



Coughlin Duffy LLP

ATTORNEY SPOTLIGHT

REKA BALA



Why did you become a lawyer?

Before I was a lawyer, I was a longtime newspaper reporter, and I had reached a point where it was time for me to move onto something different. With my sister's guidance from her career as a criminal defense attorney, I knew law would be a natural segue as I enjoyed writing, public speaking and being intellectually stimulated by the daily challenge of solving complex "puzzles" using the law.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Having the courage to leave an established career in journalism to go to law school, but I have never regretted that decision. However, while here at Coughlin Duffy, helping to obtain summary judgment for an insurance client on an issue of first impression in New Jersey regarding the applicability of an endorsement in an employer's liability policy.

What experience at Coughlin Duffy has been the most rewarding?

The most fun?

Becoming a point person for clients to call when they have questions or need explanations, and obtaining positive feedback that we did good work.

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

The best advice I can give to law students is to be true to yourselves and stay humble. Know your strengths, but also know your weaknesses and never be afraid to ask for help from senior attorneys when it's available to you.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

Being able to work with competent and intelligent attorneys from varied backgrounds who also embrace the importance of a good quality of life.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself.

I grew up in Manhattan, Kansas, ("The Little Apple"), with immigrant parents in the United States Army.