



# WHO'S WHO

2020

*Health Care Professionals  
& Health Care Law*

**A LONG ISLAND BUSINESS  
NEWS SPECIAL ADVERTISING  
SUPPLEMENT**

## THANKS TO AN OUTSTANDING LEADER



Catholic Health Services offers its deep appreciation to System Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Patrick O'Shaughnessy and commends him for his tireless efforts in clinically guiding our integrated health care system.

RECOGNIZED AS A LIBN WHO'S WHO LEADER

**Patrick M. O'Shaughnessy, DO**

Executive Vice President & Chief Clinical Officer  
Catholic Health Services

## FOR GUIDING AN OUTSTANDING TEAM

We would also like to thank the entire CHS team for successfully returning more than **3,000** COVID-19 patients to their families.



**Catholic  
Health Services**

*of Long Island*

At the heart of health

[www.chsli.org](http://www.chsli.org)

# WHO'S WHO

## Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law

Long Island's health care professionals and those who practice in the area of health care law have worked with passion to help the region conquer COVID-19, as well as answer the questions it has evoked. In this Who's Who in Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law section, some of the region's health care leaders convey their messages to the community as Long Island continues its fight against the virus.

— Lisa Morris Josefak

### INDEX

#### 3B JIM BAYDAR

*Pegalis Law Group, LLC*

#### 4B JOAN CRAWFORD, MS, PMP

*Stony Brook Medicine*

#### 4B PATRICK FORMATO

*Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP*

#### 5B BENJAMIN GEIZHALS

*Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP*

#### 5B JOSEPH GRECO, MD

*NYU Winthrop Hospital*

#### 5B ADA KOZICZ

*Rivkin Radler LLP*

#### 6B PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY, DO, MBA, FACEP, CHCQM

*Catholic Health Services of Long Island*

#### 6B DR. JEFFREY L. REYNOLDS

*Family and Children's Association*

#### 7B BERNARD ROBINSON, MHA, EMT-P

*Northwell Health*

#### 7B ADHI SHARMA, MD

*Mount Sinai South Nassau*

#### 8B JAY B. SILVERMAN

*Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.*

#### 8B KRISTY SORDYL

*Jefferson's Ferry Life Plan Community*

#### 8B MARK R. USTIN

*Farrell Frtiz*

## WHO'S WHO

### Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law



Jim Baydar, Esq. is a partner at Pegalis Law Group, LLC in Lake Success where he has more than 33 years of medical malpractice litigation experience on behalf of patients. Baydar has represented clients in all phases of litigation, from pre-trial through post-trial proceedings.

His work and representation of clients has resulted in millions of dollars of recovery in settlements and verdicts.

During this COVID-19 period, it is essential to continue to be vigilant when it comes to health concerns, issues and treatments, Baydar said.

"The pandemic has altered the way in which we can be proactive about our health," he said, adding, everyone should keep simple but important points in mind.

"Keep track of scheduled or regular medical appointments and testing, especially blood tests," he said. "Take advantage of telemedicine (e.g., zoom, skype) as offered by your physician. This is a convenient, efficient, cost-effective and front-line way of maintaining attention to your health issues. Any issue of concern that requires more attention, should be followed by an in-person appointment."

People should implement and/or maintain healthy lifestyle changes, Baydar noted.

"This includes having a well-balanced diet — harder to do than it sounds," he said. "Having a regular exercise routine is essential — at least try to include a walk in your daily activities."

"Be a patient advocate for yourself and especially for elderly relatives and young children," Baydar continued. "Use your common sense in asking appropriate questions about a diagnosis, prognosis or treatment plan; ask about risks, benefits and alternatives."

Baydar was an awardee of the Kings of Long Island event

by Schneps Community News Group, where he received the Dynamic Duo award, alongside Pegalis partner, Sanford Nagrotsky, Esq.

He serves on the board of directors of the WE CARE Fund of the Nassau County Bar Association, which has granted funding to over 100 charitable organizations on Long Island.

Additionally, he serves as a trustee for the Village of Plandome Manor, NY.

He is a member of numerous bar associations, including the Nassau County Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, and the Columbian Lawyers' Association of Nassau County, Inc.

Baydar earned a juris doctor from Pace University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University. He is admitted to practice in New York and before the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western Districts of New York; and the United States Supreme Court.

Pegalis Law Group, LLC concentrates in the area of medical negligence litigation on behalf of patients. The firm advocates for people who have been victims of negligence that caused them life-altering harm, or even death. The firm is known for discovering avoidable negligent acts even in the most complex cases.

With its nearly 50-year track record, continued success with "record" high verdicts and settlements, and its credibility in court and with adversaries, the firm is consistently recognized by clients and legal peers for outstanding success.

Clients receive individualized attention from the Pegalis Law Group's close-knit team. By representing injured patients, the firm strives to improve medical practices by seeking accountability for avoidable medical errors and substandard care, in addition to obtaining justice for its clients.

## WHO'S WHO

### Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law



It's been said that leadership isn't about a title or position. It's about action and rising to the occasion when the circumstances deem it necessary, which is what Joan Crawford, MS, PMP, Program Manager for Stony Brook Medicine's telehealth initiative, did. She recently stepped up into a leadership role during the COVID-19 pandemic to make telehealth widely accessible to patients at Stony Brook Medicine.

Long Islanders in pre-coronavirus times hadn't been as quick to embrace telehealth as people in rural upstate New York, for example, or the Midwest, where the need for remote access has

been more pressing. Even so, before the pandemic hit, Stony Brook Medicine's interdisciplinary Telehealth Workgroup, of which Crawford is a member, already had several telehealth initiatives up and running successfully.

