

The Legal Intelligencer

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ALM.

2022 PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

Unsung Hero: David Antzis

David Antzis is the architect and one of four founders of "Justice for the Hungry," which is a fundraising challenge to Pennsylvania-based lawyers and law firms to combat food insecurity across the commonwealth and beyond that was launched in 2021.

BY THE LEGAL INTELLIGENCER

Special to the Legal

David Antzis, Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld

Antzis is the architect and one of four founders of "Justice for the Hungry," which is a fundraising challenge to Pennsylvania-based lawyers and law firms to combat food insecurity across the commonwealth and beyond that was launched in 2021. The cause is very near and dear to his heart, and for years, he and his wife and family would make weekly trips in their family station wagon to deliver food to local food pantries. Antzis has a firm belief that law firms can band together at this time to help a vast number of people, many of them children, who are suffering what to most of us is an unthinkable plight, not having enough to eat. He has made it his mission to call on leaders of Pennsylvania law firms to join the challenge to help fight food insecurity. Because Antzis was managing partner of what is now Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr from 2006 to 2013 and joined Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld in November 2020, he decided to tap into his status as a former large firm managing partner to convince his peers to help combat the growing problem.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

My dad was a dentist, and he seemed bored by his job by the time I was able to appreciate the distinction. He told me to choose an occupation that you love, because you spend most of your weekday waking hours at work. Even this late in my career, I still learn new things, face new challenges and meet new people (clients), and wake up excited each day.

If you didn't become a lawyer, what career path would you have pursued?

If not a lawyer, I would have been a teacher. I love working with kids, and I think teachers, like parents, provide a moral compass for children and their future.

Who is a mentor you admire and why?

Jim Schwartz. When I decided I wanted to become a corporate lawyer, he was Chair of our Business Department and for at least a year, he got me involved in every transaction he led. Sitting by his side during business negotiations, I truly learned what it meant to "think like a lawyer" and become proficient at advocating your client's side of a legal issue. I doubt he



Courtesy photo

David Antzis, with Royer Cooper Cohen Braunfeld.

billed any of my time, but he invested in my professional growth and I am forever grateful to him.

What does the legal profession need to do to prepare the next generation of lawyers in 50 words or less?

As we continue to embrace working remotely, the challenge will be training the next generation of lawyers. Previously, when a new transaction started, I called my lawyer team into a conference room to give them background on the client, and brought them to meetings. Now I do it by Zoom.