

IN THE LEAD



Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly
BEST LEGACY LAW FIRMS



Higgins
Cavanagh
Cooney



James A. Ruggieri



Paul S. Callaghan



Peter E. Garvey



Stephen P. Cooney

Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney Recognized as a Best Legacy Law Firm by Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly

Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney is a premier regional litigation law firm with 74 years of experience serving sophisticated purchasers of legal services. Founded in 1951 by James H. Higgins Jr. and Joseph V. Cavanagh as a general practice firm, the organization has evolved into a cornerstone of the Rhode Island legal landscape. In 1962, John P. Cooney, former chief judge of Providence District Court, joined the partnership.

Under the leadership of Managing Partner James A. Ruggieri, who joined in 1987 and served as chief defense liaison counsel for the Station Fire mass tort litigation, the firm has built a roster of 13 attorneys specializing in complex legal matters. Key additions throughout the decades include Gerald C. DeMaria, Kenneth P.

Borden Sr., and John T. Walsh in the 1960s, followed by current partners Paul S. Callaghan and Peter E. Garvey in the 1990s. Another current partner, Stephen P. Cooney, joined the firm in 2003.

The firm has positioned itself strategically to represent insurance companies, policyholders, and local, national, and international corporations through developed expertise in product liability defense, premises liability claims, and insurance coverage.

As an early member of ALFA International, the firm offers clients access to worldwide legal representation through this established network. Higgins, Cavanagh & Cooney emphasizes collaborative client relationships, setting plans in partnership with clients and executing them with careful attention to detail.

The firm has adapted to industry changes by expanding its mediation practice under Ruggieri's leadership and offering flexible billing arrangements. Their approach focuses on streamlined case management, recognizing that case longevity increases client costs.

The workplace culture promotes professional growth through exposure to high-profile cases while maintaining work-life balance through flexible schedules and generous vacation policies.

Attorneys and staff actively contribute to Rhode Island through pro bono work and volunteerism, with partners serving on boards including Care New England, and Roger Williams University School of Law.