

As Seen In ... *Forbes*, March 24, 2008

Coughlin Duffy LLP

Impressive Track Record Fuels Growth

It was one of the most complex commercial disputes in the New Jersey federal court system. An Australia-based building materials conglomerate sued more than 50 insurance companies on two continents, alleging a worldwide conspiracy to prevent it from obtaining future coverage. The bedrock of the dispute was over 100,000 personal injury claims arising from exposure to blue asbestos fiber. With up to \$1 billion on the line, the insurance companies turned to the New York and New Jersey law firm of Coughlin Duffy LLP.

"We took the position that the plaintiff could have gotten insurance," explains Kevin Coughlin, a founding partner at Coughlin Duffy. "We persuaded the court that it was a business dispute, not an antitrust violation."

"After dismissal of the antitrust component, the case boiled down to whether this particular policyholder was entitled to insurance for specific claims," adds founding partner Suzanne

Midlige. "Those allegations were successfully resolved through a settlement following dismissal of the antitrust claim."

Coughlin Duffy seeks creative solutions to complex business challenges in diverse arenas such as insurance and reinsurance, pharmaceutical, environmental, and labor and employment. With more than 70 lawyers representing a wide range of disciplines, Coughlin Duffy offers the experience ordinarily associated with much

Practice Areas:

- ◆ Appellate
- ◆ Banking
- ◆ Commercial Litigation
- ◆ Construction Litigation
- ◆ Corporate & Business Transactions
- ◆ Employment Litigation, Counseling & Training
- ◆ Environmental & Toxic Tort
- ◆ Insurance & Reinsurance
- ◆ Pharmaceutical
- ◆ Product Liability
- ◆ Real Estate & Land Use
- ◆ Securities Litigation
- ◆ Taxation, Trusts & Estates

larger firms, but adds the personal touch and expertise one might expect from a smaller boutique practice. Coughlin Duffy is only four years young, but its founding partners offer legal expertise and management skills honed through more than 20 years of representing some of the world's best-known companies, many of whom now rely on Coughlin Duffy to solve some of their most complex legal challenges.



Coughlin Duffy partners (from left):
Leslie A. Lajewski, Kevin T. Coughlin and Timothy I. Duffy

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"We want our clients to feel comfortable calling on any member of the team to address their concerns, either on a case-specific basis or on a general industry problem they're facing."

— Suzanne Midlige, Partner

A leading pharmaceutical company facing billions of dollars in potential damages over phenylpropanolamine (PPA) hydrochloride, an active ingredient once used in over-the-counter cold medications, turned to Coughlin Duffy's seasoned pharmaceutical team for help.

"Through skillful negotiations, Coughlin Duffy successfully settled hundreds of product liability claims in the client's favor," says Tim Duffy, chair of the pharmaceutical group and founding partner.

"Today, we represent the reinsurance industry in a series of financial-institution claims arising from the collapse of Enron, WorldCom and Arthur Andersen," says Coughlin. "We're also handling claims made by investment banks and accounting firms."

Coughlin Duffy's services go beyond litigation. The firm is frequently engaged in regulatory assignments, and counsels clients in matters such as corporate mergers and acquisitions. Additionally, Coughlin Duffy represents high-net-worth individuals for purposes of estate planning and management.

With a list of clients known the world over, Coughlin Duffy is poised for continued growth in 2008 and beyond. The firm plans to increase its stable of lawyers, both through new hires and the possible addition of other practice areas.

"What distinguishes Coughlin Duffy from its competitors is our development of teams of lawyers who become intimately familiar with our clients' needs," Midlige says. "We want our clients to feel comfortable calling on any member of the team to address their concerns, either on a case-specific basis or on a general industry problem they're facing."



COUGHLIN DUFFY LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

For more information, call 973.267.0058
or visit www.coughlinduffy.com.

Morristown Office:

350 Mount Kemble Avenue | P.O. Box 1917 | Morristown, NJ 07962
Tel: 973.267.0058

New York Office:

Wall Street Plaza | 88 Pine Street, 5th floor | New York, NY 10005
Tel: 212.483.0105