During the pandemic, the need to provide health care to patients with chronic conditions and acute care remained crucial. Stokes, heart attacks, and management of diabetes and cancers still needed to be identified and treated during this emergency. COVID-19 took away some of the ways patients were supported, as Stony Brook Medicine worked to care for the community at large, while protecting frontline health care workers and first responders. The need for telehealth was essential and allowed Stony Brook to connect with patients, address their concerns, continue their care and make sure patients with new conditions receive treatment.

In anticipation of the New York State stay-at-home order, within the span of 10 days, Crawford and the Telehealth Project Team worked around the clock with Microsoft and its Microsoft Teams application to customize telehealth programming at Stony Brook. Together, they worked to ensure that just about every specialty at Stony Brook, from primary care to dermatology to substance use

disorder treatment, and approximately 20 other critical areas, was prepared to meet the outpatient health care needs of their patients. Patients who could no longer safely visit their doctor's office due to social distancing and stay-at-home mandates to help stop the spread of COVID-19 now had a great alternative way of maintaining their health care needs.

Crawford also added interpreter services to the Microsoft Teams application to meet the needs of all patients and configured Stony Brook's process to allow patients to have a spouse, family member or friend join the virtual visit.

During the month of February, Stony Brook was averaging about 14 telehealth visits a week through its various pilot projects. By late April, that number skyrocketed to over 1,300 visits a day with more than 35,000 patients receiving care in over 20 specialties.

As we transition to re-opening New York State, we need to be safe and smart as we return to normalcy and our routines, Crawford said.

"During this delicate time, we need to be mindful of the well-being of our health care workers, employees of essential businesses and the community at large," she noted. "Using technology, such as telehealth, as an option for physician offices to remain in contact with and provide patients with the care they need, helps allow our society to adjust back to feeling safe in a physical exam room."

Crawford started her career at Stony Brook Medicine 20 years ago as a unit clerk in the Emergency Department, working overnight so that she could care for her children during the day. She was soon promoted to assist the director of clinical informatics within the Division of Information Technology (IT), where she supported the hospital's implementation of the electronic medical record. From there, she became the executive assistant to the chief information officer and chief medical information officer. Crawford was again promoted to project manager for IT, where she was responsible for the successful execution of numerous projects, including application software and hardware deployments. In April, Crawford was promoted to program manager.

Crawford earned a Bachelor of Science from Adelphi University and

a Master of Science from Stony Brook University School of Health Technology and Management. She is a member of the Project Management Institute, the world's leading association for professionals in project, program or portfolio management, and has achieved certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

Stony Brook Medicine integrates and elevates all of Stony Brook University's health-related initiatives: education, research and patient care. It includes five Health Sciences schools — Dental Medicine, Health Technology and Management, Medicine, Nursing and Social Welfare — as well as Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Stony Brook Children's Hospital and more than 230 community-based health care settings throughout Suffolk County.



Patrick Formato is an executive partner, director of the Health Law Practice Group and co-chair of the Medical Marijuana Law Group at Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP.

Formato represents a variety of health care providers including skilled nursing facilities, diagnostic and treatment centers, ambulatory surgery centers, urgent care centers, imaging centers, home health care agencies, assisted living facilities, management service organizations, physicians and physician groups in connection with mergers and acquisitions, fraud and abuse, government investigations, corporate structure, regulatory issues, corporate compliance, managed care, Medicare and Medicaid audits, managed care agreements, partnership disputes, employment, shareholder and partnership agreements, certificates of need, real estate and general business/corporate matters.

Nursing homes have been strongly affected by COVID-19, Formato said.

"Many of my clients are Long Island nursing homes," he noted. "The guidance, directives and orders that New York nursing homes received during this crisis has often been unclear and in some instances contradictory. Unfortunately, when this crisis is over, there will be government audits and investigations, as well as private lawsuits."

"Nursing homes must put themselves in the best position possible to defend themselves and the heroic efforts of their staff during this pandemic," Formato said. "Accordingly, my piece of advice for nursing homes during this crisis is keep informed, adjust policies and procedures as necessary, keep open lines of communication with your nursing home residents and families, and, most importantly, document your efforts to comply with all government directives, orders and guidance."

Recognized by his peers and clients as a knowledgeable and talented health care attorney, Formato has been asked by many health care and professional organizations to present programs on such topics as fraud and abuse, corporate compliance, reimbursement, and provider contracting.

He has written articles and has been published in professional and industry journals and newsletters. He has also authored several chapters and served as an editor of the Fifth Edition of the Legal Manual for Physicians that was published by the New York State Bar Association in conjunction with the Medical Society of the State of New York, and is a contributing author of "The Biggest Legal Mistakes Physicians Make and How to Avoid Them."

Formato has been designated as a New York Super Lawyer since 2013 and was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® in the practice area of health care law in 2020.

He earned a juris doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School and a bachelor's degree, cum laude, from the State University of New York at Albany. Formato is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, the New York State Bar Association's Health Law Section, and the Nassau County Bar Association's Hospital and Health Law Committee. Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman,

## WHO'S WHO

## Health Care Professionals &amp; Health Care Law

Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone, LLP (Abrams Fensterman) is one of the largest full-service law firms on Long Island and provides each client with quality counsel, innovative solutions and personalized service.

The firm serves clients throughout the New York metropolitan area from offices on Long Island, Brooklyn, Manhattan and White Plains and serves upstate New York from its Rochester office.

