

Promotion

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### Small Firm, Big Talent.

An offshore investment company was being sued by a Delaware real estate partnership. At issue was a note valued at \$125 million that the partnership was seeking to void and over \$100 million in punitive damages.

The company turned to the New York law firm of O'Hare Parnagian LLP. "We were able to have the complaint against our client dismissed, and we were successful on all appeals," says Robert A. O'Hare Jr., head of the firm's litigation practice group.

Cases like this are all in a day's work for O'Hare Parnagian. Since its establishment 11 years ago, it has become well known for its ability to handle complex commercial litigation and other high-stakes matters.



The firm's partners from left: Robert O'Hare (litigation), Richard Menchini (litigation), and Chris Parnagian (corporate)

In another recent case, the firm represented a financial services company seeking millions in losses from a subprime loan originator. "This was an especially challenging case," O'Hare says, "because it involved the underwriting of hundreds of mortgage loans in 33 states and obtaining discovery from thousands of third parties."

What O'Hare Parnagian lacks in size — it has nine attorneys — it makes up for in experience, training and talent.

The firm's attorneys all have top-notch academic credentials and large-firm experience. Many were federal law clerks or law review editors.

"Our litigation clients benefit from the combined experience of having several senior attorneys staffing their significant cases, which levels the playing field when we're up against larger firms," O'Hare says. "This approach allows us to constantly focus on the litigation strategy being employed and achieve an outcome desired by the client."

Litigations involving business or financial transactions often get a corporate practitioner as part of the litigation team.

"By having corporate counsel involved early in cases, the litigators are able to more quickly and thoroughly understand

the underlying transactions and the strengths and weaknesses of alternative litigation positions," says Christopher P. Parnagian, head of the firm's business and finance practice group.

Parnagian also is involved in the settlements of all significant business litigations handled by the firm, often negotiating the terms and drafting settlement documents. "The process, in many respects, is the same as negotiating and closing a corporate deal," notes Parnagian. When not assisting in litigations, Parnagian advises clients on private business purchase and sale transactions, private placements and financings, and general corporate matters.

Clients are now the beneficiaries of the experience and skills of litigation partner Richard A. Menchini, who joined the firm in 2008 after serving as a long-time partner at a national, full-service law firm. In addition to his commercial litigation practice, Menchini represents business clients in connection with products liability claims. "Rich's joining the firm added enormously to our litigation

- Business and Commercial
- Subprime Mortgage
- Insurance and Indemnification
- Director and Officer
- Securities
- Real Estate
- Products Liability
- Employment
- Regulatory and Internal Investigations
- Accounting
- Premises and General Liability

capabilities, particularly in the area of case strategy and litigation management," says O'Hare.

"Our clients know they can count on us to provide legal services of the highest quality and at competitive billing rates, with a level of responsiveness, accessibility and flexibility expected from much bigger firms," Menchini observes.

And not only clients have come to count on O'Hare Parnagian; large law firms do too. O'Hare Parnagian regularly receives referrals from other law firms, including the firms at which Menchini, Parnagian and O'Hare previously served.

"Our firm is often recommended when a larger firm is unable to represent a client because of a business or legal conflict," O'Hare explains. "Or we may be asked to be co-counsel on certain key aspects of a litigation." The firm also often serves as New York counsel for out-of-state law firms.

"We consider it the ultimate seal of approval to be seen as a valuable and trusted resource by our former colleagues and by the partners for whom we worked," O'Hare says. "It gives clients confidence in our ability to handle the toughest matters."

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