



GIBBONS LEGACY

Gibbons has a long and rich history, dating back to its founding in 1926.

1926 through 1940s: The Early Years

The firm was founded by Andrew Crummy, who was born in 1895 and grew up in Newark, New Jersey. After serving as a radio operator in the United States Navy during World War I, he worked while also attending New York University as an undergraduate, majoring in accounting. After graduating, he became a C.P.A. and began working as an Internal Revenue Service agent.

Soon after, he attended Harvard Law School and, upon graduation, returned to his roots in New Jersey to practice law. In 1926, he joined with Adam Rossbach and co-founded Rossbach & Crummy in Newark. When Rossbach passed away in the mid-1930s, Andrew Crummy practiced alone in the areas of taxation, corporate governance, and corporate reorganizations and later gained considerable attention as counsel for a legislative committee that investigated improprieties in the savings and loan industry.

During World War II, Andrew Crummy worked on legal matters for the Manhattan Project, where he met Colonel William Consodine, who was serving as the project's general counsel. When Consodine left the military in late 1945, the two became partners, and Crummy & Consodine was formed.

1950: John Gibbons Joins the Firm

In 1950, [John J. Gibbons](#) joined the firm as an attorney after earning his J.D. from Harvard Law School. After several years with the firm, he was named a partner, and the firm's name changed to Crummy, Consodine & Gibbons.

1960-1980: Growing and Making an Impact

The firm grew in the coming years with the addition of attorneys who would help define the future of the firm. In 1960, John (Chuck) Dolan joined the firm, following his separation from the Marine Corps and the completion of his LL.B. from Fordham University. The following year, Ralph Del Deo joined the firm, having earned his LL.B. from the Rutgers University School of Law and having been an active trial attorney in private practice.

In 1965, Michael Griffinger and [Frank Vecchione](#) joined the firm as associates. Michael Griffinger had earned his J.D. from the Columbia University School of Law and his M.B.A. from the Columbia School of Business. Frank Vecchione had earned his J.D. from the Seton Hall University School of Law.

In 1967, John Gibbons became President of the New Jersey State Bar Association and a member of the Governor's Commission on Civil Disorders. This period was a difficult time for the city of Newark. In the summer of 1967, an incident sparked a civil disturbance that led to six days of riots, looting, violence, and destruction. The Newark Riots ultimately left 23 people dead, 725 people injured, and close to 1,500 arrested. The firm's attorneys answered a call for help and delivered cars full of lawyers to the courthouses to assist in processing bail applications for the arrested individuals to clear overcrowded jails. The firm's attorneys subsequently represented many of those arrested pro bono.

In the years that followed, John Gibbons left the firm to become a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, and the firm became known as Crummy, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione. Andrew Crummy passed away in 1981, leaving a strong legacy in a firm that continued to grow and provide quality legal services to a variety of clients.

1990: Welcoming Back and Honoring Our Standard-Bearer

John Gibbons rejoined the firm in 1990, after concluding 20 years of service on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, where he served as the Chief Judge and authored more than 800 published opinions. Soon afterwards, the firm changed its name to Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger &

Vecchione, in tribute to his contribution to the legal field and the firm.

Part of the reason for John Gibbons' return was the creation of the John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest & Constitutional Law, which formalized the firm's ongoing commitment to pro bono causes. Today, the Fellowship is guided by Lawrence Lustberg (the first Fellow in this program), who directs two full-time attorneys devoted solely to pro bono issues. The Gibbons Fellows, together with the firm, undertake public interest and constitutional law projects and litigation, and the Fellowship has been and remains involved in the most significant and controversial issues that confront the federal and state courts.

1997: Founding the Women's Initiative

Gibbons created a unique networking, mentoring, and business development tool from the ground up – the Gibbons Women's Initiative (GWI). GWI is an important platform for new and seasoned women attorneys within the firm to participate side-by-side with colleagues from other practice areas and offices of the firm, clients and high-level representatives from business and academia in creating quality educational and social programs. The collaboration improves knowledge, fosters teamwork, and promotes the role of women in business. Today, the Initiative has grown into a highly respected organization with more than 60 women within the firm actively working on its programs, and more than 2,000 invited women participants in total.