Abrams Fensterman is a leader in representing health care providers in all aspects of health care law. Clients include nursing homes, hospitals, home care companies, physicians, ambulatory surgery centers, dentists, podiatrists and chiropractors.

In addition to its health law practice, the firm has law departments chaired by recognized leaders in their fields in areas such as matrimonial and family law, mental health law, corporate and securities, insurance defense, estate planning and administration, commercial litigation, guardianship law, employment law, real estate law, elder law, transportation law, health care fraud, white-collar criminal defense, appellate and municipal law.



**BENJAMIN  
GEIZHALS**  
Moritt Hock &  
Hamroff LLP

Counsel at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP in Garden City, Benjamin Geizhals concentrates his practice in the counseling and representation of health care providers in transactional and regulatory matters. Geizhals' clients include health care companies, doctors, dentists, other health care practitioners, nursing homes, medical billing and practice management companies.

In addition to negotiation and documentation of mergers and acquisitions of practices, and corporate, partnership and employment relationship issues, Geizhals provides guidance on corporate and regulatory compliance and represents providers in Medicare and Medicaid insurance audits and fraud investigations, disputes with man-

aged care companies, and disciplinary, licensing and credentialing matters.

He also represents a number of companies in various other industries in general corporate and business related matters including not-for-profits.

Geizhals is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, the Health Law Section of the American Bar Association, the Health Law Section of the New York Bar Association and the Nassau County Bar Association.

He earned a juris doctor from New York University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University. Geizhals is admitted to practice in New York and New Jersey.

Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP is a full service, AV-rated commercial law firm with 20 areas of practice and 75+ attorneys. The firm is based in New York with offices on Long Island and in New York City and provides a wide range of legal services to businesses, corporations and individuals worldwide.



**JOSEPH GRECO,  
MD**  
NYU Winthrop  
Hospital

Joseph Greco, MD is senior vice president and chief of operations at NYU Winthrop Hospital, the Long Island flagship hospital for NYU Langone Health. Dr. Greco has nearly 30 years of clinical experience to hospital leadership and oversees the strategic direction and daily operations of the hospital, as well as directing the delivery of excellence in clinical care and patient safety.

He assumed the hospital's leadership in late 2019 — having previously served as its chief medical officer — and was almost immediately thrust into the COVID-19 pandemic, skillfully guiding the hospital through one of the most challenging periods in its 124-year history.

"As the COVID-19 pandemic gripped our communities, Long Islanders came together in manners without precedent," Dr. Greco said. "That included enormous support

for NYU Winthrop's staff, most of whom are also members of our communities. Each day they left their homes and families to come to work, knowing their skills would make a difference to their neighbors. We especially heard praise for their compassion, as they were often the only links for patients to the outside world and their loved ones."

"We're incredibly proud of their dedication, which helped us begin to pull through this, and we're so thankful for the community support that bolstered their determination and courage to keep on," he said. "Only through banding together have we been able to come this far. Thank you Long Island."

Prior to Dr. Greco's tenure as chief medical officer, he served as NYU Winthrop's chairman of anesthesiology for more than a decade, and he is Board Certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology. His experience also includes serving as NYU Winthrop's chief patient safety officer and as such, was a driving force in bringing quality and patient safety initiatives to the hospital long before they became standards in the medical community. In addition, he chaired key hospital committees, including the Quality Improvement/Advisory Committee and the Operating Room Committee.

Dr. Greco earned a medical degree at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. His postgraduate training included an internship in internal medicine and a residency in anesthesiology at Mount Sinai, where he served as chief resident for anesthesiology. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesia, the New York Society of Anesthesiologists, and the American Society of Professionals in Patient Safety.

NYU Winthrop Hospital is the flagship Long Island hub of NYU Langone Health and is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top-10 New York metro-area hospitals. The hospital, founded in 1896, is a 591-bed medical center and ACS Level 1 Trauma Center. The hospital features more than 75 divisions of specialty care, offering comprehensive inpatient and outpatient programs and services to address every stage of life.

NYU Winthrop also has a Research Institute that conducts robust research and studies. The hos-

pital blends the progressive philosophy and advances of a teaching and research institution with a personal approach to patient care that is the cornerstone of the organization. NYU Winthrop also serves as the campus for the NYU Long Island School of Medicine.



**ADA KOZICZ**  
Rivkin Radler LLP

An associate in Rivkin Radler LLP's Health Services Practice Group, Ada Kozicz concentrates her practice on regulatory and transactional matters within the health care industry. Kozicz represents health care providers, medical groups, hospitals, outpatient facilities and other business entities that serve the health care industry. She advises clients on a wide variety of legal matters, including formation of business entities, joint ventures, employment negotiations and compliance programs involving Medicaid and Medicare, Stark and Anti-Kickback Law, and the False Claims Act.

Kozicz also practices in Rivkin Radler's Privacy, Data & Cyber Law Practice Group, where she advises clients both in and outside of the health care industry on complying with HIPAA and the HITECH Act, and responding to any threats or breaches to an organization's privacy and cyber security. Navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, many health care practices are experiencing great uncertainty and shifts in their policies, procedures and business plans, Kozicz said.

"Clients have asked whether they should allow employees to work in the office, what precautions they should take, and how to keep their business afloat while practicing social distancing," she said. "Do not allow such uncertainties to consume you, but instead use this as a learning opportunity. For example, some practices have turned to telehealth as a safe alternative to in-patient care. Practices should identify which new resources and trends, such as telehealth, can provide greater flexibility and

## WHO'S WHO

### Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law

cost-savings in the future.”

“Providers also need to focus on their own physical and mental health as they battle the pandemic and look to a brighter future,” Kozicz said.

