



April 2018

Attorney Jeffrey Winnick

Some Reflections on a 46-Year Legal Career

This coming June 30 I will end my 46-year legal career, and looking back I cannot think of another career that could have been more fulfilling.

My wife, Margie, and I spend most of our summer weekends in Ogunquit, Maine. I have a Saturday morning ritual of getting up before sunrise (drives Margie crazy), buying the Boston Globe, stopping at Dunkin' Donuts to pick up a morning coffee, and then heading to the beach to read some of the paper before starting down the beach for my morning run. One Saturday in mid-August last year I took out the most important section of the paper (you guessed it...the sports page) to read it first. On this particular day, the obituary page immediately followed the sports page. While I am not accustomed to reading the Boston obituaries, one obituary immediately caught my eye. It was that of a senior partner of a prominent mid-sized trusts and estates Boston firm with whom I had worked extensively in representing a mutual client. The obituary said that when the gentleman was asked what he did for a living he would answer, "I help people." I sat for a moment and asked myself isn't that what I do? Isn't that what we in the legal profession all do? That is our mission when we are sworn into the bar...to represent the interests of our clients to the best of our ability and help them with whatever matter they bring to us.

I have always concentrated my practice in the areas of trusts and estates, business planning, and retirement planning. My career started with a fulfilling nine-year corporate experience, first as in-house trust counsel at Hartford National Bank (now Bank of America) and then as in-house pension counsel at the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company (now MassMutual). Those positions gave me the opportunity to work with many people inside and outside the corporations, not only in Connecticut but

also nationwide. I moved from the corporate world to the world of private practice and experienced working in small, medium, and large firms before receiving a telephone call one day in the spring of 1998 from our senior partner, Sol Kerensky. Sol told me that Kahan, Kerensky & Capossela was looking to expand its trusts and estates practice and invited me to meet with the firm's partners. In all its years since its founding in 1964, the firm had never entertained bringing in a lateral partner. The fact that on May 4 I will celebrate my twentieth year with the firm is evidence that both the firm and I made the right decision hooking up with each other. And, since that first trend-setting hiring of a lateral partner, the firm has brought in other lateral partners, strengthening the firm in the areas of trusts and estates, real estate, and divorce.

What gives me the most comfort as I leave law practice is the fact that my clients (I prefer to call them the firm's clients) with whom I have worked will be serviced by the one of the best team of trusts and estates attorneys in our state. Bill Dakin, Steve Sutton, Kevin McCann, and Allie Poirier together have over one hundred years of experience working with clients in trust, estate and business planning, estate settlement, trust administration, and elder law. Complementing them with business planning and business transactions are the team of Mike Bars, Justin Murphy, Dory Famiglietti, and Meghan Smith. Both the trust and estate team and the business team are supported by a staff of very talented legal assistants.

People are constantly asking me what I plan to do after I retire. Well, at least I have the winter covered with skiing in Colorado (for as long as the old body can hold up). As noted above, Margie and I spend our summer weekends in Ogunquit, and our plan is to spend the summer months there. That will serve the two purposes of escaping the North Carolina heat (I forgot to mention that Margie and I are moving to Southport, North Carolina, this summer) and spending more time with grandchildren (I guess our children and their spouses will have to be included.) Learning to play golf might be on the agenda as the community where we will be living has four 18-hole golf courses. Getting back into volunteer service for charities, taking extension courses, and a lot of reading should, for starters, fill up a lot of time.

I would like to close this little piece (for those of you who have stayed with it this far) by extending my heartfelt thanks to my partners at Kahan, Kerensky & Capossela, our associates, and our staff for twenty great years. You have all made the practice of law a wonderful experience.