



DeCamillis & Mattingly

By Rebecca Larsen

John DeCamillis and Rob Mattingly are well known in Louisville for the success of their litigation practice, one that attracts many referrals from previous clients as well as from other attorneys looking for strong litigators to prosecute personal injury and wrongful death claims. They pride themselves on being a “small firm handling big cases.”

The two attorneys, now operating as DeCamillis & Mattingly, PLLC, have worked together since 1999, and have offices located on the busy downtown corner of Third and Market Streets in Louisville. DeCamillis was in practice for about 10 years before he was joined by Mattingly.

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Photo by Shannon Wells

"We run our law practice out of the buildings we renovate and develop," DeCamillis said about the offices that are only two blocks away from the newly built KFC Yum! Center. "These buildings provide our firm with an excess amount of space, which we rent to 15 other attorneys – attorneys who run their own practices."

to take on the kinds of personal injury and wrongful death cases we handle," Mattingly said. "So we create a co-counsel relationship wherein we take the lead. We litigate cases at our firm's expense and work as co-counsel with the referring attorney. This is a large part of our practice."

"We understand that many attorneys focus their practice on other areas, such as criminal defense, divorce, corporate law, etc.," DeCamillis also noted. "Those attorneys may not feel comfortable taking on the claims we take on."

What clients looking at possible litigation find reassuring about the firm is its extensive trial experience and know-how. DeCamillis & Mattingly work diligently to bring several claims a year to trial. For example, a small sampling of trial verdicts recently won by the firm includes judgments in favor of various clients for \$500,000, \$1.075 million and \$5 million. The firm has also handled various civil matters that have resulted in large settlements resolved with confidentiality agreements.

Both partners are members of both the Million Dollar Advocacy Forum and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocacy Forum (reserved for attorneys who have achieved verdicts or settlements in excess of \$1 million and \$2 million dollars respectively).

Trying these cases, both large and small, can be "challenging and exhilarating at the same time," according to Mattingly.

"The way our firm is structured," Mattingly said, "John handles the vast majority of the civil cases up to the point of determining if there can be a resolution without filing a lawsuit. If a claim cannot be resolved and needs to go to litigation, then the file is brought up to my desk, and I litigate the claim."



“One of the major challenges of litigation consists of extensive preparation prior to trial: interrogatories, requests for production of documents, handling of depositions and expert discovery as well as the preparation of multi-media technology to present our client’s story to the jury,” explains Mattingly.

While their strength and experience in themselves give them

an edge in litigation, DeCamillis & Mattingly also stress that they use technologically innovative trial techniques when they face juries.

“We use the most recent cutting-edge technology and innovation in our trials,” said DeCamillis, “and have access to TechnoEsq and its software and equipment.” This local



Photo by Shannon Wells

legal support firm, TechnoEsq Presentations, can prepare multi-media presentations for the courtroom and does video depositions backing up presentations by the attorneys and lending a strong advantage in arguing cases.

A skilled office staff also provides DeCamillis & Mattingly with the additional assistance needed for handling complex litigation. The firm has a third attorney, Amanda Hartley, who has worked in the practice for four years. Also on staff is Sarah Chervenak, studying for the bar, and three experienced paralegals and a receptionist.

Even with their busy careers as litigators, DeCamillis & Mattingly still find time to offer pro bono legal advice for differing clientele on a variety of topics that range from criminal matters to civil matters.

“In certain situations when our clients are experiencing financial difficulties, we are pleased to offer our services to help them in their time of need,” DeCamillis said. “We have prepared wills, power of attorneys, battled collection agencies and helped to set up corporations for clients needing a little extra help with their current life circumstances.”

In addition to their legal practice, DeCamillis & Mattingly also own a property management company through which they purchase downtown Louisville real estate that they are continuously improving and developing. In fact, they own the three-story brick downtown building where their firm is now located.

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“A couple years ago, we purchased the building directly behind our main office on Third Street,” Mattingly said, “There is a small alleyway that separates the buildings, and we have recently received approval to begin construction on a skywalk connecting the two. Our blueprints include a conference room inside that skywalk. Construction is set to commence soon.”

Their commitment to improving the Louisville business climate stems partly from their strong ties to the state and the community. Both attorneys are graduates of Kentucky universities – DeCamillis from Eastern Kentucky and Mattingly from Western Kentucky. Both earned their law degrees from the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville where DeCamillis has served as an adjunct professor on trial practice.

DeCamillis & Mattingly also considers itself to have a family-based and faith-based atmosphere at its firm. They work hard to balance providing clients with excellent service while still devoting time to family and church. “We’re one big family, and that’s why we enjoy coming into the office.”



At a Glance

Focus of the firm:

DeCamillis & Mattingly is a civil law firm focusing on litigation matters, primarily involving personal injury and wrongful death but also criminal defense – from speeding violations to capital murder cases.

Attorneys:

Owners are John DeCamillis and Robert Mattingly. Also employed by the firm is attorney Amanda Hartley.

Also on staff:

Sarah Chervenak, studying for the bar, and three experienced paralegals and a receptionist.

Personal information:

John DeCamillis has spent more than 20 years in law. He first studied accounting and real estate at Eastern Kentucky University while on a scholarship to play basketball. Previous to that, he had been a high school basketball player at St. Xavier in Louisville. After getting his undergraduate degree, he earned his J.D. from the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. He and his wife, Heather, have four children. He was recently an adjunct professor at the Brandeis School of Law in trial practice. He coaches fifth- and sixth-grade basketball at Holy Spirit Grade School in Louisville and has done so for more than 20 years. He also serves as basketball coordinator at the school.

Robert Mattingly has spent 12 years as an attorney. He received his undergraduate degree at Western Kentucky University and earned his J.D. from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. He and his wife, Lauren, have two children. His family is a member of Northeast Christian Church. As a board member for the Kentucky Justice Association he spends significant time advocating for the rights of Kentucky citizens.



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