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BOLDTYPES

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Investing in a good meal

Boston real estate lawyer **Dan Dain** launched **Restaurant Investment Group** as a way to help local chefs focus more on finding the right recipes and less on finding the right investors.

By creating a fund to invest in these chef-owned establishments, Dain learned firsthand how tough the fund-raising part of the business can be. But Dain, chairman of the **Dain Torpy** law firm, also learned the satisfaction that comes with successfully launching a restaurant.

So far, so good. His group's first investment opened on **Tremont Street** last week to crowds. **Douglass Williams' Mida** specializes in "modern Italian" cuisine.

Next up: a fish restaurant in the **Park Square** area that will open next year. That one will be overseen by **Ian Calhoun** and colleagues from Calhoun's restaurant, **So Thoreau**. Calhoun says Dain's group has been crucial for landing financing, while offering invaluable development expertise.

Dain originally started Restaurant Investment Group after hearing from building landlords that they had trouble finding the right restaurants for their first-floor spaces. His team has sold more than \$1 million worth of shares in the group's first fund, **Windsor Table Fund I**. His team includes restaurant consultants **Ed Doyle** and **Michael Staub**, Dain Torpy cofounder **Charles Le Ray**, and **Burns & Levinson** partner **Josef Volman**.

"To help [the chefs] realize their dreams is super exciting for me," Dain said. "I can't feel anything but being proud and happy for them. [And] now I know the headaches they go through."

JON CHESTO