# DE Darrow Everett LLP



## Timothy J. Conlon - Partner

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#### Bio

Tim Conlon, Partner, is the Practice Leader for DarrowEverett's Private Client Group and Co-Chair of our Family Law Practice Group. His practice concentrates on complex family court litigation, and civil cases on behalf of children abused in the care of others. Throughout his career, Tim has handled challenging cases at the forefront — from computer crime investigations in the 1980s to chairing and settling Rhode Island's clergy abuse cases on behalf of dozens of victims, all while cutting new ground in contentious family court litigation. He regularly serves as lead counsel in complex divorces with high-net worth, multiple business assets, intergenerational trusts, and testifying experts, and has worked with the leading forensic accountants and forensic psychologists in the region.

Tim has appeared on *NBC Nightly News* and *ABC World News Tonight*, and has been quoted in publications including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and frequently *The Boston Globe* and *Providence Journal*, on issues relating to institutional child sexual abuse, teacher and coach misconduct, but also family law, spousal snooping, and child mistreatment issues.

#### **Practice Areas**

- Family Law
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Data Privacy & Cybersecurity

## Prior Experience

Before joining DarrowEverett, Tim was a partner at the Providence office of a highly regarded Boston-based law firm, having spent 30-plus years building his own practice focused on family law and child sexual abuse litigation. After working for judges of the Rhode Island trial courts, and the Chief Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, he represented children in Family Court, and then worked as a Special Assistant Attorney General handling criminal appeals in the Rhode Island Supreme Court, and computer crime cases, while overseeing the states' computerized criminal history (NCIC) system. He commenced his private practice in 1986, taking on a major multinational corporation that had been running a for-profit juvenile "treatment" center — in which several young girls were sexually abused by staff, while bringing Family Court litigation that recognized the concept of a *de facto* parent before the statute that now recognizes such relationships existed. Since the late 80s, Tim has continued at the forefront — using electronic evidence to uncover hidden assets and misconduct. He recently forced division of more than \$16 million in cryptocurrency — just prior to the 2022 crypto crash.

Tim has lectured locally and nationally on topics that include advanced equitable distribution, trusts and estates in divorce, interstate custody, trial presentation technology, and electronic evidence. He co-authored *Electronic Evidence for Family Law Attorneys* (2017 ABA), and is presently completing a second book for the American Bar Association on cryptocurrency and digital assets.

## Representative Matters

• Lawyer of the Year, 2022, Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. Tim was recognized for his work on behalf of victims in connection with the North Kingstown naked "fat testing" scandal. Media coverage of the scandal and multiple investigations by local authorities and a retired judge, and the U.S. Attorney's investigation of a complaint filed by Tim on behalf of students and former students in North Kingstown led to a flurry of regional and national coverage. At the center of the controversy: How did a "star" coach get hundreds of boys

alone inside school facilities over nearly two decades for "tests" that involved getting naked and being "measured" or "checked" hands-on, and accountability for the failed oversight.

- Case of the Year, 2003, Rhode Island Association For Justice. Tim chaired the Plaintiffs' Counsel Committee, and was lead attorney arguing and negotiating on behalf of 30-plus victims of clergy abuse in Rhode Island. His work was the subject of national nightly news coverage, and was he frequently quoted in The Boston Globe, The New York Times and the Providence Journal.
- Assisted parent in taking custody and possession of a child, and relocating the child across the country when the custodial parent's alcoholism and eating disorders led to infantilization of the child in her care.
- Assisted client in identifying, inventorying and forcing division of \$16 million in cryptocurrency from multiple wallets and accounts, thereby allowing her to get out of crypto prior to the 2022 correction.
- Assisted client in taking control and possession of a local \$20 million per annum business owned solely by the client's spouse, where the client had years of back-office experience, and the owner spouse was incapacitated by substance abuse.
- Used electronic evidence to uncover \$13 million that was hidden from a marital estate shifting millions to my client, tossing out what had been a 50/50 split to get additional funds for the client *and* recovering attorney's fees, forensic accounting and computer forensic costs.
- Assisted high-net-worth client in annulling a months-old marriage after the spouse demanded a multimillion dollar distribution either by way of a transfer during the marriage or as part of a quick divorce. We succeeded in getting the spouse to sign off on annulment, acknowledging that the marriage had never been consummated, preserving our client's personal wealth.

## **Insights**

• Florida Divorce Ruling on Personal Goodwill Could Impact Other States - via JD Supra, January, 2025

## Media Appearances

Tim represents several former student-athletes of North Kingstown High School who have accused former basketball coach Aaron Thomas of inappropriate conduct. Below are select articles of media coverage from this case.

