

Stanziano & Catron Law Office Opens, Focuses on Trial Advocacy

When it comes to criminal law cases, an experienced and effective criminal defense attorney can mean the difference between a prison sentence and a reduced or even dismissed charge. Even in a less serious case, a good defense attorney can make a serious impact on the outcome of the case by ensuring the rights of the accused are protected throughout the legal process. For these and other reasons, it is vital that those accused of a crime select the most competent, experienced and effective attorney available.

The newly-formed law office of Stanziano & Catron will be expanding its practice to Columbia and will focus on trial advocacy for Kentuckians who find themselves accused of having committed crimes ranging from disorderly conduct and simple assault to DUIs and more serious felonies. The firm specializes in cases involving charges of flagrant non-support, burglary, robbery, sex offenses and every level of homicide, including cases of murder where the state is seeking the death penalty.

The firm, which will begin taking clients on March 29, will be operated by long-time attorney Mark Stanziano, who has been practicing law for over 27 years. Practicing with him and heading up the local office is Adair County native Bethany Catron, who is moving her Glasgow practice to Columbia. Both attorneys will work jointly on cases in both Adair and Pulaski Counties.

"I see this as a fabulous opportunity, not only for Bethany and me, but for the people of Adair and the surrounding counties," said Stanziano, who received his Juris Doctorate from the University Of Louisville. "It has been a long time since the folks in Columbia have been able to search for, and find, lawyers in their own community who concentrate their practices in the field of criminal defense. There has been such a need for so long and we are looking forward to being able to fill that need."

After receiving his law degree, Stanziano practiced law in Columbus, Ohio for eight years before moving to Somerset, KY, where he practiced for another 15 years. While in Somerset, he limited his practice to criminal defense in the state and federal courts. In 2005, Mark left to take a position with the Minnesota Public Defender system and in 2008 formed the consulting company Persuasion Consultants. Upon moving back to Kentucky in 2008, Mark continued to run and handle private criminal defense matters.

Catron received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton in 2005. After serving on the school's Law Review, Catron's article was published in the University of Dayton's School of Law Journal where she became the recipient of the Cohen Award for writing excellence. She moved back to south central Kentucky in 2005 and served as an Assistant Public Advocate in the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy. For her efforts in the protection of juveniles, she was presented the Excellence in Advocacy Award in 2007. After leaving the DPA she opened her own law office in Glasgow in 2008, where she concentrated her practice in the fields of Criminal and Juvenile Defense, Custody and Domestic Relations.

"What is most exciting about the opening of our Columbia office is that it is a homecoming for Bethany," said Stanziano. "Her parents are still here, as are other members of her family. In times when so many of us find ourselves far away from the home that we hold in our hearts, this is a chance for Bethany to come back to her roots and be of service to the people with whom she grew up."

Stanziano & Catron will have offices in both Somerset and Columbia to suit the needs of their south-central Kentucky clients.

Both Stanziano and Catron are active members of the Kentucky Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (KACDL), where Stanziano currently serves on the Board of Directors. He is also a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). For Stanziano's contributions to the practice of criminal defense law in Kentucky, he was awarded the KACDL's highest honor, the *Frank E. Haddad, Jr. Award*, in 2000, and is the organization's youngest recipient.

Stanziano also serves as a faculty member at the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy's Litigation Persuasion Institute and the National Defender Association's Defender Advocacy Institute. Additionally, he has served on the faculty of several other state public defender trial advocacy institutes over the years, including Indiana, West Virginia, Nevada, and Minnesota.

The law firm will open to clients on March 29 at their new location at 107 Burkesville St., Suite 102, Columbia, KY. Stanziano and Catron can be reached at 270-380-1363. Initial consultations are free.