



Kevin Dong

## From Litigation to Salvation

Danielle Caminiti, an accomplished lawyer by trade, didn't panic when the courts closed at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. Instead, Caminiti turned to the one source of comfort she had—cooking.

"The kitchen was the perfect distraction," says Caminiti. "I needed to keep busy with something positive during such a dark time."

Caminiti spent years watching her grandmother cook for their family and with limited instruction was able to replicate many of her recipes as an adult. After sharing recipes throughout the pandemic with family and friends, Caminiti was encouraged to write a cookbook. In the fall of



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2020, she began posting recipes on social media. Based on the popularity of each recipe, she determined which dishes to include in the cookbook. By December 2021, she published *From Courtroom to Cucina: 70 Authentic Recipes that Took Me from Litigation to Salvation* through Amazon.

Even though she held this passion from a young age, Caminiti didn't expect her hobby to become an alternative career path. Coming from a family that stressed the importance of education, she had been encouraged to shy away from unstable careers. "My parents didn't give me many options," jokes Caminiti. "I had a choice to become a lawyer, doctor, or nun."

Caminiti's roots can be traced to Nola, a town just outside of Naples, and Messina, Sicily.

—Anthony Sciaratta



Courtesy of Nicholas DeMarta

## Pizza & Sports

While other kids dream of becoming an astronaut, or fireman, or cop, Carmine Gangone counted the days until he owned a pizzeria. Gangone's parents immigrated to the United States from Teggiano, a town in the province of Salerno. In 1979, his father opened Ray's Pizza on Graham Avenue in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Growing up, Gangone had two passions—pizza and sports.

"I loved sports, but I was also obsessed with pizza," says Gangone. "In elementary school, I knew I wanted to be in the pizza business."

In the mid-1980s, he started working in his father's pizzeria. By the time he graduated high school in 1992, he took over the business. At 19 years old, Gangone was serving one of Brooklyn's finest slices and rebranded Ray's pizza to Carmine and Son's.

While building a successful business, Gangone never forgot his passion for sports.

"For a short time, I wanted to be a sports broadcaster," says Gangone. "Even though I chose pizza, I still wanted to be involved in sports some way."

Gangone co-founded the Italian American Baseball Foundation (IABF) in 2016. The IABF is a charity committed to the future of baseball and softball for Italian and Italian American youths. Currently, he serves as vice president of the organization.

"I'm proud to be a positive example of an Italian American in both the world of pizza and sports," says Gangone. ▲

—Anthony Sciaratta

