding to be Bigs, I decided to jump in – and I have never spent a moment regretting that decision.

Over the first few years I was matched with two kindhearted boys, but due to family relocations, those relationships did not last as long as I had hoped. My next match was a young man who was tragically dealing with the recent death of a sibling and severe burns to an infant sibling from a house fire. He handled the situation as well as I could have ever imagined, and we grew our match from school based to community over the years. Unfortunately, due to COVID the match was not able to continue as desired.

I began my match with 4th grader Kentrell ("Trell") a little over a year ago. Trell loves to draw, read, play Legos, Uno, Jenga, and shoot basketball when I visit with him. We also built a catapult from a kit, and I could see how proud he was to have taken all those tiny wooden pieces and strings, followed detailed assembly instructions, and then launched a ball across the room! Trell has become more open with me over time, and I cherish being able to serve as a sounding board and offer my two cents when he seeks it. I am hopeful that Trell and I will continue our match into the community-based program where I can further support his potential. As Bigs we can bring stability, compassion, mentorship, attention, and happiness to our Little's lives - just by showing up and being there for them. Big Brothers Big Sisters really works!