

GloucesterTimes.com, Gloucester, MA

September 19, 2011

Son joins Orlando & Associates law firm

By Times Staff

Orlando & Associates, the law firm run by attorney Joseph M. Orlando, and located in downtown Gloucester for the past 30 years, has welcomed the next generation into the family business.

Joseph M. Orlando Jr., a graduate of Massachusetts School of Law, is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and Connecticut and has officially joined the firm.

The son and grandson of commercial fishermen, the senior Orlando founded his practice in 1980 on the top floor of the Blackburn Building, with the intent to represent fishermen and other maritime workers. Toward that end, he is a member of both the Massachusetts and Maine bars; two areas which traditionally depended upon the fishing industry.

During the 1980s, Orlando & Associates primarily practiced personal injury litigation on behalf of fishermen.

When the fishing industry began to suffer, Orlando & Associates expanded its personal injury practice in other areas, including, but not limited to, motor vehicle accidents, worker's compensation, social security disability, and other forms of civil litigation.

In 1981, Orlando and his then partner, Edward J. White, moved their practice across the street to the historic Addison Gilbert Home at 1 Western Ave. A few years later, Orlando bought out his partner and created Orlando & Associates.

Orlando is excited and grateful that the law firm which he built will now continue to grow over the coming years.

"It thrills me that my son chose to come into the practice. You love your kids no matter what they choose in life, but I am so glad he chose to practice law," the elder Orlando said. "I believe that he is, and will continue to be, a great asset to this law firm, and I am excited to see his individual development and that of the law firm in the coming years."

Orlando Jr., was a two-time All-Conference baseball player at Endicott College, after graduating from Gloucester High School in 2003, where he won the Gloucester High School Baseball Program's Matheson Award for his leadership and dedication. He was also nominated for the National Youth Leadership on Law Forum in Washington, D.C.

Like his father, Orlando Jr. is committed and connected to the community and will continue the practice in

Gloucester.

"I look forward to following in my father's footsteps," the younger Orlando said. "He has built an incredible reputation by fighting for his clients with passion and determination over the past thirty years and I am anxious to continue that tradition."

The firm is a family business in every sense of the word.

Connie Orlando, Joe Sr.'s wife, handles the bookkeeping; Amanda O. Kesterson, the Orlandos' eldest child, works as a legal assistant; and Lisa O. Fornero, the Orlandos' second eldest, handles marketing and advertising for the firm.

"I am overjoyed to have my entire family working in and for our business, which has supported us throughout the years," the senior Orlandno said. "My hope is that my grandchildren will continue the tradition in the years to come."