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NEWS MAKERS

Providing service through the law



NAME CHRIS J. COSCHIGNANO

TITLE PARTNER

**FIRM SAHN WARD COSCHIGNANO
& BAKER**

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT
BEING THE FIRST IN HIS FAMILY
TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL**

Chris J. Coschignano has joined the Uniondale-based law firm Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, whose name was changed to reflect the new partner's arrival.

Coschignano concentrates his practice in the areas of zoning and land use planning, real estate law and transactions, municipal law, civil litigation in state and federal courts, corporate and commercial law, trusts and estates, and matrimonial and family law.

Since 2002, Coschignano has served as an elected councilman on Oyster Bay's town board. In this capacity, he is chairman of the Syosset hamlet revitalization committee. Prior to serving as councilman, Coschignano was counsel to the town's zoning board of appeals for six years.

In addition to his commitment to Oyster Bay, Coschignano previously was a partner in another Long Island law firm and, prior to that, had his own practice in Syosset.

After Coschignano graduated from college, he took a job in sales. In his work, he interacted with many attorneys, which helped him realize that he would be interested in the legal profession. He attended law school at night while working full time and, since he was interested in real estate and municipal law, he gravitated toward those areas of the law.

"I come from a blue-collar family, and I am very proud of the fact that I was the first person in my family to become a professional," he said. "It was not a given."

Coschignano advises those that are interested in becoming an attorney to follow their dreams. "People talk about how there are too many lawyers, but there is still a need for good attorneys, just like there is a need for good doctors," he said. "Law school can be like a meat-grinder, but if you stay with it, a career as an attorney is attainable."

Looking back on his career, Coschignano said he is happy with how things unfolded. But there is one thing he wishes he could do over again. "I regret that I didn't serve my country in the armed forces for a couple of years," he said.

However, he feels good about the fact that law is a service profession in which he has the opportunity to help people. "When you're in an elected position, that aspect becomes exponential," he said.

— BERNADETTE STARZEE