Kozicz was honored by the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce as one of 30 “Celebrate Long Island’s Young Professionals” honorees in 2017. She is a frequent contributor to the firm’s electronic health law news bulletin, Rivkin Rounds.

Kozicz previously served as a Senior Fellow for the Gitenstein Institute for Health Law and Policy, where she worked on several community outreach projects that strived to improve access to quality care and pave the way for positive change in the health care delivery system.

During law school, she earned a certificate in health law and served on the editorial board of Hofstra Law Review. She also received an award for outstanding achievement in the Health Law and Policy Clinic at Hofstra, where she worked as a student-attorney and represented a nonprofit health services organization in implementing internal scope of practice and risk management policies for community health workers.

Kozicz earned a juris doctor, magna cum laude, from Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Boston University.

Through five offices, over 190 lawyers and 21 practice groups, Rivkin Radler’s attorneys are the advisors-of-choice to successful individuals, middle-market companies and large corporations. An unwavering commitment to total client satisfaction is the driving force behind the firm.

Many clients have been placing their trust in the firm for more than 25 years.

The firm’s Health Services Practice Group has been listed in the prestigious Legal 500. The practice also has been included in the Chambers USA directory in the health care category.

Patrick O’Shaughnessy, DO, MBA, FACEP, CHCQM, is Catholic Health Services of Long Island’s (CHS) executive vice president and chief clinical officer. Dr. O’Shaughnessy’s areas of expertise include population health management, medical informatics and high reliability science. He is a recognized leader in high reliability health care and has published and spoken nationally on patient safety and quality improvement processes in health care.

Staying the course will help everyone get through the pandemic, Dr. O’Shaughnessy said.

“Battling COVID-19 is a marathon and not a sprint,” he said. “We may see cases throughout remainder of 2020 and likely into 2021, but our hope is that fewer patients with milder cases due to the public health guidelines and treatments we instituted in March – May. Eating and hydrating well, as well as ensuring proper rest are some of the most important things you can do to boost your immunity.”

“Be smart, be safe, but live your life,” Dr. O’Shaughnessy said. “This is important. Wash your hands, wear a mask in public if you’re in closed spaces, but live your life. Get outside, exercise and see friends. Continue to do the things that bring you pleasure in life. As our region reopens, rejoin society; we are social beings. Support our local businesses that have suffered so much.”

“We can be safe, mitigate virus spread and conduct business responsibly,” he said. “We are all in this together. Don’t let your other health issues go unchecked. See your doctor for managing your non-COVID chronic illnesses and schedule your preventive screenings.”

Dr. O’Shaughnessy completed his residency in emergency medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Beth Israel where he was named chief resident and then offered faculty appointment at Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he became a core faculty Emergency Medicine attending physician at Beth Israel Medical Center. During his time at Beth Israel, he cared for patients from all walks of life, and further developed his true “humanistic” philosophy and approach to practicing medicine, while helping dozens of

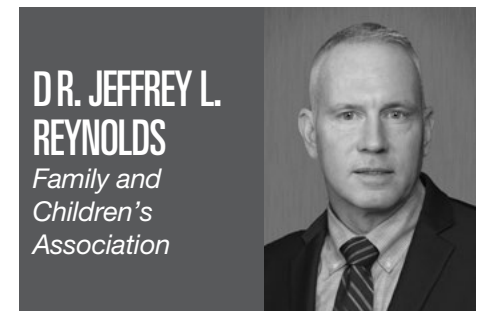
young physicians learn the same skills. It was here, too, that he led disaster and recovery efforts for the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Dr. O’Shaughnessy’s passion for Population Health Management stems from more than 13 years of emergency medicine practice, where he witnessed firsthand the failures and inefficiencies of the current health care system.

Dr. O’Shaughnessy earned his medical degree from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and his master’s in business administration, with honors, from Adelphi University. He completed a second master’s in population health management from Thomas Jefferson University. Board certified in emergency medicine, health care quality and management, he is an active member of the American College of Physician Executives, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement.

Dr. O’Shaughnessy is also a private pilot who flies over many of the Long Island communities he serves. He has applied the concepts of military and commercial aviation safety best practices to his health care systems clinical operations to the benefit of thousands of patients and works tirelessly to reduce patient harm events across the health care system. He is also very passionate about working to address the heroin and prescription drug epidemic that has claimed thousands of lives on Long Island. In this capacity, he has served on the Suffolk County Heroin and Prescription Opiate Task force that helped frame legislative recommendations for Suffolk County officials. Also, he provided key legislative testimony to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s taskforce on Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse at Farmingdale College in 2019.

Catholic Health Services is an integrated system encompassing some of the region’s finest health and human services agencies. With 18,000 employees, 6 acute care hospitals, 3 nursing homes, a home nursing service, hospice, a community-based agency for persons with special needs and a network of physician practices, CHS’s high standards have resulted in a 24 percent market share.

Under the sponsorship of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, CHS serves hundreds of thousands of Long Islanders each year, providing care that extends from the beginning of life to helping people live their final years in comfort, grace and dignity.



**DR. JEFFREY L. REYNOLDS**  
Family and  
Children’s  
Association

Dr. Jeffrey L. Reynolds is president and chief executive officer of Family and Children’s Association (FCA) in Mineola. Since it began as an orphanage more than 135 years ago, FCA has been committed to caring for Long Island’s vulnerable children, youth, seniors and families while helping them prepare for successful futures. The organization offers community-based programs for struggling families, at-risk adolescents, vulnerable seniors, and adults with substance use disorders.

