

# Illinois Laid the Foundation for the Rest of My Life

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Matthew DiCianni was interviewed by the University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for their *LAS@Work* profile, crediting the university for preparing him for a successful career at Cozen O'Connor. He shares, "My four years at the University of Illinois laid the foundation for the rest of my life. I use the skills that I learned in college – critical thinking, time management, effective communication, leadership, and networking skills, among many others – every single day. Had I not attended the University of Illinois, I would not be the person I am today. I am, and always will be, a proud Fighting Illini."

Matthew explains that during his time at the University of Illinois, he learned skills that now help him "present arguments in court, connect with clients, and deal with difficult opposing attorneys." He comments that his proudest achievement was when he worked with the National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) to successfully obtain U.S. citizenship for a mother and son who fled death threats from the MS-13 gang in El Salvador and sought asylum in Chicago. Matthew shares, "There is nothing more satisfying than working with my colleagues at Cozen O'Connor to come up with creative and novel solutions to a problem that appears to be unsolvable. The range of issues that I deal with keeps my job interesting. I have clients of all sizes, from Fortune 500 companies to mom and pop shops, and therefore encounter a wide range of legal issues."

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