

domain cases and we will go to great lengths to make sure that they are fairly compensated for the loss of their property."

Dynkowski and Ackerman seem to take particular pride in taking cases that make "no economic sense" to the firm, but have a constitutional principle to uphold.

"We like to fight for those clients who are facing litigation with the government and don't have the means to make their case," says Dynkowski, who earned his bachelor's in criminal justice from Wayne State University in 1993. "There is something special about helping a client right a wrong, no matter how much money is at stake. The case might not be a money-maker for our firm, in terms of how much time and expense we have into it, but that won't stop us from getting involved."

He points to one case as a recent example in which the Oakland County Road Commission attempted to condemn a section of a gas station property for a road-widening project. The Road Commission's \$10,000 offer for the property was not met with enthusiasm by the gas station owner, who turned to the Ackerman firm for help in reaching a suitable settlement. The result: \$1.24 million for the gas station owner.

Of course, the Bloomfield Hills firm, which recently announced the opening of an office in Washington, D.C., has made headlines in a series of other more celebrated cases over the years.

Several months ago an 18-year battle over rightful compensation for a consortium of property owners impacted by work on the M-5 highway corridor in Oakland County was settled for nearly \$18 million, far from the \$1.4 million that the Michigan Department of Transportation estimated that the property was worth.

Some 5 years earlier, the firm received legal vindication when the Michigan Supreme Court sided with it in the case of Wayne County v. Hathcock, a case that revolved around the 1981 "Poletown" decision that cleared the way for the construction of the giant General Motors plant on the Detroit site. In Hathcock, the state Supreme Court reversed the Poletown decision of 23 years earlier, agreeing with Ackerman and Dynkowski that the "public use" doctrine did not permit the taking of one person's property for the purpose of giving it to another, even if it brought the promise of economic rejuvenation to a depressed area.

Dynkowski is quick to praise his partner for his seemingly uncanny ability to turn losers into winners, noting that they periodically try cases together.

"He can drive me crazy at times, tugging at my jacket to make sure that I ask a certain question of a witness," Dynkowski says with a smile. "But then I'll have the opportunity to slide him a note while he's cross-examining a witness. We're an extra set of eyes and ears for each other. It works."

A native of Hamtramck, Dynkowski graduated from De La Salle High School in Warren. His father, Walter, who died 18 years ago of pancreatic cancer, worked for 36 years on the line at the Uniroyal plant. His mother, Christine, immigrated to the U.S. from Poland at the age of 25 and owned and operated a beauty salon in Hamtramck for 20 years before retiring. She now lives in Sterling Heights. Dynkowski's brother, Gerard, is an ER physician in Milwaukee, where he lives with his wife and two children. The brothers share the same birthday, albeit 3 years apart.

"Growing up it was a bummer to always share the same cake and the same party with my brother," Dynkowski reflects. "But now it's good in the sense that we never forget each other's birthday."

As for their mother, friends have teased her over the years that she hit the "jackpot" as far as raising children, placing one in medicine and the other in the law. She probably could have used both last year when she was "t-boned at an intersection," suffering multiple injuries including a broken hip.

Fortunately, she has recovered from the injuries she suffered in the accident and can enjoy the benefits of being a close-at-hand grandmother to Dynkowski's three children.

Dynkowski and his wife, Maleah, have a daughter Savannah, 12, and 5-year-old twins, Simon and Sierra. Savannah enjoys singing, dancing, basketball, and track, while the twins will enter kindergarten this fall.

His wife grew up in the state of New York and earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Madonna College, where her mother was a nursing professor. She obtained a master's degree in social work from Wayne State. He sums up their relationship in the simplest of terms.

"We really love each other," he says of their marriage that is now in its 14th year.

Somehow Dynkowski is able to neatly balance his family life with his professional responsibilities that might see him juggling up to 70 to 80 cases at any given time. He and Ackerman also teach an eminent domain class at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and regularly speak on their area of expertise at state and national conferences. For the past 4 years, he has served as president of the Polish American Bar Association, recently turning over the gavel to District Court Judge Mark Plawecki of Dearborn Heights. In short, Dynkowski's schedule can be daunting, although he welcomes the challenge.

"Alan got me involved in teaching and with the ABA," says Dynkowski, chair of the Condemnation Committee since 2006. "I guess that I've discovered that there is always room on the plate for one more thing."

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