COVID-19 has exposed Long Island’s fault lines and challenges the region to better address its region’s health care disparities, Dr. Reynolds said.

“Geography, race, ethnicity, income, immigration status and age all shaped who made it safely through the pandemic and who perished,” he said. “We probably also have a clearer picture of the immense mental health needs in our community, from PTSD among frontline health care workers to the grief experienced by families who lost loved ones in nursing homes, to anxious teens who are petrified to return to school. We have work to do, but through every natural disaster, Long Island has stood strong and I know that together, we can do this.”

From 2009-2014, Dr. Reynolds served as executive director of the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD). Prior to this position, he worked for the Long Island Association for AIDS Care for 19 years, where he started out doing case management and finished his tenure as vice president for public affairs, responsible for government relations, resource development, strategic



**PATRICK O'SHAUGHNESSY, DO, MBA, FACEP, CHCQM**  
Catholic Health  
Services of Long  
Island

## WHO'S WHO

## Health Care Professionals &amp; Health Care Law

marketing, and communications. Dr. Reynolds serves on Governor Andrew Cuomo's Heroin and Opioid Task Force, the Executive Committee of the Nassau County Heroin Prevention Task Force, is chair of Suffolk County's Sober Home Oversight Board, chairs the Huntington Town Opioid Task Force and is a member of Suffolk County's Heroin/Opiate Epidemic Advisory Panel. Dr. Reynolds is vice chair and remains the longest serving member of the NYS AIDS Advisory Council, first appointed by the NYS Senate Majority Leader in 1994 and reappointed four times since then. He serves on the board of directors of Families in Support of Treatment (FIST) and Lightning Warriors, Long Island's Youth Triathlon Team. In 2018, Dr. Reynolds was also appointed by Governor Cuomo to serve on a task force to draft legislation to create New York's Adult-Used Regulated Marijuana Program. Dr. Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Dowling College, a master's degree in public administration (MPA) with a specialization in health administration from Long Island University and a doctorate from Stony Brook University's School of Social Welfare. He is also a Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP) and a U.S. Department of Transportation-qualified Substance Abuse Professional (SAP). FCA is one of Long Island's largest not-for-profit organizations. With an annual budget of \$21 million, 340 staff, 200 volunteers and 30+ programs, FCA helps more than 30,000 Long Islanders each year. FCA believes in the potential of Long Island — a place where no child, senior, family or community is left to struggle alone with barriers to health care, education, employment or economic prosperity. Long Island continues to be one of the greatest places in the world to live and raise a family for many and FCA exists to ensure that be the case for all.



Bernard Robinson, MHA, EMT-P is a regional director of operations for Northwell Health's Center for Emergency Medical Services. Robinson oversees the daily operation of one of the largest EMS agencies on the east coast with a staff of over 800 EMTs and paramedics who handle over 150,000 responses a year.

An EMS professional for 28 years, Robinson described COVID-19 as the toughest battle he has ever experienced.

"I am proud of all my fellow first responders and frontline personnel that answered the call," Robinson said. "I am also proud of the way the public supported us. During this tough time we have witnessed some of the greatest humanity."

Robinson, himself, became ill with COVID-19 and was hospitalized for five days. He recovered and re-entered the battle against the virus.

"When I was hospitalized with COVID, my neighbors brought food to my family and gave words of encouragement to my wife," Robinson said. "I tell my staff, 'We are all in this together and we will get through it together.'"

"My experience has given me a new outlook and greater appreciation for life," Robinson explained. "To our communities: Be vigilant, this battle is not over. Be smart and stay safe."

Robinson serves on the health system's Opioid Management Steering Committee (OSMC) and as the director of his departments Explorer Post. In 2017, Robinson received the Nassau County EMS Leadership Award in recognition of his contributions to his department and the EMS community. In 2020, he received the inaugural Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award from Northwell Health in acknowledgement of his community service.

Robinson earned a Masters of Health Care Administration from Hofstra University and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Emergency Services Administration from Adelphi University.

He is also earned a NSLI-JHS-CETD, Paramedic Program. Northwell Health is among New York State's largest health care providers and private employers, with 23 hospitals, nearly 800 outpatient facilities and more than 14,200 affiliated physicians. North-

well Health cares for more than 2 million people annually in the New York metro area and beyond, thanks to philanthropic support from its communities. The system's 72,000 employees — 17,000-plus nurses and 4,500 employed doctors, including members of Northwell Health Physician Partners — are working to change health care for the better.

Northwell Health is making breakthroughs in medicine at the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research. We're training the next generation of medical professionals at the visionary Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and the Hofstra Northwell School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies.



Adhi Sharma, MD is executive vice president of clinical and professional affairs and chief medical officer at Mount Sinai South Nassau in Oceanside. Dr. Sharma is responsible for facilitating medical staff interactions with hospital administration and the governing board and for assuring the effective and efficient delivery of quality medical care consistent with the mission of Mount Sinai South Nassau. He also oversees strategic planning and execution, as well as the implementation of care management programs, and monitors the effectiveness of management practices and productivity indicators.

Dr. Sharma, named to the Becker's Hospital Review list of "Hospital CMOs to Know," helped spearhead Mount Sinai South Nassau's response to the pandemic.

Mount Sinai South Nassau increased capacity to more than 500 beds as it ultimately cared for more than 1,200 COVID positive patients. Dr. Sharma helped lead the clinical staff to meet daily unforeseen challenges, like shortage of personal protective equipment and caring for patients stricken by a disease for which there is no known cure.

