

MICHAEL R. DISTEFANO

Criminal Defense and
Government Investigations Attorney,
Todd & Weld, Boston
Boston New England
School of Law 2009



“Every case you work on is a chance for you to help others and to build your reputation among your colleagues, peers in the legal community and the judiciary.”



Todd & Weld LLP

2018 EXCELLENCE IN THE LAW

Up & Coming Lawyer

Member of Massachusetts Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Council, Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys and Boston Bar Association; pro bono representation as part of firm participation in Criminal Justice Act Panel

High-stakes legal cases have been at the center of Michael R. DiStefano's legal career from the start. As an assistant district attorney and an assistant attorney general, he conducted 38 jury trials of cases involving narcotics, firearms and human trafficking as well as gang-related crime. He also served as a Safe Neighborhood Initiative prosecutor in Mattapan.

Entering private practice didn't lower the stakes for DiStefano or his clients. He's spent almost four years at Todd & Weld, helping to obtain an acquittal on arson and insurance fraud charges for a client in November 2017, as well as an acquittal on murder charges for a defendant prosecuted for participating with Aaron Hernandez in the 2013 shooting death of Odin Lloyd.

Q. *What's the most satisfying case or matter you've worked on so far?*

A. I have been blessed to help clients achieve great outcomes at trial as well as to successfully guide clients through complex government investigations. Results are important, but the most satisfying part of my practice is building the trust and personal connection with each client and the gratification that comes as a result of achieving a client's goal.

Q. *What is the best piece of professional advice you ever received?*

A. There is no substitute for hard work. Preparation is essential to any successful endeavor, especially in the courtroom.

Q. *Professionally, what keeps you up at night?*

A. I love the work, but some nights I can spend too much time analyzing the many decisions that I will make, whether in the courtroom, during a client meeting, in negotiations, or whatever else is on the next day's schedule.

Q. *What advice would you offer new law school graduates?*

A. Approach each opportunity with humility and gratitude. Every case you work on is a chance for you to help others and to build your reputation among your colleagues, peers in the legal community and the judiciary.

Q. *What's the biggest mistake you've made professionally?*

A. Making the assumption that I should have an answer for any given question. I have learned to embrace humility and patience as essential to my growth as a lawyer.

Q. *What's the toughest part of your job?*

A. Maintaining the level of focus and presence of mind to see all angles of an issue, especially in high-pressure situations.

Q. *What's one thing about you that might surprise people?*

A. I'm a yogi.