

As always, I continued to focus on cost-efficient resolution of business and real estate disputes. In some cases, the results came through settlement; in others, results came from favorable decisions. Many of the litigants were "first-timers" (and hopefully "last-timers") so a significant amount of time was devoted to ensuring that these clients had a thorough understanding of the legal system, including the costs, aggravation and risks associated with litigation. This video, which I've sent some of you before, has been a helpful tool: <http://youtu.be/pZwJ-5d6Jpo>

Highlights from the first six months of 2012 include:

- Representing a financial institution, obtained a favorable settlement of a claim against a title insurance company where there were significant title defects related to collateral the financial institution relied on to support a commercial loan. The case settled on Friday before a Tuesday trial. An earlier mediation contributed to the settlement by bridging a larger gap between the parties.
- Representing a commercial cleaning business, obtained a favorable settlement of a wage and hour claim following a settlement conference with the federal court judge.
- Representing the owner of a new business, obtained a judgment for fraud against a company allegedly providing credit advice. This case is a cautionary tale: the proposal for credit advice sounded too good to be true, and it was.
- Representing an owner and officer of a business, successfully appealed an IRS determination that the owner/officer was a "responsible person" for the assessment of unpaid payroll taxes.
- Representing a substance abuse treatment facility in the City of Detroit, obtained a preliminary injunction against enforcement of an ordinance that may violate federal law.  
[http://scholar.google.com/scholar\\_case?case=4779274931450428455&q=%22get+back+up%22+detroit&hl=en&as\\_sdt=2,23](http://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=4779274931450428455&q=%22get+back+up%22+detroit&hl=en&as_sdt=2,23)
- Representing the owner of a staffing business, successfully appealed a decision that the owner was personally liable for a corporate debt under the theory of alter ego/piercing the corporate veil.
- Representing investors in a Ponzi scheme, obtained a favorable settlement of claims for reimbursement of alleged "winnings" following a series of favorable court decisions and multiple mediations.
- Representing a family member/shareholder in an industrial supply business, obtained a favorable settlement of claims for shareholder oppression. The main issue was valuation of the shareholder's minority interest.