"The level of teamwork we achieved throughout the COVID-

19 pandemic and patient surge was unprecedented," Dr. Sharma said. "Each day we confronted a new challenge, a new issue to be addressed that we never had to consider before, such as how to share a ventilator if needed; sourcing Personal Protective Equipment to keep our staff safe; sourcing and testing experimental medications to help patients fight COVID."

"Staff simply asked what they could do and then went to it," he said. "We have learned a lot from this crisis and many of our staff also now have invaluable experience in hospital patient surge response which will improve our overall readiness, if there is another surge."

"As we see the number of COVID hospitalizations decline, some people in our area remain fearful of coming to the hospital to seek treatment, Dr. Sharma said. "Our ER is safe with separate areas for COVID and non-COVID patients. The areas of the hospital that once housed COVID patients have been deep cleaned. It's more dangerous to sit home if you are experiencing serious symptoms, like chest pains or numbness in an arm or leg, than it is to come to the ER. We are urging people to not put their health on hold for fear of COVID."

Prior to joining Mount Sinai South Nassau in 2014 as the hospital's medical director for utilization, Dr. Sharma held senior administrative and clinical leadership positions for some of the region's most respected health care providers, including chair of the department of emergency medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center.

A member of the American College of Emergency Medicine and American College of Medical Toxicology, serving on the practice and education committees respectively, Dr. Sharma has co-authored papers published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine, Academy of Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medicine Clinics of North America. He has authored chapters published in clinical textbooks, including Rosen's Textbook of Emergency Medicine; 5-Minute Pediatric Emergency Medicine Consult, and Goldfrank's Toxicologic Emergencies.

The Long Island flagship hospital of the Mount Sinai Health System, Mount Sinai South Nassau

## WHO'S WHO

### Health Care Professionals & Health Care Law

is designated a Magnet® hospital by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for outstanding nursing care. Mount Sinai South Nassau is one of the region's largest hospitals, with 455 beds, more than 900 physicians and 3,500 employees. The hospital is an acute-care, not-for-profit teaching hospital that provides state-of-the-art care in cardiac, oncologic, orthopedic, bariatric, pain management, mental health and emergency services and operates the only Trauma Center on the South Shore of Nassau County verified by the American College of Surgeons, as well as Long Island's only free-standing, 9-1-1 receiving Emergency Department in Long Beach. In addition to its extensive outpatient specialty centers, Mount Sinai South Nassau provides emergency and elective angioplasty, and offers Novalis Tx™ and Gamma Knife® radiosurgery technologies.

Mount Sinai South Nassau also is a designated Stroke Center by the New York State Department of Health and Comprehensive Community Cancer Center by the American College of Surgeons; is an accredited center of the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Association and Quality Improvement Program; and an Infectious Diseases Society of America Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence.



**JAY B. SILVERMAN**  
Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

Jay B. Silverman is a partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek P.C. in Uniondale. Silverman was the assistant general counsel in the Medical Society of the State of New York's (MSSNY) Office of General Counsel where he handled all of the organizations legal matters and advised MSSNY members on a variety of medical-legal issues. After leaving MSSNY, Silverman entered private practice and since then has devoted his full efforts to the practice of health law.

Silverman has extensive experience in representing individual physicians, large single and multi-spe-

cialty physician groups, independent practice associations, licensed health care professionals, ambulatory surgery centers, diagnostic and treatment facilities, renal dialysis facilities, clinical laboratories, management services organizations, county medical societies and academies of medicine, hospital medical staffs, not for profit organizations, licensed health care facilities and health care businesses.

Silverman encourages health care providers to remember their own health as they valiantly take care of others during the pandemic.

"As my clients are health care providers they're on the front lines taking care of their patients," he said. "What I'm learning about them is just how selfless and compassionate they are and what their patients mean to them to the point that many of my clients are forgetting to take care of their own physical health. My advice to them is make sure that you're taking care of yourself, as well as your patients because if you don't take care of yourself you're not going to be able to care for your patients."

Since 1996, Silverman has been general counsel to the Suffolk County Medical Society and the Suffolk Academy of Medicine. He serves on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association Health Law Section and is chair of the Healthcare Professionals Committee. He is also a member of the New York State Department of Health Medicaid Managed Care Advisory Review Panel, which was created by Chapter 649 of the Laws of 1996 to monitor enrollment of Medicaid recipients in managed care plans and ensure access to care in these health care delivery systems.

Silverman earned a juris doctor from Hofstra University School of Law. He is frequently sought out to lecture on medical-legal issues.

Ruskin Moscou Faltischek is the premier business law firm in the New York region. With more than 70 attorneys, superior knowledge of the law, polished business acumen and proven credentials, we have earned a reputation for excellence and success. The strength of our firm's resources greatly enhances what we can accomplish for clients; to not only solve problems, but to create opportunities. This ongoing achievement makes Ruskin Moscou Faltischek an ac-

knowledgeable leader among our peers and the preferred choice among business leaders.



**KRISTY SORDYL**  
Jefferson's  
Ferry Life Plan  
Community

Kristy Sordyl is Lead LPN, Unit Manager, Secured Memory Unit at Jefferson's Ferry Life Plan Community in South Setauket. Sordyl makes each day special for the residents of the Memory Care Unit. As the primary full time day shift LPN on the unit, Sordyl oversees the care and activities of 20 long term residents. She knows each individual's likes and dislikes, what comforts them and what brings them joy. Familiarity and routine are important to memory care residents, and Sordyl makes sure her residents experience a calm and loving environment.

The dedication of the staff members under Sordyl's supervision, many of whom have worked on the unit for a decade or more, attest to Sordyl's outstanding interpersonal and management skills.

