

THE DAILY RECORD

LAW, REAL ESTATE, FINANCE AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE SINCE 1908

UP & COMING ATTORNEYS

Anthony Adiutori — Making The American Dream A Reality For Many

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DAILY RECORD REPORTER

For most people, buying a home will likely be the biggest purchase they will make in their lives. From searching for that perfect house to the bidding process to signing hundreds of pages of paperwork, the process can be overwhelming and stressful.

Thank goodness for real estate attorneys like 35-year-old Anthony Adiutori of Underberg & Kessler, LLP. While he has only been practicing law for nine years, he has already established a solid reputation as one of the premier real estate attorneys within the Rochester legal community.

In addition to helping hundreds of families fulfill the American dream of owning their own home, he has also developed a successful commercial practice. To add to all that, he volunteers his time and legal skills to assisting with the revitalization of a Rochester city neighborhood.

The Beginning

Adiutori's first "home" was in the small Buffalo town of Kenmore.

"I came from a working class family," he shared. "My parents worked hard and expected the same from my two younger sisters and me. Doing well in school and having good jobs were important to them. They sacrificed a lot to provide us with great educations. Most of all, they were very supportive and I owe them a lot."

While Adiutori initially considered a career in politics or business, that all changed when he worked in the Erie County Executive's Office one summer.

"I got to meet and work with many attorneys at the Erie County Executive's Office," he recalled. "I saw all the things they did and the people they helped and it made me

want to do the same."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, this small town "boy" moved to one of the biggest cities in the world — New York City.

In addition to celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square for each of the five years that he lived there, Adiutori worked as a paralegal at a Manhattan law firm. The practical experience he got at the firm solidified his decision to become a lawyer. He went to Brooklyn Law School where he earned his juris doctor in 1995.

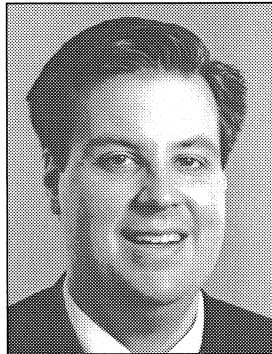
Real Estate Practice

With his law degree in hand, Adiutori returned to Buffalo and obtained an associate's position at the family-owned firm of Marvin R. Baum, PC. It was there that he began his practice in real estate where he performed approximately 200 foreclosures a month.

Building on this experience, Adiutori moved to Rochester in 1997 to work at Saperston & Day, PC. He managed the firm's Foreclosure Department, which included hiring and supervising the paralegals and other support staff.

In 2000, Adiutori joined Underberg & Kessler, where he was able to expand his practice to include both residential and commercial real estate. From the small family home to the multi-million dollar apartment complexes, commercial malls and restaurants, Adiutori handles a wide array of real estate transactions.

"What I love most about my work is the client contact," he stated. "It's so satisfying to help a



ANTHONY ADIUTORI

family through the process of buying a home, especially when it is their first. It's also personally satisfying to be part of the success of a business. Unlike other areas of the law, real estate for the most part involves bringing people together."

Thoughts For Rookies

What words of advice does Adiutori

have for attorneys fresh out of law school?

"It's important that they don't think the law is as glamorous as some television shows portray it," he shared. "Behind the scenes, of every case, there are a lot of long hours of work involved. Some of the work might seem overly detailed and tedious but the work is important. And in the end, it's that work that makes it all rewarding."

Outside The Office

Adiutori's real estate practice extends outside the office doors.

In addition to being a member of the Monroe County Bar Association's Real Estate Section, he has presented workshops and programs for the Women's Council of Realtors and the New York State Bar Association.

The South Wedge Neighborhood group is particularly important to Adiutori. Located near the Genesee River in the City of Rochester, the group is a non-profit organization focused on revitalizing its neighborhood.

Through various city and state grants, the group has improved many of the neighborhood homes and has added restaurants and shops to the area. As a board member and advisor, Adiutori recently handled the acquisition of the orga-

nization's new Mt. Hope headquarters.

"The neighborhood has gone through an amazing and unbelievable transformation," he said. "There's still a lot more work to be done though. Like many other city neighborhoods, the South Wedge has so much potential."

In addition to all this, Adiutori finds time to provide *pro bono* services for the Volunteer Legal Services Project. His efforts are particularly noteworthy since he works on cases that have nothing to do with real estate. Specifically, he has helped people obtain Medicaid disability benefits.

"Even though there weren't cases that I could do in the real estate area, I still wanted to volunteer," he said. "No matter what you do for a living, I think it is important to give back to the community."

Personal Side

So what does Adiutori do for fun when he is not working or volunteering?

From catching and throwing a football to putting a golf ball for par to making a slam dunk on the basketball court, Adiutori is a self-proclaimed sports "fanatic."

As a result of growing up in Buffalo, he is naturally a Sabres and Bills fan. In fact, he was at Super Bowl XXV, where he watched the Buffalo Bills tragically lose to the New York Giants as the Bills' kicker missed a heart-wrenching field goal that he, as well as the rest of Western New York, will never forget.

"It's still too painful to think about," he joked.

Home Sweet Home

When he is not helping other people purchase their own homes, Adiutori is at his own "home sweet home" with his wife, Cheryl.

They live in Brighton and have a 2-year-old daughter named Lucy.