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People of the year, top attorneys, and more

Led by Vincent Carosella Jr., the legal team of **Carosella & Associates P.C.** offers informed solutions to the concerns that keep business owners awake at night. page 70

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The Carosella & Associates legal team includes (clockwise from top left) Michael J. Reed, Gary E. Thompson, Christopher J. Amentas, Thi Thu Hang Tran, Vincent Carosella Jr., Katarina Tkacova, and Diana M. Chryst.

by BILL DONAHUE | PHOTOS BY JEFF ANDERSON

LED BY **VINCENT CAROSELLA JR.**, THE LEGAL TEAM OF **CAROSELLA & ASSOCIATES P.C.** OFFERS INFORMED SOLUTIONS TO THE CONCERNS THAT KEEP BUSINESS OWNERS AWAKE AT NIGHT.

Dur Business Is Their Business

> As the owner and founder of the West Chester-based law firm Carosella & Associates P.C., Vincent Carosella Jr. created his dream job. Technically, he is an attorney focused on business and corporate law, but he sees himself as something much simpler: a business owner devoted to helping other businesspeople solve the problems that keep

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> -VINCENT CAROSELLA JR., CAROSELLA & ASSOCIATES P.C.



them awake at night.

"I've seen just about everything a business owner can see," says Carosella, who founded his firm more than 25 years ago. "People often come into our office wrestling with situations that have them frustrated and on edge, and I'm able to see their problems from a different perspective. My job is to give them solutions and peace of mind."

Even as a young man, Carosella found himself drawn to the business world and, like every hungry entrepreneur, he also had the determination to go out and claim what he wanted. Shortly after earning his undergraduate degree from Temple University, Carosella purchased a solidwaste company in Philadelphia, which he built into something bigger and better. Early on, he not only ran the business at its highest level, but also did every other job that needed doing—dispatcher, driver, mechanic, etc. He learned by getting his hands dirty, but he also sought advice from people he knew he could trust.

"I was 26 at the time, and I learned however I could," he recalls. "I appreciated the advice I was given, and some of that guidance was instrumental in helping me to grow the business and make it more profitable. I wound up selling that business for a significantly higher multiple compared to when I bought it."

Carosella also ran a plumbing, heating, and air conditioning enterprise he purchased to "keep me occupied" while going through law school. Some of the most important lessons learned along the way came from a business attorney who became an invaluable mentor. Now he's happy to do the same for his clients.

"I like it when an individual comes in here with an urge to grow their business but they don't know how," he says. "I know how to do it, because I've lived it. The commodity may differ from one business to another, but the principles of every business are almost always the same."

Carosella and his team of attorneys some of whom previously ran firms of their own—help clients address business matters ranging from mergers, acquisitions, and business succession, to estate planning and estate administration, from zoning and construction to license transfers, and from immigration to intellectual property law. In addition to business law, Carosella & Associates helps clients resolve legal matters pertaining to bankruptcy, criminal law, family law, zoning, immigration, and intellectual property, as well as commercial and general litigation matters.

Carosella & Associates' legal team, which is licensed to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, includes attorneys Christopher J. Amentas, Gary E. Thompson, and Michael J. Reed, as well as paralegals Katarina Tkacova, Diana M. Chryst, and Thi Thu Hang Tran. Carosella says his team is committed to providing professional legal services, advice, and counseling of the highest standard. Each attorney works hard to accommodate clients' hectic schedules, through late-evening office consultations, Saturday-morning conference calls, and Zoom meetings.

Carosella sees his firm as offering largefirm experience at a small-firm price; he would know because he started his career with a large Philadelphia firm. Since Carosella & Associates' founding more than 25 years ago, Carosella and his fellow attorneys have served

the needs of nearly 6,000 clients. And it's not only clients who seek out Carosella's expertise; not long ago, the Chester County Commissioners elected him to serve a five-year term on the board of directors for the Chester County Solid Waste Authority.

"My past experience with a big firm was very helpful, but I think my greatest assets are my background in business and the unique skill sets of our associate attorneys and paralegals," he says. "Whenever a business owner comes into this office, whatever business they may be in, I can put myself in their position, because I've been in their position before."

His best advice to any business owner: If you're unsure about the ramifications of a particular business decision, consult an attorney like him before proceeding.

"It's much less expensive to ask an attorney for advice than it is to hire one after you've gotten into trouble and now you need someone to fix it," he says. "You're talking about a few dollars for some solid advice versus spending a lot more time, energy, and money to have someone clean up a mess."

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