

EXCELLENCE 2020 IN THE LAW

Hall of Fame

JOSEPH M. DIORIO

Principal, Law Office of Joseph M. DiOrio
Syracuse University College of Law



Over the course of his almost 40-year legal career, Joseph M. DiOrio has handled a wide variety of legal matters in commercial finance, bankruptcy, receiverships and creditors' rights, representing financial institutions, bankruptcy and receiver estates, and other interested parties.

DiOrio spent more than 20 years at large law firms before leveraging his entrepreneurial spirit and hanging out his shingle in May 2005. His three-lawyer firm offers greater flexibility in the marketplace and has allowed him to expand into the related areas of business litigation as well as banking and commercial lending.

"As a smaller shop, I am less affected by conflicts, which gives me the opportunity to take in more cases and be more nimble in my approach," he explains.

A standing Chapter 7 trustee for the District of Rhode Island, he was recently selected as a subchapter V pool trustee under the Small Business Reorganization Act. DiOrio is also frequently appointed as a state court receiver, examiner and special master in both Rhode Island and

Massachusetts. In those capacities, he has operated and sold numerous businesses and sold sizeable real estate properties.

DiOrio has been involved in countless complex and risk-laden cases over the years, including acting as the trustee for a longstanding businessman and CPA in the liquidation of his accounting practice and estate (involving the sale of the accounting practice and interactions with three federal receiverships) as well as the successful resolution of the Microfibres matter, in which he served as trustee in a case involving multiple properties (some out of state) as well as ownership interests in foreign countries. DiOrio was able to sell the business and pay a dividend of 73 percent to unsecured creditors.

Other notable bankruptcy matters have included the Narraganset Clothing Co., Tilden Thurber and Almacs Chapter 11 cases, as well as a number of significant health care insolvency proceedings.

"I very much enjoy the whole process," he says, which includes the camaraderie with other members of the bar. "I wear different hats depending on the circumstances, but it is always interesting and

a good deal of fun."

A member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Commercial Law League of America, the Turn-around Management Association and the National Bankruptcy Trustee Association, DiOrio recently was named vice president of the Justinian Law Society of Rhode Island.

He is also a fellow of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation and a life fellow of the American Bar Foundation, as well as a member of the Federal, Massachusetts and Rhode Island bar associations, and a longstanding board member for the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center.

When he's not practicing law, DiOrio says he enjoys playing the guitar and "fooling around" on the piano. **RILW**

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