

Tacopina Seigel & Turano, P.C.

Criminal, Civil Litigation, Corporate

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(Photo: Deidre Schoo)

As one of the country's most successful trial attorneys, Joseph Tacopina is regularly honored by media outlets nationwide for his keen insight in the areas of criminal defense and civil litigation.

In a six-page spread in *GQ* Magazine's Power section, Tacopina was described as "the best-dressed, smoothest-talking, hardest-working criminal defense attorney going." The same article quoted Fox's Greta Van Susteren as saying, "Joe is what I'd want from my lawyer if I were in trouble." And on CNN, Soledad O'Brien called Tacopina "one of the country's top attorneys."

Indeed, praise for Tacopina spans both print and television: In the *New York Post* he was referred to as a "top-shelf, high-powered litigator," and on ABC's "Primetime Live" he was identified as a "high-profile, high-powered New York defense attorney." An article in *The New York Times* even noted: "Mr. Tacopina is to the defense bar what Donald Trump is to real estate."

And these accolades aren't mere aggrandizement. Over his more than two-decade career, Tacopina has built his reputation by trying nearly 100 cases to verdict and representing many high-profile defendants. Some of his most well-known cases include representing former New York State Senator Hiram Monserrate, who was acquitted of assaulting his girlfriend. He also achieved an acquittal for a former NYPD officer accused of rape and burglary in a case that garnered national and international media attention.

“Being able to achieve a result that vindicates my client is the most satisfying part of my practice,” Tacopina notes. “To stand next to people who I’m entrenched with in a fight for their liberty and see the look of elation and relief in their eyes and in their family’s eyes when we’re successful—that’s what motivates me and makes all the hard work worthwhile.”

Most recently, Tacopina represented Yankees star Alex Rodriguez in his appeal of a 211-game suspension imposed by Major League Baseball for allegedly using performance-enhancing drugs. He is currently retained by the Italian government to investigate the wrongful murder conviction in Miami of an Italian citizen named Enrico Forti.

“There’s a certain added pressure when you’re handling high-profile matters, but ultimately all the work I do involves high stakes,” Tacopina says. “You have someone’s life in your hands with these cases, and you therefore have to be strategic, creative, and thoughtful in how you approach them.”

That philosophy has been Tacopina’s personal credo since his early days as a prosecutor in the Kings County District Attorney’s Office, where he prevailed in 39 of 40 trials. By making it a mainstay of his private practice, he has been able to elevate his firm to a new level in the criminal defense field, earning a number of prestigious awards.

Among his peers, Tacopina has been recognized with an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization’s highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. The Italian American Bar Association, meanwhile, previously honored him with its Man of the Year Award, which the year before it had presented to Justice Anthony Scalia.

Discussing Tacopina on his radio show “Imus in the Morning,” Don Imus, whom Tacopina has counseled on legal matters, observed: “Tacopina’s unbelievable. That guy works magic. He is the real deal. He’s not to be messed with.”

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