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## NEWS **MAKERS**

# A partner finds you can go home again



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**TITLE** COUNSEL

**FIRM** FORCHELLI, CURTO, DEEGAN,  
SCHWARTZ, MINEO, COHN & TERRANA

**MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LEARNED  
IN BUSINESS** THE HARDER YOU WORK,  
THE LUCKIER YOU GET

Jack L. Libert has rejoined Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo, Cohn & Terrana in Uniondale as counsel. One of the founding partners of the firm, which was formerly called D'Amato, Forchelli, Libert, Schwartz and Mineo, Libert left more than 30 years ago to pursue endeavors in government and real estate development. Most recently he was commissioner of the department of public works for the Town of Oyster Bay.

"In many respects it's like coming home," said Libert, whose areas of concentration include co-op and condominium offerings, finance, administrative law, zoning law, land use planning and related litigation. "The faces have more gray hairs attached to them, but they're familiar and friendly," he said.

But things have also changed quite a bit. "When I left, it was a modest suburban practice focused principally on land use," he said. "The firm has since become one of the largest firms on Long Island and developed a tremendous depth of talent in real estate and other areas of the law." There are currently about 50 attorneys at the firm.

Libert has always found the law to be an intriguing topic. "On the SATs, I did better on the verbal part – I'm fascinated with words, whether reading or writing them, and the philosophies and logic that are attached to the law," he said.

Libert decided he wanted to go to law school when he was about 19 or 20. "It was around that time that I figured out I wasn't the guy who was going to replace Mick Jagger, so I'd better find something to fall back on," he said. At the time, Libert played keyboards for a band that performed at weddings, bar mitzvahs and other events.

According to Libert, the characteristic most needed to be a good lawyer is compassion. "You have to be able to understand the problems that people have and try to work with them," he said.

Libert likes the collegiate atmosphere at Forchelli Curto. "It's especially good for the younger lawyers," he said. "We're serious about what we do, but everyone is friendly and we eat lunch together every day in the office."

These are difficult times for attorneys who are just starting out. Libert's advice to them is to stick with it. "It's a good and noble profession," he said. "Things will get better for the country and for the profession."

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