



Coughlin Duffy LLP

ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

JONATHAN DONATH



Why did you become a lawyer?

From an early age, my parents always said that I was tailor-made for a career in the law. I have spent most of my life advocating for one position or another and that is something that stuck with me.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Leading the Coughlin Duffy trial team in a high-profile, complex commercial dispute, involving hotly contested and varied issues including subrogation and property damage. The trial was anticipated to last upwards of a month or more and include more than 40 fact and expert witnesses. Serving as the attorney who directed the entirety of the litigation and being the person the other lawyers on our great team looked to for key strategic decisions was particularly fulfilling.

What experience at Coughlin Duffy has been the most rewarding? The most fun?

Beyond multiple professional successes, having had the rare opportunity to grow along with a team of very skilled attorneys over a period of years here at the firm has been remarkably fulfilling and fun. I have become good friends with many of my colleagues here at CD and that only serves to heighten the personal and professional gratification I have experienced.

What is the best advice you ever received? What advice would you give to law students?

The best advice I ever received was to focus on the case/issue at hand and give each such task the time and attention it deserves. It is critical to think about each issue as a component of the larger picture of a particular client's case and not just a finite task to be completed. Each issue is a piece of a larger puzzle. I think it is important for law students to begin thinking in that context as early as possible.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my career is being able to help clients make it through very difficult times. It is hard to put into words how gratifying it is when a client thanks me for helping them make it through disputes and how happy they are to have someone in their corner fighting for them.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I visited the Shiv Niwas Palace in Udaipur, India in 2008, which was featured in a 1983 James Bond film starring Roger Moore.