

# I think, therefore I EXPLORE

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Reggie Van Stockum, Biology MS '75, Ph.D. '79, Environmental lawyer and author

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## Education

J.D.	(Law)	University of Louisville, May 1979
Ph.D.	(Biology)	University of Louisville, May 1979
M.S.	(Biology)	University of Louisville, May 1975
B.S.	(Biology)	Santa Clara University, May 1972

**Research and academic interests**

Environmental law, biology, geography, history of sciences, music and creative writing.

**You chose to become a lawyer, with three degrees in biology. Why this career track and how does your background in biology inform your work as a lawyer?**

I wanted a career that would enable me to stay home in Kentucky. My education was well-suited for a career in environmental law, concentrating on the environment.

**What sparked your interest in biology?**

Nature and landforms attract my interest. The law has allowed me to focus those interests.

**Tell me about a project or story that you consider to be most significant in your career thus far.**

Succeeding in the business of law as a sole proprietor.

**Who or what inspires you?**

The world around us and those who have found peace living within it.

**Did you have any key mentors? Tell me about them.**

My mother and father. I was incredibly fortunate to have them as role models and friends.

**What's the best advice you ever received?**

Always tell the truth and everything else will be ok.

**You've published quite a bit of writing. What inspires you to write and what do you enjoy most, and least, about writing?**

Two novels and six short stories. Writing is an urge to express the meaning of life. This is true for academic and creative writing.

**What book did you most enjoy writing?**

[Markman's Home](#). I cried writing the last chapter.

**What would you say motivates you to do what you do?**

The opportunities that our society and system of government provides if one steps forward to take them.

**Advice for current students?**

Get a job, any job. That is when you begin the university of the market place.