As one of the first lines of defenses in the fight against COVID-19, Jefferson Ferry had to restrict visitation to its health center campus, including the Memory Care Unit, Sordyl said.

"While it is painful for families to have to stay away from their loved ones, the regular communications that we already had in place for them, including Skype calls for out-of-town family members, helped our efforts immeasurably," she said. "While much has changed during COVID 19, we've been able to maintain the routines, activities and level of care that keep our residents in a good place."

Sordyl has earned high marks from Jefferson's Ferry's customer satisfaction surveys and directly from residents' families. Her relationships with many of the families spans years, cultivated by her practice of keeping in regular phone contact with resident families as a rule and particularly when there is any reason for concern. As a result of her dedication, Jefferson's Ferry honored Sordyl in 2016 as Employee of the Year.

Jefferson's Ferry is a nonprofit Life Plan community for active adults age 62 and above, with independent living cottages, apartments, assisted living, and a quality health care center all on one site. Jefferson's Ferry is surrounded by various attractions, shopping, beaches, theaters, and a world-renowned university.

Jefferson's Ferry offers exceptional living and amenities, including restaurants, fitness center, indoor pool, computer center, library, recreational areas, gardens and gazebos. A mix of cultural excursions, civic activities, and a community of residents who participate in shaping Jefferson's Ferry's future, ensures a spirited and engaged lifestyle.

The Vincent Bove Health Center at Jefferson's Ferry earned a 5-star rating from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and was named a "Best Of" nursing home by U.S. News & World Report. Jefferson's Ferry as a whole received the industrywide Community Choice Award for resident satisfaction and engagement and Pinnacle Quality Insight's 2019 Customer Experience Award. FitchRatings has assigned Jefferson's Ferry a BBB+ bond rating.

Locally, Jefferson's Ferry has consistently been voted Best Retirement Community and Best Assisted Living on Long Island by Long Island Press. Jefferson's Ferry has also regularly been recognized for excellence by the Hauppauge Industrial Association's Business Achievement Awards program.



**MARK R. USTIN**  
Farrell Fritz

Farrell Fritz partner Mark R. Ustin is a regulatory lawyer and lobbyist with extensive experience assisting health care entities in navigating the complicated statutory, regulatory, and policy landscape surrounding health care delivery and payment.

Ustin has represented a broad array of health care clients, including academic medical centers, community hospitals, critical access hospitals, federally qualified



## WHO'S WHO

## Health Care Professionals &amp; Health Care Law

health centers, physician practices, nursing homes, assisted living providers, home health agencies, behavioral health providers, developmental disability service providers, managed care organizations, and pharmaceutical and other life science companies.

He provides regulatory counsel and strategic business advice on everything from complex business transactions to the day-to-day concerns faced by participants in the health care sector.

More than ever, clients need to plan separately for the short and long term, Ustin said.

"While we respond to the immediate challenges of COVID-19, the usual rules often do not apply," he said. "Providers and other busi-

nesses have been asked to focus on protecting and saving lives, with minimal regard for legal consequences – and they have been supported in this through the waiver of many federal and state laws and regulations. But that won't last forever, and we're unlikely to return to the same system we had before."

"The changes made now – including changes in telehealth, scope of practice, provider capacity and cooperation, and the focus on public health – are going to have a permanent impact on the health care and business landscape," Ustin said.

Ustin serves as president of St. Catherine's Center for Children's board of directors. The organization's programs address issues of

homelessness, child abuse and neglect, family instability and special education.

Ustin earned a juris doctor from St. John's University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Fordham University.

Established in 1976, Farrell Fritz is headquartered in Uniondale, with offices in Albany, Hauppauge, New York City and Water Mill. The firm has more than 90 attorneys across 19 practice areas.

Farrell Fritz attorneys take prominent, active roles in scores of business, legal and philanthropic organizations; numerous are recognized regionally or nationally as leaders in their fields. The firm is well known for its pro bono work,

board involvement, volunteer service and substantial financial support of local community organizations.

Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring; business divorce; commercial litigation; construction; corporate and finance; eDiscovery; emerging companies and venture capital; employment law; environmental law; estate litigation; health care; land use and zoning; New York State Regulatory and Government Relations; not-for-profit law; real estate; tax planning and controversy; tax certiorari, and trusts and estates.

WHEN YOUR HOME  
ISN'T SAFE



L.I. Against  
Domestic Violence

*Prevention. Support. Healing.*

L.I. AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
IS HERE FOR YOU!

CALL OUR 24-HOUR HOTLINE AT

**631-666-8833**

WWW.LIADV.ORG



# WHO'S WHO

2020

*Real Property & Tax  
Certiorari Law*

**A LONG ISLAND BUSINESS  
NEWS SPECIAL ADVERTISING  
SUPPLEMENT**



## WHO'S WHO

### Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law

# WHO'S WHO

## Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law

As the region faces unprecedented times, there are new issues business owners may be facing as a result of the pandemic. In this Who's Who in Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law section, some of Long Island's top attorneys in these practice areas provide advice when it comes to real estate transactions and/or reducing taxes during this COVID-19 period.

— Lisa Morris Josefak

### INDEX

#### 11C DOUGLAS W. ATKINS

*Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP*

#### 11C BRAD CRONIN

*Cronin & Cronin Law Firm*

#### 12C RICHARD P. CRONIN

*Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP*

#### 13C ANTHONY J. FICARA

*Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP*

#### 13C JACQUELYN MASCETTI

*Herman Katz Cangemi Wilkes & Clyne, LLP*

#### 14C WILLETS S. MEYER

*Farrell Fritz, P.C.*

#### 15C JAMES P. ROSENZWEIG

*Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP*

#### 15C MATTHEW J. ZANGWILL

*Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.*

**DOUGLAS W. ATKINS**  
*Forchelli Deegan  
Terrana LLP*



Douglas W. Atkins is a partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP. Atkins concentrates his practice in property tax refund and reduction, commonly known as tax certiorari. He has extensive experience in property tax reduction proceedings for all types of commercial real estate throughout New York State.