1997-2006: Branching Out and Passing the Baton

The firm opened its New York office in 1997, providing clients with a full range of legal services in a second location in the region. In the following years, the office grew to more than 40 lawyers through the acquisition of experienced New York attorneys. In 2002, the firm relocated its New York office to One Pennsylvania Plaza to accommodate its growth and future expansion.

Also that year, the firm opened its Trenton office and introduced its Government & Regulatory Affairs Department. Responding to the needs of the firm's clients, the firm's lawyer-lobbyists provide substantial legal, policy, and government affairs assistance for clients in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

By the start of 2004, the firm had moved to a corporate management model and had passed the torch of leadership to the next generation. Patrick C. Dunican Jr. began as Managing Director of the firm at the age of 37, leading the firm's 159 lawyers who were then based in three Gibbons offices. Then, in May 2005, the firm opened its Philadelphia office and, in January 2006, expanded this office with the addition of 25 attorneys from Hecker Brown Sherry and Johnson, a prominent Philadelphia civil litigation boutique founded by Andrew Hecker in 1979. This expansion into Philadelphia brought the number of firm offices to four and enhanced the firm's ability to serve clients from offices throughout the region.

2007: A Pivotal Year in Gibbons History

The firm achieved several significant milestones in 2007. Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione shortened its name to Gibbons P.C. and launched a new logo to coincide with the firm's move of its headquarters to One Gateway Center in Newark. The firm also changed the skyline of Newark with the addition of its logo atop its new headquarters building.

That year, for the first time in its 81-year history, Gibbons joined the Am Law 200, a prestigious list of the nation's leading law firms that is published annually by *The American Lawyer*. The Am Law 200 is based on gross revenues and other data, which is provided by law firms throughout the nation and then investigated by reporters at American Lawyer Media's publications throughout the United States.

As evidence of the growth noted by Am Law, Gibbons opened yet another regional office, in Wilmington, Delaware, expanding its Mid-Atlantic presence. The Wilmington office focuses on business and commercial litigation, products liability, and bankruptcy and restructuring matters, and will eventually expand to become a full-service office.

While expanding its presence, the firm was also raising its profile. Gibbons endowed \$1 million to the Seton Hall University School of Law in 2007 to establish the Gibbons Institute of Law, Science & Technology. This gift, which is among the largest donations to a law school by a New Jersey law firm, provides funding to assist the law school in educating and training the next generation of attorneys in the technology and scientific communities. David E. De Lorenzi, Chair of the Gibbons Intellectual Property Department, serves as Chair of the Gibbons Institute.

Meanwhile, that year, Gibbons was recognized by that national magazine *Working Mother*, which named Gibbons among the “Best Law Firms for Women” in its inaugural survey administered with the Flex-Time Lawyers consulting firm. This list included only 50 firms nationwide considered to be leaders in advancing women in the law. To support the firm’s efforts to remain an inclusive workplace, Gibbons appointed its first Chief Diversity Officer and further expanded its Diversity Initiative in 2007. The firm’s commitment to diversity had already earned it ranking among the leading law firms nationwide by such publications as the *Minority Law Journal* and *MultiCultural Law*, and has since brought recognition from *Profiles in Diversity Journal*, Vault’s annual “Best Law Firms for Diversity” survey, and the Great Place to Work® organization.

2008-2010: Defining Our Vision

After the pivotal year of 2007, Gibbons was ideally positioned to define its vision, not only as a strategically growing business, but also as an exemplary employer and corporate citizen. The firm stands out among competitors by staying true to a middle-market vision. Our business model is focused on offering high quality, cost-effective legal services, handling major matters for mid-market companies (with annual revenues of \$100 million to \$2.5 billion) and mid-market matters for Fortune 500 companies, notably in the Mid-Atlantic region. This focus earned Gibbons a place on *The National Law Journal’s* inaugural “Midsize Hot List,” which recognized 20 law firms nationwide with fewer than 300 lawyers that position themselves in fresh, innovative ways. It also resulted in Patrick C. Dunican Jr., Chairman and Managing Director of Gibbons, being highlighted by *Law360* as one of the nation’s most innovative law firm managing partners.

