

## Mark Thomton

Account Executive

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**With Taylor Johnson since:** April, 2012.  
Before joining Taylor Johnson, I was a reporter at Midwest Real Estate News and editor of Illinois Real Estate Journal.

**When I was growing up I thought I'd be a:**  
Pilot (Hey, I liked Top Gun).

**Last good book I read:** I'll give you the last two:  
White Jazz by James Ellroy and Sailing the Wine Dark Sea by Thomas Cahill.

**People around the office come to me for:**  
My commercial real estate background.

**The best professional advice I received was:**

"It's good to be skeptical, but don't be cynical."  
Don Kopriva, former Chicago Sun Times and Business Ledger Editor. (Great advice for a reporter).

**Favorite Chicago building:** The Field Museum.

I know...it's not a great representation of Chicago's forward-thinking architecture. For me, this is a sentimental pick. Some of my best childhood memories are running around The Field early on a Saturday morning with my brothers before the crowds rushed in. We loved it. That was always our family's big monthly outing.

**Favorite pastime:** Reading and hiking. My favorite thing to do is gather a group of old friends together, strap on a 40-pound backpack and hike back into a wilderness area for a week. It's been a while since we have done it, but the dream of another trip somewhere down the road is still alive.

**What I like most about TJ:** I'm really never bored. There is always something to do. I like working with our clients and getting them results. Bonus points for the location (my place is only 6 miles away!).

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**The worst job I ever had was:** Pouring concrete in college.

**Most people don't know that:** I was a street busker in Europe in my early 20s. Technically, I was an English teacher in Madrid, but my roommate and I would sometimes go down to the subway with our guitars and play for coffee money.

**My guilty pleasure is:** Video games and fantasy literature. I've managed to quit video games cold turkey (I have an 18-month-old at home and I don't have the time), but I'm not giving up my geeky fantasy literature. Yes, I re-read Lord of the Rings earlier this year... for the fifth time.

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