

Patrick C. Dunican, Jr., 38

Managing director
 Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger
 & Vecchione
Newark

PATRICK C. DUNICAN, JR. earned his wings at Gibbons when he was tapped to lead the firm's fledgling New York office in the late 1990s.

The startup required someone who was both resourceful and entrepreneurial; Dunican was up to the challenge. Within five years, the office had grown to 40 lawyers and Dunican was ready to tackle an even bigger challenge.

In 2003, Dunican became managing director of the firm, which has more than 185 lawyers and 380 employees overall. He was the youngest managing partner among New Jersey's top 10 law firms.

In his first year as leader, the Seton Hall University Law School graduate led the firm toward a more corporate management style, established a mentoring program and outlined strategic goals for the next five years. He hopes to continue the firm's growth both in New Jersey and beyond, increase its diversity and give back to the community.

His own volunteer efforts on behalf of his alma mater, Seton Hall, earned him a Young Alumnus of the Year Award. He has served on the law school's Alumni Council and the Seton Hall Red Mass Committee. Last fall he was named to the law school's board of visitors.



"Being the managing director of a law firm is very much like being the conductor in an orchestra. First and most important is that the maestro is only as good as the musicians in the orchestra."