In 2008, in recognition of its commitment to “Doing Good While Doing Well,” Gibbons was named Corporate Citizen of the Year by *NJBIZ*. Gibbons was honored for such programs as Gibbons Cares, its community outreach efforts through which the firm donates more than \$1 million annually; the John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law, which delivers significant pro bono legal services tackling major public interest issues; and the Gibbons Experience, the firm’s generous benefits program. In addition, Gibbons was the only New Jersey-based company to make the 2008 list of the top “25 Best Medium-Size Companies to Work for in America,” which is compiled by the Society for Human Resources Management and the Great Place to Work Institute, the same organization that produces the *FORTUNE* “100 Best Companies to Work For” list. The firm has since also earned regional honors in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania for being among the “Best Places to Work.”

Similarly, in recognition of the firm’s outstanding Women’s Initiative, Gibbons became only the third law firm ever to receive the international Catalyst Award, the preeminent corporate honor for the advancement of women in the workplace. Gibbons also ranked among the top law firms for associate satisfaction in 2009. Gibbons earned placement as the highest ranked New Jersey-headquartered firm on *The American Lawyer’s* survey of midlevel associate satisfaction and technology at law firms nationwide, and the firm continues its strong showing in this annual survey.

Throughout this time period, Gibbons remained equally focused on constantly improving its service and strategically expanding its legal practice. For example, in 2009, Gibbons earned the #1 position on the *New Jersey Law Journal’s* annual rankings of the state’s top lawyer-lobbying firms, just six years after launching its lobbying practice. Gibbons increased its lobbying revenues dramatically in 2008, and the Government & Regulatory Affairs practice also relocated to offices in the heart of the state capital in Trenton. Gibbons has remained the state’s top lawyer-lobbying firm for ten straight years.



2011-2013: Celebrating Our Legacy and Our Newark Roots

Gibbons proudly launched a special logo celebrating “85 Years of Excellence,” which was used on all of the firm’s print and electronic communications throughout 2011 to mark the firm’s 85th anniversary. This logo commemorated the legacy of excellence that made it possible for Gibbons to transform into a 21st century law firm.

While looking to the future, we never stopped celebrating our roots. In 2013, reflecting the firm’s pride in its Irish heritage and culture, as well as its longtime embrace of St. Patrick’s Day as an unofficial firm holiday, Patrick Dunican served as the Grand Marshal of the 78th annual Newark St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Mr. Dunican led a full-day celebration, beginning with an Investiture Mass at St. Patrick’s Pro-Cathedral, followed by an Irish brunch at Gibbons. After brunch, the Grandstand Ceremony began with the American and Irish national anthems and dedications to the Grand Marshal and Deputy Grand Marshal. The parade stepped off from the Prudential Center and ended at Washington Park. Marching along with Mr. Dunican was a strong Gibbons contingent and an impressive group of business and civic leaders from Newark and throughout the state. The day concluded with a celebration at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, where guests were treated to an Irish buffet and entertainment by Celtic Cross.

Historically, the Newark St. Patrick’s Day Parade raises money for area charities, but this year’s event raised the most in its 78-year history, donating to 15 estimable organizations based in and around Newark.

2014 to Today: Closing in on 100 Years

Today, Gibbons continues to adapt and grow and become ever more equipped to guide clients through challenges and opportunities as it looks to its second century. In 2015, Gibbons moved its Philadelphia and Wilmington offices to state-of-the-art spaces and, in 2018, opened new offices in Washington, DC and West Palm Beach, Florida, extending south the firm’s ability to serve existing clients and introducing its distinct brand of services to businesses, organizations, and individuals based in the nation’s capital and Florida’s main population corridor.

All the while, Gibbons continues to receive accolades for its practice. The *New Jersey Law Journal* has awarded Gibbons a “Litigation Practice of the Year” designation four times in recent years, in the class action, products liability, and commercial litigation categories and with the overall “General Litigation Practice of the Year” honor. *Law360* has also highlighted the firm’s multidisciplinary litigation strength, and its contributions to several high-profile corporate and real estate transactions in the public and private sectors, in its “Regional Powerhouse” series – every year the series has run. Gibbons was selected as the best law firm and best lobbying firm in New Jersey in the inaugural *NJBIZ* Reader Rankings. The firm has been certified as a great workplace by the independent analysts at the Great Place to Work® organization and has been named by *NJBIZ* as one of the “Best Places to Work in New Jersey” for 13 consecutive years.