

David Bloomberg

Hitting All the Right Notes in Condo Law and Litigation Work

by Dave Argentar

Coming home from a long day as an associate at a large New York City law firm or returning from the frequent travels that his practice required, David J. Bloomberg just wanted to see his wife and small children and relax a bit. But when finding some peace at the end of the day involves playing the saxophone, an apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with neighbors on all sides separated only by thin sheets of drywall is hardly the place to do it.

“Sometimes I would play in the parking garage of my building just to get away and practice,” Bloomberg says. “I was really conscientious about not disturbing my neighbors.”

Bloomberg, 41, is now entering his seventh year as a principal at **Chuhak & Tecson, P.C.** He thinks back to playing for that audience of automobiles and chuckles at the irony of now being the person those



neighbors would call if someone was being noisy, inconsiderate or causing a nuisance.

“It’s funny because a large part of my current practice involves representing condominium and common interest community associations,” he says. “I am required to advise about the proper handling of nuisances, noise complaints and the like, and I think back to my own experiences when I have to intervene now.”

Of course, keeping the peace among neighbors is not all that is involved in representing and counseling condo associations, and Bloomberg’s extensive practice includes products liability and commercial litigation as well as the representation of aviation and automobile industry clients.

Getting to Know You

Talk to Bloomberg’s clients and friends and it’s clear that what drives Bloomberg in his practice and his life are the strong bonds he builds with others and the deep interest he takes in their lives.

Jordan Scher, a close friend and fellow member of an informal group of like-minded buddies that meets for a run and

conversation every Sunday morning, agrees that Bloomberg’s sincere concern for others is undeniable and invaluable.

“David really cares about people,” Scher says. “He’s always willing to take the initiative, get involved and help someone out. It’s no surprise that he builds deep, long-lasting relationships on both a business and personal level.”

Bloomberg says those relationships are at the core of his practice and what led him to pursue a career in the law.

“I like getting to know people. I like understanding what makes them tick,” Bloomberg says. “Over the years, I’ve drawn the most satisfaction from hearing what my clients’ goals are and being able to work with them to achieve those goals. It’s what keeps me going — the year to year relationships, seeing clients and friends grow, and just being a part of that evolution.”

The importance of strong relationships was something Bloomberg learned from his father Steven, also an attorney and principal at Chuhak & Tecson.

“My dad’s personality as a lawyer matches up well with his personality as a father,” he

says. “His best attribute is not his textbook knowledge of the law — though he has that in spades — but using the relationships he’s built with his clients to give them guidance that they will trust on a holistic level for their business or for the problem they’re having.”

Here and Back Again

The fortuitous circumstances that led to both Bloombergs joining Chuhak & Tecson in 2010 came after a journey that took the younger Bloomberg to Atlanta and New York City before he returned to Chicago. Born and raised on the North Shore, Bloomberg attended Emory University in Atlanta in large part because of the strength of their pre-professional programs.

While at Emory, Bloomberg followed his lifelong passion for jazz and playing the saxophone, performing in a jazz ensemble and helping to launch the Emory Jazz Festival, an event still going on to this day.

“I loved being part of the jazz ensemble there,” Bloomberg says. “Helping the band grow, becoming teammates with the other members of the band; I still have relationships with those folks all these years later.”

After graduating from Emory *magna cum laude* in 1998, Bloomberg returned to the Chicago area to attend Northwestern University School of Law. It was there that he discovered an affinity for litigation after taking a trial advocacy class during his second year.

“Going into law school, I didn’t know what kind of lawyer I wanted to be,” Bloomberg recalls. “But I loved finding my voice and the communication of ideas that occurs during the process of preparing and making an argument. At that point, I knew I wanted to be a litigator one way or the other.”

It was at Northwestern that Bloomberg also discovered an affinity for Kim, the woman who would become his wife. Introduced to her through a classmate, Bloomberg says “there was an immediate connection.” They were engaged 11 months later.

“It wasn’t a very difficult decision to make,” Bloomberg says with a grin.

He and Kim — who was earning a master’s degree in education at the time they met and now runs a successful jewelry design business on Chicago’s North Shore — will celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary this year. They live in Glencoe with their children, Jacob, 10, and Madeline, 9.

Jump Into the Fire

After law school, Bloomberg returned to Atlanta where he began his career at King & Spalding LLP, the largest law firm in the South.

“It was an old school, white shoe firm

where you had to wear a suit every day and a lot of the partners wanted to be addressed as ‘Mister,’” Bloomberg says.

“It was actually a great place to start practicing law,” he adds. “A firm like that demands a certain quality of work product from its associates. It reinforced the need to have a strong attention to detail and a relentless work ethic.”

