



# Next Gen



This week's Q&A with

**William Foley**

New York Financial Services Litigation Partner [William Foley](#) is a complex commercial litigator focused in the banking and finance space, particularly in the mortgage arena. He has litigated everything from a breach of contract action stemming from a failed hotel acquisition to a multi-party securitization suit arising from the 2008 mortgage crisis. Bill likes to provide practical solutions that put a client's interests — and budget — first. In his spare professional time, he assists some of his growing clients by providing outside general counsel services, including general contract review and state regulatory compliance advice.



## More About Bill

**Tell us about the most interesting or significant matter you've worked on in your career.**

As an Associate, I volunteered to assist in the pro bono representation of the family of retired fire captain James Corrigan. On September 11, 2001, Captain Corrigan was manning his post as the chief fire and safety instructor at the Twin Towers and was killed in the ensuing collapse while helping to evacuate the South Tower. Although Captain Corrigan had been posthumously restored to active duty as of September 10, 2001, the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and the National 9/11 Memorial & Museum refused to honor the Corrigan family's wishes to have him listed in the first responders section on the Memorial. We brought suit in state court on behalf of Captain Corrigan's widow against the FDNY and the 9/11 Memorial. Despite vigorous litigation, we ultimately prevailed for the Corrigans. Today, Captain Corrigan is listed along with his fellow fallen brothers from Ladder 10 on the North Tower Memorial. The case garnered attention from the media — including from then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg — and provided us with an enormous sense of accomplishment. The Memorial sits directly across the West Side Highway and is visible from the main conference room in our New York office, providing a daily reminder of the power of pro bono.

**How did you know that you wanted to practice law? // What inspired you to become a lawyer?**

As the son of two teachers, I grew up in a house that emphasized reading, writing and constant questioning. Of everything. These concepts dominated my life as a student and eventually led me to law school after a brief frolic and detour in a few other industries. Also, *Law & Order* Executive ADA Jack McCoy's dogged search for truth and justice made me want to be a lawyer. I'm confident that before I retire, I, too, will be able to deliver a two-minute cross-examination so devastating that the witness will make a key admission on the stand, handing my client the victory

### What drives or motivates you on your hardest days/during your most difficult matters?

I realize this is cliché, but my wife and two girls. Knowing that they will be there waiting to spend some quality non-legal time with me, regardless of my performance on a brief or in the courtroom, (almost) makes up for the long hours away from them. Also craft beer.

### Tell us your favorite book, TV show, movie or podcast and why you like it.

During my three hours of daily commuting, I rely on comedy podcasts to drown out the din of the commute and to help me ignore (at least temporarily) the horror show that is the Long Island Railroad, the New York City subway system and New York's Pennsylvania Station (under construction since re-opening in the late 1960s). One of my current favorites is *How Did This Get Made?*, where comedians Paul Scheer, June Diane Raphael and Jason Mantzoukas provide stream-of-consciousness commentary searching for pros and pointing out the many cons of some truly questionable movies. If Penn Station was a movie, it would certainly be featured on an episode.

### What is your favorite thing about, or to do in, New York?

It's hard to narrow it down to one thing, but I think I enjoy the variety our state offers. I'm close to some of the best restaurants, museums and shows in the world, as well as top-notch skiing, hiking and fishing.

### What would be your fantasy career if you weren't a lawyer?

I would resume representing Major League Baseball teams in the annual salary arbitration process. As a law student, I was fortunate to work with attorneys who did this, and in three years I worked on five cases that went to trial. After my college baseball coach told me that I'd "never be able to hit at this level," I knew I'd have to try to find another way into the majors. Working on these cases got me one step closer.



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