

Top Washington Lawyers

Corporate Litigation



Steve Colangelo

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You might chalk up Colangelo's career path to Perry Mason.

"I naively assumed that all real lawyers were trial lawyers," the 56-year-old Alexandrian says. "By the time I learned better, I was hooked."

Colangelo, a first generation Italian-American and the youngest of 11 children, arrived at MoFo in 2000 after spending several years at McGuire, Woods, Battle and Boothe, where he headed up the litigation department.

His current case, litigation evolving from the New York attorney general's mutual fund market timing and late trading regulatory investigation, is one of his most important ever. He represents Nations Funds Trust in the matter, which now combines 300 cases in U.S. District Court in Baltimore.

"It is the only time I can ever remember the general counsel of a major client saying: 'Hire as many lawyers as you need,'" he says.

Colangelo — who has two children with his wife, Mollie Danforth, chairwoman of the Alexandria public school board — loves to "putter and tinker" with old mechanical things such as cars and boats.

And he's pretty specific about his ideal weekend activity: "A large group of family and friends gathered at our river house on the Northern Neck; enough of a breeze to wish you were sailing; a slight ache in the lower back from too much water skiing and a sting on the shoulders from too much sun; lots of activities going on at once, from a not-so-genteel game of croquet to a raucous game of hearts; crabs caught that day from the dock, almost anything on the grill, local corn so sweet that butter would be wasted, and homemade peach pie for desert."