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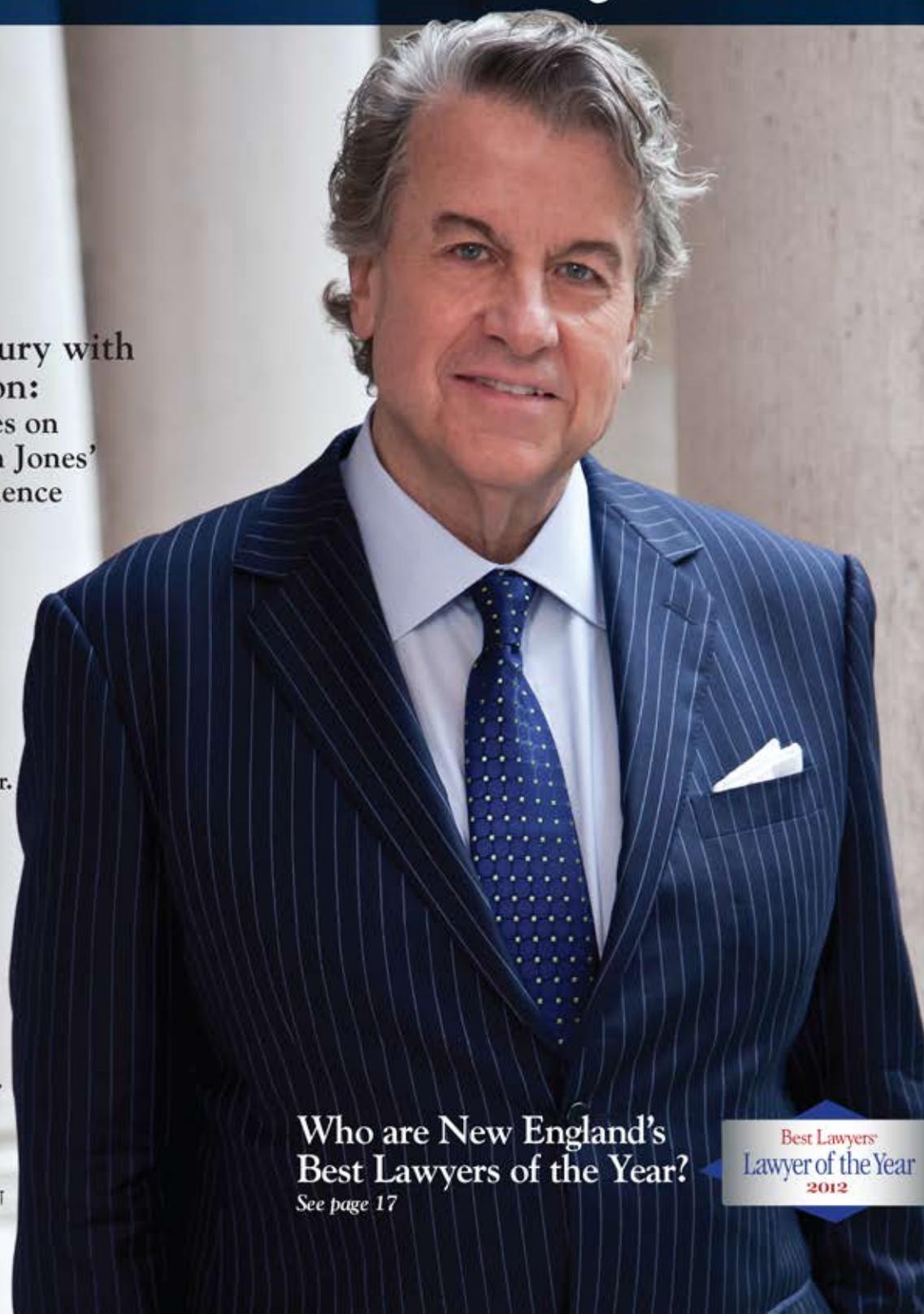
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COVER STORY:

Personal Injury with Sophistication: Patrick T. Jones on Cooley Manion Jones' Rise to Prominence

When Pat Jones co-founded Cooley Manion Jones in 1984, he sought to establish a unique litigation firm that would offer clients expertise in different areas of trial law while maintaining the commitment, consistency, and civility of a boutique law firm at its best.

"We're a sophisticated personal injury practice inside a firm that also does high-level commercial litigation and toxic tort defense," he notes. "We're a non-traditional model, non-familial, and supported by significant financial power from three different branches."

Jones leads the firm's catastrophic personal injury and death practice. Although he was trained on the insurance defense side by Boston defense legends Tom Burns and Earle Cooley, he realized after starting the firm that he preferred the other side. "It just clicked for me," he says. "Being a voice for those who had experienced tragedy, lost a loved one, helping them even the score, it was just more satisfying to make a difference in someone's life." By the late 1980s Jones' work was exclusively for the plaintiff.

Today, the personal injury practice group at Cooley Manion Jones routinely achieves some of the highest results in New England, and the firm has developed a stellar reputation in the legal community for its personal injury work. Jones attributes his group's success to the stability and dedication of his team, and their development of expertise in personal injury and medical malpractice in Massachusetts and Rhode Island over the past 25 years.

"The personal injury field has become more competitive, more driven by technology, but for us the lesson over time has been that the ten to twenty big cases that we commit to every year don't come from advertising, but are rather referrals made by attorneys or those in the community who have long recognized the resources, commitment, and dedication we bring to a case."

While Jones has worked on a number of significant cases during his career, he is probably best known for his representation of Victoria Snelgrove's family following her accidental shooting and death by Boston police officers following a Red Sox game. Recently, Jones concluded a notable case involving a fire at the Rhode Island night club The Station. Jones worked for nearly eight years on that case as associate lead counsel, representing more than 80 estates or injured survivors. "These cases were the product of extraordinary teamwork inside our group," Jones says. "Everyone here understands that Snelgrove would never have gotten done without Tim Kelleher, and that Peter Schneider was the day-to-day force behind the Station Fire Litigation."

Recently, opposing counsel in the fire case recommended Jones for another high-profile case involving tourists who were killed in a bus collision during a tour in Egypt that was organized by a Boston travel agency. He is currently in



Patrick T. Jones

discovery for the case. "Relationships built along the way are important," Jones notes. "Everyone assumes that you're always at war with the opposition. Over the many years I've been in practice, I've learned that your skill set has to include diplomacy, civility, and the ability to be a good listener."

Jones has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] since 2006, and in 2011 he was rated as one of the top ten attorneys in the state by Massachusetts *Super Lawyers*. In 2005 *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* recognized him as a Lawyer of the Year and in 2009 the publication named him one of Boston's most influential lawyers. Jones has served in a number of prominent positions in the legal community—including past-President of the Massachusetts Academy of Trial Attorneys—and he is on the boards of several non-profit corporations both inside and outside of Massachusetts, including Boston's Pine Street Inn. "Board work requires advocacy for a worthy cause," he says, "and that's a good fit for a trial lawyer."

Above all, Jones notes that the most satisfying aspect of his career remains having built a personal injury group that is capable of making a difference: "The most rewarding part of a case is being able to bring a very relevant set of skills to the challenge of helping individuals or families cope with a tragedy." ■