

# 2013 DISTINGUISHED LAW ALUMNUS



## Andrew F. Puzder, JD '78

CEO, CKE Restaurants Inc.

Andrew Puzder is the CEO of CKE Restaurants Inc. From 1978 through 1991, Mr. Puzder was a commercial trial lawyer in St. Louis. From 1978 through 1984, he practiced at the Law Offices of Morris A. Shenker. In 1984, he moved to The Stolar Partnership in St. Louis.

While practicing law in St. Louis, Mr. Puzder met Carl Karcher, founder of the Carl's Jr. quick-service restaurant chain. Mr. Karcher was embroiled in serious financial difficulties and asked Mr. Puzder to move to California as his personal attorney. In 1991, Mr. Puzder relocated to Orange County, California. He is credited with resolving Mr. Karcher's financial dilemma, allowing Mr. Karcher to avoid bankruptcy and retain a significant ownership interest in the company he founded, CKE Restaurants Inc.

In 1997, Mr. Puzder was named executive vice president and general counsel for CKE. Also in 1997, CKE purchased Hardee's Food Systems Inc., which owned the Hardee's

quick-service restaurant brand. Faced with serious financial and operational issues, CKE's Board of Directors named Mr. Puzder as president and CEO of Hardee's Food Systems in June 2000 and named him president and CEO of CKE Restaurants Inc. in September of that year. Mr. Puzder is credited with turning around both the Hardee's brand and CKE, allowing the company to survive, become financially secure, and return to growth.

Mr. Puzder has been a guest on business news programs, including *Your World w/Neil Cavuto*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *Mad Money*, *Fast Money*, *Power Lunch*, *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, and *Squawk on the Street*. He recently co-wrote the book, *Job Creation: How It Really Works and Why Government Doesn't Understand It*.

In 2011, Mr. Puzder was an economic adviser and a spokesman for the Romney Campaign for President. He also served as a delegate to the 2012 Republican National Convention and as chairman of the Platform Committee's Sub-Committee on the Economy, Job Creation, and the Debt.