



Coughlin Duffy LLP



ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

MIKE SPIZZUCO

Why did you become a lawyer?

When I was an adolescent and would stay home sick from school, I was hooked on Judge Judy and was convinced that I should take her job as an adult. When I asked my father how I would go about becoming the next Judge Judy, he told me I needed to be a lawyer first. While my thoughts as a child are comical, it did keep my interest in law alive until I began working for a law firm in high school where my decision to aim for law school became solidified.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

In January 2018, I was successful in a two-day bench trial with no notice or preparation. I was only supposed to “cover” the calendar call for a senior attorney when the calendar call resulted in the trial commencing that day.

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

The most rewarding experience working at Coughlin Duffy has been developing and expanding my practice, while at the same time learning from some of the finest litigators the state has to offer. The collegial environment at Coughlin Duffy has kept the long days at the office fun and rewarding.

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

“After you graduate law school, life is one crushing defeat after another,” was a statement made to me by a former colleague. Said colleague wasn’t thrilled with his choice to practice law and it showed. His advice was pivotal to me in a unique way; while I saw him suffer through practicing law on a daily basis, I felt more comfortable and justified in pursuing this career, as I truly enjoy being an attorney. Since I don’t feel the way he once communicated, I know I made the right decision.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

Assisting clients in complex legal issues and successfully resolving their matter, whether that be through a traditional “win” in a courtroom or by way of favorable alternative resolution.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I am a retired 11-time world champion martial artist.