

Corporate Citizen *of the Year* 2008

Patrick C. Dunican Jr.

Newark, Essex County

Chairman and Managing Director, Gibbons P.C.



The law firm Gibbons has a long-standing commitment to the city of Newark.

It is a commitment reinforced by the decision to keep the firm's offices in the city when it moved in February 2007 to One Gateway Center.

The commitment has been deepened through what Patrick C. Dunican Jr. has designated "Gibbons Cares," the name given to the firm's extensive community outreach efforts. Newark-based organizations are among the beneficiaries of the firm's donations, which total more than \$1 million per year.

Dunican, the firm's chairman and managing director, holds a broad notion of corporate citizenship.

"A good corporate citizen values exemplary dedication in equal parts to its clients, employees and community, recognizing that support of each informs and enhances its approach to the others," he says.

The firm emphasizes more than dollars. It also has structured numerous incentives to support attorneys who accept volunteer court appointments. Recently, Gibbons staff members have undertaken work for the Marion P. Thomas Charter School, the Black Youth Organization, the Boys & Girls Club and other entities.

Dunican also organized an annual holiday gift drive, called "The Great Read." The drive focuses on providing books to 320 students and the library at TEAM Academy, a Newark charter school. Students turn in a book wish-list that is fulfilled by Gibbons employees, who act as secret Santas. The firm gives backpacks and t-shirts along with the books.

The arts are another focus for Gibbons and Dunican. He serves on the board of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Conservancy and on the council of trustees for the New Jersey Performing

Arts Center. For both organizations, Dunican has played a key role in securing financial support and resources.

Among Gibbons' most significant contributions to the Garden State is the firm's creation and backing of the John J. Gibbons Fellowship in Public Interest and Constitutional Law. The fellowship delivers pro bono, public-interest legal services throughout New Jersey.

Unlike traditional legal-services projects or pro bono programs, the fellowship is geared to tackle major issues while providing the resources and personnel to bring projects to completion.

The firm was a leader in the drive to abolish the death penalty in New Jersey, a decision taken in 2007 by the state legislature. A team from the firm's government affairs department served as lead lobbying counsel on the project on behalf of New Jerseyans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.

While Dunican and the firm have

looked outward to express their sense of corporate citizenship, they also have turned inward to their employees and their profession.

Duncan established a goal of making Gibbons a sought-after employer. The “Gibbons Experience,” a generous benefits program that provides something for everyone, was a major step in reaching that goal.

The program offers perks such as the ability to return to work on a part-time basis after taking parental leave without sacrificing potential promotions.

The firm’s efforts have been rewarded by its recognition as one of the best places to work in New Jersey and the country.

As for the legal profession, Duncan led the firm in making a \$1 million gift to establish The Gibbons Institute of

Law, Science and Technology at Seton Hall. The institute trains professionals in health and intellectual property law and advances the school’s legal programs to better meet the needs of industries facing legal issues over cutting-edge technologies.

Duncan’s overall contributions to the Seton Hall University School of Law

earned him recognition as a Young Alumnus of the Year. A 1991 graduate, Duncan has served on the alumni council and the Seton Hall Red Mass Committee, among other positions. He also has shared his legal acumen as an adjunct professor of legal research and writing.

Patrick C. Dunican Jr. – *Fast Facts*

Birthplace: Brooklyn, N.Y.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in communication arts, Iona College; law degree, Seton Hall University School of Law.

Favorite Book: “Good to Great,” by Jim Collins.

Community and Civic Affiliations: Visitors board, Seton Hall University School of Law; co-chair, Seton Hall Law School Capital Campaign; trustees council, New Jersey Performing Arts Center; board member, Christ the King Preparatory School; board member, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Company.



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