

Spotlight on Our Summer Associates

Christopher Lisi UConn School of Law

For Chris Lisi, success is defined in many ways. To see his accomplishments on paper, his success – as defined by typical standards – is evident. Chris graduated as valedictorian from Ansonia High School and played football for the best program in the state. He received an academic scholarship from UConn and received a political science degree with a 3.96 GPA in only seven semesters (his only B was in philosophy during his first semester). Now he’s attending UConn School of Law and has a great law career on the horizon. Still, Chris finds himself no more “successful” than friends that didn’t go to college or those in blue-collar work. “I took one route, but that isn’t the only route to being successful,” says Chris.

Growing up in Ansonia, a small urban part of the Naugatuck Valley, Chris was surrounded by diversity of all kinds. His mother, a second-generation Polish-American, was a registered nurse. His father – a first-generation Italian-American and the first in his family to attend college – was a teacher. His community was a blend of racial, ethnic and socio-economic diversity that believed in the old adage of “it takes a village” to raise children. Chris took great pride in his community even while recognizing its faults. He had seen friends

fall into trouble, but at a young age, Chris decided not to be just a product of his environment, but to learn from it, take the good from it and stay away from the bad.



He did just that. His family placed a high value on education and both Chris and his older brother graduated as class valedictorians. Chris was one of only two of his friends to go on to college, and credits his family, coaches and neighbors with helping him foster his academic abilities. While Chris recognizes that his education laid the foundation for his career, it was the diversity of his community and support of his family that fostered his work ethic and desire to help others.

Chris believes his greatest success will come when he is able to practice law in the Connecticut communities in which he believes and advocate for local businesses and individuals. His roots here are deep and will only continue to spread as he begins his law career.