



## BART DALTON, ESQ. '74 (B.A.)

Director, Dalton & Associates | President, American College of Trial Lawyers

**Bart Dalton, Esq. '74 (B.A.)**, one of Delaware's most accomplished attorneys, had no desire to practice law when he chose his political science major as a Saint Joseph's student.

"Halfway through my junior year, I told my advisor, 'I'm not sure of what I want to do, but I know what I don't want: to be a lawyer like everybody else,'" Dalton recalls. That changed after he observed a trial in Philadelphia's City Hall and found himself saying, "I could do this."

Indeed, he could. The Northeast Philadelphia native graduated from Tulsa University School of Law in 1977 and accepted a position as deputy attorney general in Delaware, where he tried 75 cases in three years. He would later return to the Delaware Department of Justice to become, at age 29, the youngest chief deputy attorney general in the state's history, gaining further trial experience while managing the office's criminal, civil and appellate divisions.

In 1987, Dalton moved into private practice and achieved Delaware's largest verdicts in both medical malpractice and automobile accident cases. His practice has since expanded into other areas, including criminal fraud, civil rights and sexual abuse litigation.

Dalton's accomplishments earned him membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), a merit-based fellowship of the top attorneys in the United States and Canada. Named a Best Lawyer in Delaware for 24 consecutive years, Dalton was elected ACTL president and installed in September 2016. He received a personal letter of congratulations from former Vice President Joe Biden, also a Delaware native.

Dalton says he's honored to be at the helm of an organization focused on raising professional and ethical standards in trial practice and the administration of justice. These values were ingrained in him at Saint Joseph's, he says, by an "amazing" group of professors, including Graham Lee, Ph.D., professor *emeritus* of political science, and his course on constitutional law. "I believe the classic Jesuit education is still the best there is," Dalton says.

His commitment to professional integrity is equaled by his gratitude for a career that serves others. "I'm lucky," Dalton says. "It's still an incredible compliment that people ask me to help them with the difficult situations they're facing."

— Colleen Lynn

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