

# TEN LEADERS

## Civil Trial & Personal Injury Law Northern New Jersey

### Christopher DiGirolamo

#### Maggiano, DiGirolamo & Lizzi

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#### Education

Fordham University, B.A., 1988  
New York Law School, New York, N.Y.,  
J.D., 1991

#### Affiliations

- State of New Jersey
- United States District Court, New Jersey District
- United States Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- United States Supreme Court
- Member, Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- Substitute Municipal Prosecutor, Fairview, NJ
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Association of Trial Lawyers of America
- American Bar Association
- Trial Lawyers Association
- Bergen County Bar Association
- Hudson County Bar Association
- Board of Trustees, Community Resource Council, member, Lawyers Committee
- Member, Ten Leaders - Civil Trial & Personal Injury Law - Northern New Jersey, Inducted 2009

**C**hristopher DiGirolamo, Managing Partner at Maggiano, DiGirolamo & Lizzi in Fort Lee, is emerging as one of New Jersey's new generation of trial lawyers. Peers say he has protected the rights of victims of car accidents, slips and falls, construction accidents and on the job injuries. He has represented the men, women and families that make up the labor force in New Jersey and has helped union workers for over 22 years in various types of litigation. They include construction accidents, product defects, dangerous workplaces, employment disputes and most notably in workers compensation claims. He has achieved a number of multi-million dollar verdicts and recoveries for work place accident victims and their families, including serving as co-counsel in the largest personal injury recovery (\$101 million) in a construction accident in United States history.



His practice is dedicated to the protection of the rights and benefits that every worker is entitled to and has built a strong reputation based on success in the courtroom and achieving the results that his clients deserve. Colleagues and peers say he handles every case with the same tenacity and determination with one goal: protecting the rights of the injured worker. DiGirolamo is the grandson of a coal miner and steel mill immigrant who died of lung disease in the late 1960's, before the industry and those running the mills were forced to be accountable for the dangerous conditions they created and exposed workers to for a generation.

**DiGirolamo has earned numerous awards** and recognition from his peers both in New Jersey and nationally, and he considers this his greatest professional compliment. He has received numerous annual accolades by U.S. News and World reports, Martindale Hubbell (he has been awarded a rating of AV Preeminent, highest available) "Super Lawyers", The American Society of Legal Advocates, The National Trial Lawyers, AVVO, (201) Magazine's Best of Bergen, New Jersey Law Journal, New York Law Journal, New York Magazine and The Wall Street Journal.

He says he uses a simple approach: Always be prepared and always be available for his clients. There are numerous complex issues facing an injured worker and he has learned that having the right answers for a client in need is the best way to safeguard the client's rights. He prides himself in taking cases that are a challenge and gets referred matters by other lawyers that can't see the way to win. His greatest reward is securing compensation for those that are the most desperate and for whom the compensation will provide a second chance. DiGirolamo lives in Bergen County, New Jersey with his wife and two children, where he coaches his son's soccer and baseball teams.

## Observations & Perspectives

From Christopher DiGirolamo

**O**ne of the great things about our firm is that each attorney has their own unique approach, but we all complement each other very well. One of the biggest benefits for the lawyers at MDL is that we are constantly bouncing ideas and theories off each other and utilizing our different perspectives as we prepare each case. This ensures that we provide the most well balanced approach to each case and our clients get the benefit of the experience and knowledge of not just one attorney, but all of the attorneys at MDL. There's a closeness and caring among our staff and attorneys you won't find at most law firms. Michael set the tone for that from the first day I arrived 20 years ago, and all of us have benefited. And, most importantly, our clients benefit from that as well.

Most of the telephone calls I get aren't the friendly-chat kind. Most people call me when they are frustrated, or their situation needs immediate action. I don't take the frustration personally; it's taught me to stay focused on every process leading to a result -- a positive conclusion. That's part of being completely committed to a case, while not being too emotionally involved at the same time. That's a balance only the best lawyers achieve.

**The bulk of my practice** focuses on auto accidents, construction accidents and premises liability. These are the

classic personal-injury cases. I also represent the injured worker who needs medical and disability benefits from his employer. These cases require immediate attention as injured workers are without any income while they recover from their work related disability. But even in cases in which injuries are significant, the process is taking longer and calling for more resources than even five years ago. My caseload has certainly grown over the years, but we are still very selective.

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*Unlike many attorneys we make ourselves accessible and available. That's the secret to our success: We're committed, compassionate and responsive.*

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**People will come in and ask, "What is my case worth?"** We won't engage in that kind of speculation. The constructive time we give people is really central to our work. In our first meeting we will spend two or three hours explaining the law, and explaining how the law relates to their potential case.

Ours is high-pressure work, in a high-pressure profession. Each of us has earned our own identity at MDL, and our success comes from a shared personal commitment to what we do. We are here on weekends, when people have the time to meet with us. Unlike many attorneys we make ourselves accessible and available. That's the secret to our success: We're committed, compassionate and responsive.



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