

## Business Person Profile



**Douglas G. Ashley, Photographer**  
Photography by Ashley  
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**What was your first job?** Working with the local photo studio shooting high school events as I began college. I had a photo darkroom before I entered high school, took photos for the college daily newspaper – The Daily Collegian @ Wayne State University.

**What is your greatest business motivation?** To keep my present clients satisfied and knowing that there are more clients that still want a professional photographer for professional results.

**What was your best business decision?** To attend grad school at Wayne State and continue the development of my photographic career in Michigan rather than continue my post grad studies out of state.

**What is the strangest request you have ever had?** Probably to take photos at a funeral. Out of town family wanted to see photos – as well as getting a family photo with all of those paying respects for the deceased. A close second was the time Sammy Davis wanted to talk about cameras with me when I was supposed to be photographing HIM at a reception.

**How has your business evolved?** I have always photographed events and politics but in the first decade of my photographic career, I spent a lot of time photographing weddings- sometimes as many as 3 a weekend. Midway in my career, The Pontiac Silverdome opened and Janet and I were given the opportunity of spending almost 20 years photographing concerts and sporting events. In the mid 80's, I also began working with CBS – TV photographing politics and sporting events. In the 90's I began – and continue working with ABC and ABC Sports and Disney – doing location still photography including ABC commercials featuring Kid Rock and Hank Williams Jr. I continue to photograph local and national politics as well as “events” throughout the country.

**What is one unique aspect about your business that people may not know?** I had the opportunity of working behind the scenes with Sammy Davis, Frank Sinatra and other great entertainers. Photographing the Pope, rock Concerts, major sporting events including the Lions and the Pistons, Tractor Pulls, monster truck shows, Rodeos, Moto Cross events, and yes, even Wrestlemania.

**Who has been your role model or inspiration?** One of my earliest mentors (1960's) was Tony Spina, former chief photographer at The Detroit Free Press. He took me under his wing while I was photographing my first MAJOR political event – The Republican National Convention in San Francisco. He “showed me the ropes” and I have photographed EVERY Republican National Convention since then. ( I have missed only 3 Democratic National Conventions since 1964.)

**What is the best place you have lived or traveled?** We are rooted here BUT we love to travel – either for photography or for pleasure. Its hard to choose one place – China and Thailand (for their unique character), Eastern Europe (Budapest and Prague) by rail was awesome, B & B's in Ireland by car while photographing castles was an adventure and also Italy, where we did little but spend precious time with long time friends enjoying the character and the people of a small Italian village.

**When not working, I am ....** Spending time at home with my wife (and fellow photographer Janet), spending time with our daughter and grandson in Oregon (or anywhere else they want to get together (my grandson is almost 9 and loves to “do things”).