

Robert Bingle
CORBOY & DEMETRIO (CHICAGO)



ROBERT BINGLE

BY JOHN RYAN

SERENDIPITY IS CAST IN THE LEAD

role when you ask Robert Bingle how he landed a coveted slot at the renowned Chicago-based plaintiffs' firm of Corboy & Demetrio after earning his law degree at night. But those who know him say he should take more credit. With mentoring from legendary name partners Philip Corboy Sr. and Tom Demetrio, Bingle established himself as one of the region's most prominent trial attorneys by adding to the firm's astounding record of multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements in personal injury and wrongful death cases. He has also more than left his mark with his compassionate advocacy for terribly injured clients and their families, many of whom have become his friends.

He started out after college, however, operating a punch press in a sign factory, before moving on to teaching. From there, he used his people skills in hospitality, but decided to give law school a try. He graduated in 1981 from Loyola University Chicago School of Law - which he attended while holding a full-time sales job. Bingle also has been the firm's managing partner since 1995.

Lawdragon: What led you to law school?

Robert Bingle: My oldest brother, Bill Bingle, is a lawyer in Toledo, Ohio, and throughout undergraduate school I always had in the back of my mind the possibility of going to law school. Once I started working in the hotel industry, while I thoroughly enjoyed the experience, I continued to think about the idea of expanding my potential in the corporate world by getting a law degree. That led me to Loyola night school.

LD: And how did you end up at Corboy & Demetrio?

RB: In relation as to how I got a job on the plaintiff's side, it was certainly somewhat serendipitous. Going to night law school and working as the Director of Sales of the Palmer House, a Hilton Hotel, was, to say the least, a challenging experience. I didn't have a lot of time to participate in extracurricular activities going to law school; most of the time I was racing out of the hotel at 6:00 p.m., and taking the "L" up for class that would get out somewhere around 8 or 9.

At some point in my tenure at the Palmer House, a young man approximately my age was hired and I undertook the role of his mentor. This individual

became a very good friend and his family, I think, knew that I had taken a special interest in helping him. In any event, after I had graduated from law school and was about to take the bar and looking for a job in the legal industry, this young man mentioned to me that maybe his father and uncle could help me. I did not know that his father was Sydney J. Marovitz, who was the Former Park Commissioner of the City of Chicago, and his uncle was Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, a revered and renowned Federal District Judge here in Chicago. After meeting Mr. Marovitz and Judge Marovitz, within three days I was sitting in front of Philip Corboy - and 34 years later I'm still here.

LD: What about your practice and Corboy & Demetrio has kept you there for your whole career?

RB: I have often thought that of all the areas of law that I could have gotten into, plaintiffs' personal injury is really, I believe, one of the most intimate and personal areas of law that you can experience. Over my career, I have had the privilege of representing families, widows, children, and all assortment of individuals who were hurt. What I have enjoyed most about this practice is that it has not only allowed me to provide for my family, but also to satisfy some innate sense inside of me of helping other people in a time of need.

LD: Was there a case early in your career where you feel you really cemented your skills as a trial lawyer or that convinced you that you could excel regularly in court?

RB: Approximately four years into my career, I had the opportunity to work directly with Phil Corboy on a major case involving a young man who had his leg cut off in a railroad yard. I worked daily with Phil for more than half-a-year on every facet of this case. Phil was approaching the end of his trial career and for the first time ever he allowed another lawyer to give an opening statement. I can tell you I don't know if I could ever describe how nervous I was when I stepped up to give an opening statement in that major case four years into my career with Phil Corboy sitting behind me.

Fortunately, I was able to perform this statement in a good fashion, even receiving a compliment from my other mentor, Tom Demetrio. *Read the full Q&A at [PHOTO BY: MICHELLE NOLAN](http://www.lawdragon.com/2016/10/26/lawyer-</i></p></div><div data-bbox=)*