Here to Help

The multi-location, full-service law firm of **Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli & Tipton** is uniquely positioned to help clients navigate all manners of family law issues. by MADELEINE MACCAR

Ever since former New Jersey governor James Florio and litigation trial attorney Michael J. Perrucci founded the law firm bearing their names in 1996, Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli & Tipton, LLC, has been serving its clients with an impressive array of attorneys whose education, experience and commitment to their communities reflect an equal dedication to delivering top-notch representation.

Growing as a full-service firm with locations in not only New Jersey but also Pennsylvania and New York has similarly expanded the team. In addition to boasting more than 40 attorneys these days, partners now include Louis Cappelli Jr. and Brian Budic, both of whom practice within family law.

"The benefit of having so many lawyers in different offices is that they specialize in different practice areas," Budic says. "Some lawyers specialize in areas dealing with individuals, like the family and divorce practice area, but we also have attorneys that handle business-related issues and complex transactions. We also represent many public entities throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. … It's easy for us to knock on a door or make a phone call to one of our partners, which saves clients money and allows for the client to get clear answers to many complicated issues."

BRIAN BUDIC

LOUIS CAPPELLI JR.

No matter the practice area, though, the firm brings a team approach to all the cases it takes on.

"When you hire an attorney at our firm, you're not just hiring one attorney with lots of experience: You're hiring several who will give your matter some thought," affirms Cappelli, who's also the Cherry Hill office's managing partner. "We consult with each other constantly on our cases to get each other's thoughts and opinions on how we should proceed."

Budic adds that the firm is particularly well-equipped to help those seeking counsel for "any aspect of family law that's in the Superior Court of New Jersey," like divorce proceedings, domestic violence, issues relating to custody or parenting time, prenuptial agreements, Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly DYFS) cases and more.

"As long as it's a family law matter, we have a number of attorneys that can handle it," he says. "For instance, we have an attorney who is a former deputy attorney general, so she's very familiar with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency and representing parents in matters that come before those courts. And then we have attorneys like myself, who've been doing strictly divorce and family work. So there's just a number of different voices with different experiences and backgrounds, which really benefits our clients."

Attorneys working in the family and divorce department exemplify not only the teamwork that Cappelli lauds but also extensive experience. He himself has practiced in that area of law since 1988, having "handled cases that are complex, cases that are simple, and I've probably seen almost every issue that pertains to it," giving him an in-depth perspective that he shares with clients and colleagues alike.

"Every case has its own nuance," he explains. "I think through my years of experience, I have built the skills necessary to handle each issue as it's presented."

Cappelli adds that the firm always attempts to resolve cases in the most cost-effective way. While the majority of family law matters are settled without going to trial, the team painstakingly prepares for each case like it will be among the roughly 1% he estimates that do head in that direction.

"We presume every case is going to trial," he says. "You have to make that presumption at the very beginning and work the file accordingly: You have to prepare every aspect of the case, which means gathering all the necessary evidence and witnesses—including expert witnesses—in order to move forward to trial."

And that attention to detail and determination to go the extra mile for the individuals they represent exemplifies the experience that clients of Florio Perrucci Steinhardt Cappelli & Tipton can expect. Whether it's the assurance of knowing that your legal advisor is in your corner or being able to reach them over the phone, through email or via text when you need them most, both Cappelli and Budic emphasize the importance of recognizing and meeting their clients' needs.

"I think it's really important that clients understand you have empathy for what they're going through," Cappelli says. "At the same time, it's important to temper the expectations of a client in a divorce case. There are no winners: The best we can hope for in divorce cases is that there's a fair and equitable resolution of all the issues involved."

"When you're dealing with the family court world, you have to understand that you're dealing with good people on their worst days," adds Budic. "The most important things in their lives are being disrupted—primarily their children, issues with their spouse, concerns with finances—so it's very important for us to have open communication with our clients and make sure we understand their main concerns. We're not dealing with nameless, faceless corporations: We're dealing with real people who are dealing with real issues that need to be resolved in a timely, effective manner." ■

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