

'90

Steven Grossman JD '90

Founding Partner
Grossman, Tucker, Perreault and Pflieger
Manchester, NH



BY JACK KENNY

Some people travel great distances to attend law school reunions. Steven Grossman JD '90, a founding partner of the Manchester law firm, Grossman, Tucker, Perreault and Pflieger, just has to go to work each day. All eleven of the firm's lawyers are Pierce Law "alums."

"I guess it's because alumni from Franklin Pierce who are dispersed throughout the Northeast want to come back and work in New Hampshire," says Grossman. Teresa Tucker JD '93 and Donald Perreault JD '94 were together at another law firm before they decided to start a practice of their own in 2002. Edmund Pflieger JD '97 returned from a practice in Arizona to join them.

As the firm has expanded, it has remained an all-Pierce Law cast. Kevin Carroll JD '95, an adjunct professor at Pierce Law, came on board in 2004 and last year became a partner in the firm. Other alumni at the firm include: Donna L. Lizotte JD '96, Stephen P. Finch JD/MIP '99, Neil F. Maloney JD '99, Paul J. Kroon JD/MIP '02, Beth A. Filip JD '04 and Jennifer L. Fessler JD '07.

"This is something we're pretty proud of," says Grossman. "We think it's a tribute to the school and to the graduates who practice intellectual property law here in New England."

Grossman came to his law career by an unusual route. A plastics engineer with a PhD from the University of Massachusetts, he was a research and development scientist with the Upjohn Company in North Haven, CT, before joining the faculty of the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. His intellectual and professional journeys would eventually lead him to Pierce Law—by way of South Korea.

"A telephone call came in to the university saying, 'We need an expert on plastic materials willing to travel to Korea on a patent infringement case.'" Grossman accepted the challenge, went to South Korea to investigate an alleged infringement by the maker of a plastic cable tie. Back home, he wrote a report of his investigation and testified in the trial. "I worked with outstanding patent lawyers and I decided at that time that this was the career I wanted," Grossman says.

He enrolled at Pierce Law just in time for fall classes in 1987 and graduated three years later. "It was the overlap of law and technology that was probably the key to the deal,"

says Grossman. "A patent lawyer may have to explain technical issues to a non-technical audience and it felt like a good fit and an extension of what I was doing at the university."

Grossman continues to teach two courses each semester at UMass-Lowell in addition to his full time practice. His class on intellectual property law is designed to give science and engineering students a background on some of the legal issues they may bump up against in their future careers.

"Any student who's going to be an engineer or scientist is bound to run into intellectual or property law issues over the years," he explains.

When not at his practice or in the classroom, the Amherst, NH, resident finds time for kayaking, officiating soccer and baseball games and flying helicopters. He has published numerous technical articles on plastics engineering and is co-author with Beth Ann Filip JD '04 of "Ten Things Plastics Engineers Should Know About Intellectual Property."



Front row (l.-rt.): Edmund Pflieger JD '97, Beth Filip JD '04, Kevin Carroll JD '95 and Donald Perreault JD '94; Back row (l.-rt.): Steve Grossman JD '90, Teresa Tucker JD '93, Neil Maloney JD '99, Stephen Finch JD/MIP '99, Paul Kroon JD/MIP '02 and Jennifer Fessler JD '07. Not pictured, Donna L. Lizotte JD '96.