



Gary Higgins / The Patriot Ledger

Wilson Rogers, a partner at The Rogers Law Firm in Braintree, has been practicing law for 20 years.

BRAINTREE — When The Rogers Law Firm relocated from downtown Boston to the South Shore in May 2009, the address wasn't the only thing that changed. Partner Wilson Rogers III says he has seen an increase in civil litigation cases, including personal injury cases, that he now tries. The lifelong Weymouth resident works at the Braintree firm with his father, Wilson Rogers Jr., his brother, Mark Rogers, and three other attorneys.

How has your practice changed since it moved from Boston to Braintree in 2009?

Since I've come here, I think my accessibility to folks who I know in Weymouth (and) on the South Shore has led to people coming to me, referring people to me. ... I think some people don't want to go to downtown Boston to seek out an attorney. In the two years I've been here, I've done far more plaintiffs' work. ... People are finding me here more easily.

What kinds of cases do you specialize in?

It's a mixed bag. My primary responsibility is litigation and there are really three of us that do litigation. We've got a corporate division, if you will, with three or four of us doing a good amount of corporate work. ... I rarely step into the criminal venue. Everything I do is civil. I have handled everything from discrimination cases, medical malpractice, business disputes, professional liability, civil rights (and personal injury).

Is there a specific type of case that is harder to argue?

I think medical malpractice is the most complex. You are required in medical malpractice cases to have experts. What you are talking about is beyond the purview of what you and I deal with on a day-to-day basis. ... What the significance of a finding on an X-ray is, that's not something that you and I can (know) and say whether the radiologist should have done something differently. That's something that we need to rely upon experts to assess. So that's (an example of) why I think they're a little more complex and require a little bit more work.

What has your track record in the courtroom been in the past decade?

I think it's been about 10 years since I've lost. I try anywhere from six to eight very serious cases a year. And when I say serious cases, I mean (cases with serious damages up to and including) wrongful death cases. ... I've been fortunate to have a pretty good run for 10 years. If you try enough cases, you are going to lose. There is no such thing as a slam dunk. For 20 years, I've been doing this and every time I get up in front of the jury, I am still going to have some nerves. Every time a verdict comes back I still feel those nerves. ... There are very bright capable attorneys on both sides.

What are some of the problems faced by those who have recently entered into the law profession?

The law profession has taken a hit in the economy just like everybody else. Absolutely it has and you see a lot of the larger firms downtown scaling back ... deferring their hiring ... up to a year or for two years in some instances. It definitely has carried over to the law profession. Hopefully the economy will bounce back, as will the number of jobs available for lawyers.

How has the economy affected your firm?

On the corporate (side) you see a lot of the corporations trying to be careful about what they do and how they spend their money. Primarily over the last two years, we have tried to create fixed fees for (those) clients. We say 'We will do this project and we will give you a budget' and we'll say we will do this for x dollars... That has been attractive to a lot of our clients over the last two or three years... I think more and more (law firms) are trying to move to that model, to be responsive to the economic concerns of their clients. On the litigation (side) that model is difficult to apply. ... We have insurance companies, they pay you by the hour. You don't see that fixed fee model (in litigation) because you just don't know where a case is going to go when it comes out of the box. I don't think anyone wants to go to the fixed fee model in the litigation world.