- 'Worst teacher I ever had': Former Davisville Middle School student speaks out against former teacher, *The Boston Globe*, October 2022
- Town council questions school department's new policies following 'naked fat test' investigation, *The Boston Globe*, September 2022
- <u>Aaron Thomas, former North Kingstown coach, charged with child molestation and sexual assault, *The Providence Journal*, July 2022</u>
- Aaron Thomas 'adamantly denies criminal conduct whatsoever' in naked fat test case, says attorney, *ABC6*, August 2022
- Coach Allegedly Molested Students by Making Them Strip Naked Under Pretext of Measuring Body Fat, People, July 2022
- 'A tremendous shift': attorney for alleged victims speaks out on Aaron Thomas charges, *ABC6*, July 2022
- 2 more North Kingstown coaches were inappropriate with students, lawyer tells US attorney's office, *The Boston Globe*, July 2022
- Another former North Kingstown student sues school committee over ex-coach Aaron Thomas and naked 'fat tests', *The Boston Globe*, June 2022
- <u>Kenyon Resigns, Saying He Did 'Nothing Wrong,'</u> *The Provincetown Independent,* June 2022
- "U.S. Attorney's Office asked for a second time to investigate NK handling of a coach facing allegation," *The Providence Journal*, April 2022
- "North Kingstown School District in R.I. 'lost control' of star coach Aaron Thomas, new federal complaint alleges," *The Boston Globe*, January 2022
- "School allowed coach to 'cultivate an open secret' around naked fat tests, complaint to feds says," *Target 12*, January 2022
- "Judge orders former North Kingstown coach Aaron Thomas to turn over records related to fat testing," *The Globe Globe*, December 2021
- "North Kingstown Town Council votes to hire outside counsel to review investigation of coach Aaron Thomas," *The Boston Globe*, November 2021
- "'The first time I fat tested was 13 years old': Lawyer shares documents from former student-athletes about North Kingstown coach Aaron Thomas," *The Boston Globe*, November 2021
- "NKHS Coach Aaron Thomas' fat test consent forms don't say anything about nudity," *The Boston Globe*, November 2021
- "Attorney for Former North Kingstown Coach: 'Aaron Thomas Adamantly Denies Any Unlawful Conduct,'" *ABC6*, November 2021
- "Why was coach Aaron Thomas hired at Monsignor Clarke School after being forced to resign from North Kingstown?," *The Boston Globe*, November 2021

• "North Kingstown School officials told coach Aaron Thomas to stop private 'body fat tests' in 2018," *The Boston Globe*, November 2021

Tim also represents a student in a similar case against a North Kingstown teacher accused of inappropriate behavior. Select articles of that case are below.

- Featured in "Watching the Watchers," This American Life episode 781, October 2022
- "What was it like in the 'pedo database' teacher's class? 'Very, very tense,' a former student says," *The Boston Globe*, October 2022
- "Students who kept 'pedo database' heralded as heroes while experts say the middle school failed them," *The Boston Globe*, September 2022
- "Rhode Island middle school boys take down teacher who allegedly harassed their female classmates," Fox News, September 2022
- "A Rhode Island teacher is on leave after a group of middle-school boys who thought he was a 'creep' used a 'pedo database' to keep track of how he interacted with girls in their class," *Insider*, September 2022
- "The middle school boys thought their teacher was a 'creep.' So they tracked how he treated the girls," *The Boston Globe*, September 2022
- "Attorney Tim Conlon North Kingstown Teacher/Coach Allegedly Acting Inappropriately Towards a Female Student," The Matt Allen Show (Podcast), September 2022

### **Other Appearances**

"First Amendment No Shield For Church in Abuse Cases," The New York Times, July 2002

#### **Resources & Support**

- <u>Day One</u> | Hotline: 1.800.494.8100
- Sexual Assault & Trauma Center of Rhode Island
- Stop Educator Sexual Abuse Misconduct & Exploitation (SESAME)

#### **Bar Admissions**

- Rhode Island
- U.S. District Court, District of Rhode Island
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit

#### Education

- Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D.
- Brown University, B.A., Political Science and Philosophy

## Accolades

- Lawdragon 500: Leading Family Lawyer (2024)
- Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly: Lawyer of the Year (2022)
- The Best Lawyers in America© Best Lawyer, Family Law (2015-2024)
- The Best Lawyers in America© Lawyer of the Year (2014, 2016, 2019, 2022)
- Case of the Year award, for Rhode Island's Clergy Abuse Cases (2003)
- AV Preeminent Rating, Martindale-Hubbell
- Member Fellow, Pound Civil Justice Institute
- 10.0 "Superb", Avvo Rating
- Super Lawyers 2008-2025 (Family Law)