After two years in Atlanta, Bloomberg moved to New York City, where Kim was from, and became an associate at Bryan Cave LLP. It was there that he learned a key lesson in his development as a lawyer. The firm had just taken over a large number of products liability cases and the partners put a pile of about 20 files on Bloomberg’s desk.

“I remember having a sense of panic,” he says. “I thought I was doomed to fail because I wasn’t familiar with what I was doing and was being given a degree of autonomy unfamiliar to a big-firm associate.”

That panic didn’t come through to one of his mentors at Bryan Cave, Jeffrey Morof. He remembers a young associate with confidence and maturity beyond his

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years, even on high-profile cases in which Bloomberg had little experience, including litigation arising out of the 9/11 attacks.

“He was sort of fearless,” Morof recalls. “You could give David any assignment, and he would never say no. He would just jump into a matter and take the initiative. Even if he didn’t have the background for it, you had the utmost confidence that he was going to do a great job.”

In retrospect, Bloomberg says, being thrown into the fire like that was one of his best experiences as a lawyer — one that now informs how he guides associates at Chuhak.

“I think the only way that associates learn to do a good job is to take on a bit more than they can chew and to have that safety net taken away a bit so they have to think on their feet, make judgment calls, and provide service to a partner like a partner provides service to a client,” Bloomberg says.

Homecoming

During his eight years in New York, Bloomberg built a successful practice with

a large stable of clients. His development as an attorney included the recognition that to truly be successful in the practice of law and serve your clients to the best of your abilities, you need to practice in the way that best suits you.

“During those early years of practice, as you start building relationships with clients, that’s when you really learn to reconcile who you are as a person with who you are as a lawyer,” Bloomberg says. “But as years pass, you realize that you can be most effective as a lawyer when you find what works for you in terms of a style of dealing with clients, a style that works while in court, a style of writing and the like.”

Returning to Chicago in 2010, Bloomberg’s desire to practice his own way led him to Chuhak & Tecson, where Bloomberg says he has found a firm that allows him to do exactly that.

“Chuhak has been a perfect fit for my growth as an attorney in a lot of ways,” he says. “The firm encourages you to build a practice that’s the most effective for you from a business perspective and a client relations standpoint. I have the freedom to work with different clients in different ways that are best for them, and this, in turn, leads to better client relationships and results.”

At the same time Bloomberg was looking to return to Chicago, his father Steven was also looking to make a change and was exploring moving his robust condominium association practice to another firm. Enter Chuhak, which offered both Bloombergs the opportunity to join the firm. It also offered Bloomberg the opportunity to practice with his father for the first time in his career, something that was of little interest to him years earlier.

“If I had started working with my dad straight out of school, I don’t think I would have enjoyed it; I wanted to build my career on my own,” Bloomberg says. “But after almost a decade of practicing — knowing who I was, having my own set of skills, clients, experiences — it has been a lot of fun.”

Part of that fun is building a thriving practice representing condominium associations with the complementary skill sets that father and son bring to the table — David with a strong litigation background and Steven with a more transactional focus.

“My dad is first and foremost a great resource,” he says. “I treasure the ability to work with him and collaborate with him on a daily basis.”

Steven Bloomberg shares similar

sentiments about working with his son along with admiration for his success in growing the practice.

“David has quickly garnered the confidence of clients that I have worked with over the years and, most importantly, through good work has brought new clients into the practice areas that we share,” the elder Bloomberg says. “He has also broadened the condominium practice by using the expertise he acquired working with other fine lawyers in law firms in Atlanta and New York. These skills and the tremendous lawyers here at Chuhak & Tecson have allowed him to be a trailblazer, especially in handling condo deconversions.”

In recent years, Bloomberg has participated in successful appeals in the Supreme Court of Illinois as well as the New York Court of Appeals (the highest court in New York). He has extensive experience handling a broad spectrum of product liability claims on behalf of aviation and automotive industry clients, as well as manufacturers of commercial and consumer products. Featured as a speaker on topics related to condominium litigation, multi-party settlements, and effective depositions, among other topics, Bloomberg is also active in the management of his firm, having served on Chuhak & Tecson’s management, marketing, recruitment, finance and litigation committees

Bloomberg continues to manifest his love for jazz through occasionally jamming for friends and his work on the board of the Jazz Institute of Chicago, increasing awareness of and appreciation for the music that moves him so much.

“Jazz is just so fundamentally creative,” he explains. “You could play a song a million times and every time it could be different. You’re creating music on the spot, and the sheer amount of commitment, discipline, and preparation it takes such that you can sit up there and work with others to spontaneously create something so beautiful and so melodic — it hits me every time.”

Creativity. Commitment. Discipline. Preparation. Building strong relationships that lead to intuitive collaboration with others. The talent to think on your feet, turn on a dime, and improvise to produce powerful results. These are the elements of great jazz. They also happen to be the essential qualities of an effective lawyer. ■