

WHO'S WHO | in Women in Professional Services

By LISA MORRIS JOSEFAK

DONNA J. TURETSKY

Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP

Donna J. Turetsky, a partner in the trusts and estates and elder law practice groups at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP, has concentrated her practice since 1992 on trust and estate administration, elder law, estate planning, special needs planning, and guardianships.

In the area of estate administration, she assists clients in the preparation of probate and administration petitions, federal and New York State estate tax returns, and gift tax returns. She also assists the executors and administrators in construction and reformation proceedings, discovery proceedings and accounting proceedings. In addition, she has served on a number of appointments as Guardian Ad Litem through the Surrogate's Court.

Turetsky counsels clients on estate and tax planning and prepares legal documents including wills, revocable trusts, irrevocable trusts, supplemental needs trusts, powers of attorney, health care proxies and living wills.

In her elder law practice, Turetsky counsels and assists seniors and their



families in connection with a broad range of issues, including planning to preserve assets in the face of possible long-term care needs, and Medicaid planning. Her work in this area includes the preparation of Medicaid applications for both home care and nursing home care.

One challenge Turetsky faced this year relates to the new Federal legislation that went into effect on January 1, 2011.

"Pursuant to the new law, the estate, gift and generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax rates have changed

and the estate and gift tax exemptions have been unified at \$5 million, she said. "Although there are great planning opportunities, it remains challenging to advise clients on a plan that while currently appropriate, might not be suitable in the years beyond December 31, 2012 if the new legislation is not extended."

Turetsky earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Miami, a Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a Master of Laws in Taxation from the University of Miami School of Law. Turetsky is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association and the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP has grown into one of Long Island's largest full-service law firm with offices in Nassau and Suffolk counties. Its 14 practice areas include: real estate, real property tax certiorari and condemnation, cooperative and condominium, land use, environmental law, corporate/securities, litigation, commercial lending, labor relations/employment law, bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights, trusts and estates, elder law, telecommunications law and criminal law.