Atkins has handled complex cases for specialty properties, including golf courses, cellular towers, self-storage facilities, nursing homes, and condominium communities. He regularly advises property owners and municipalities on the negotiation and tax impact of Industrial Development Agency Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) agreements.

Property owners should consider two things during the pandemic, Atkins said.

“First, be aware of any tax deadline extension offered by your town,” he said. “Cash is king now, and holding yours as long as possible puts you in a safer position.”

“Second, you should challenge the property tax assessment due to the change in value caused by COVID-19,” Atkins said. “We expect to see prolonged commercial vacancies in the retail and office sectors. This drives down real estate values and commercial property owners may be able to lower their tax bill as a result.”

Atkins was appointed chairman of the Nassau County Bar Association's property tax committee in 2018. He is a frequent lecturer and writer on the topics of commercial property tax and valuation. He has been published in the New York Real Estate Journal, the New York Law Journal, the Suffolk Lawyer, and other local publications.

Annually since 2011, Atkins has been selected to the New York Super Lawyers Rising Stars lists.

He has successfully completed

both commercial and residential real estate appraisal courses through the Columbia Society of Real Estate Appraisers.

Atkins attended Brooklyn Law School and earned a bachelor's degree from Fordham University.

Prior to joining the firm, Atkins held positions at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office and the Kings County Supreme Court.

Founded in 1976, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP (FDT) is one of Long Island's largest and most distinguished law firms. Headquartered in Uniondale, the firm employs 60+ attorneys across more than a dozen practice groups. FDT is committed to providing exceptional service to a broad range of national, regional and local clients.

**BRAD CRONIN**  
*Cronin & Cronin  
Law Firm*



Brad Cronin is the founding partner at Cronin & Cronin Law Firm in Mineola. Cronin & Cronin Law Firm practices exclusively in the area of tax certiorari, protesting the real property tax assessment and condemnation for commercial properties throughout New York State. Cronin focuses his skills on representing property owners in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties, as well as New York City and upstate New York.

For more than 35 years, Cronin has developed longstanding relationships with a diverse client base to assist property owners in obtaining reductions for their real estate taxes for their commercial property. He has extensive experience representing prominent developers, national tenants, and many of the largest properties in New York State. In addition, he has earned the highest rating awarded by Martindale Hubbell in both competency and ethics in his field.

Cronin represents a cross section of many of the largest developers, property owners and

**WHO'S WHO****Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law**

national corporations, REITs and retail chains, successfully obtaining court ordered tax relief for all types of commercial property including race tracks, apartment buildings, office complexes, malls, shopping centers, golf courses and marinas. Cronin has extensive trial experience having successfully litigated and resolved high profile cases in counties throughout New York State and established a number of landmark decisions in the field.

Commercial property owners can take actions that can help reduce their taxes during the pandemic, Cronin said.

"The best advice for owners during this COVID period is to appeal all your commercial properties and have an attorney who is experienced and willing to put the time and effort to know all the issues affecting your property, he said. "Too often, inadequate offers are obtained due to lack of preparation," Cronin said. "Owners should communicate rent deferrals, vacancies,

nonpayment of rent but these only tell part of the story."

"To effectively obtain the maximum reduction in the taxes there are a myriad of questions that must be asked to illustrate the unique obstacles a particular property must overcome during the pandemic," Cronin said. "These factors must then be properly analyzed considering the law, the market and the characteristics of your property so that the taxes are reduced to the lowest level possible."

Cronin has been an invited speaker and participant on various panels involving different subjects affecting tax certiorari and valuation of property such as condominiums, environmental contamination, and reviewing changes in the tax certiorari field. As a member of the Nassau and Suffolk Condemnation and Tax Certiorari committees, he has worked to implement changes to facilitate the timely resolution of commercial tax protests. He has lectured and participated in panels involving

issues that pertain to property taxes as well as been featured in numerous publications. He is also featured quarterly in the New York Real Estate Journal's "Ask the Expert" column regarding real property issues.

Cronin has also contributed to the real estate community by currently serving on the LIREG Board, and as past co-president of the Long Island Real Estate Group. He is also co-founder of the Northwell Hospital Department of Medicine Leadership Circle Committee and serves on the Village of Plandome Planning Board.

Cronin is a graduate of Le Moyne College and earned a juris doctor from Quinnipiac University School of Law.

Richard P. Cronin is a partner in the Tax Certiorari and Condemnation Law Practice Group at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP.

Cronin represents owners of various types of commercial property in real estate tax review proceedings throughout the State of New York. His thorough knowledge of Nassau County's tax lien laws has helped property owners in Nassau to obtain further reductions in real estate taxes. Cronin also represents claimants in Eminent Domain proceedings throughout the State of New York.

It promises to be an interesting era in tax certiorari due to the pandemic, Cronin noted.

"Now more than ever it is critical to advise your attorney of declining rental income," he said. "Landlords are seeing delinquencies from tenants who haven't paid their post COVID-19 rent; vacancies from tenants who have closed their doors for good; and tenants who have sought to renegotiate existing



**RICHARD P. CRONIN**

*Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP*

# CRONIN & CRONIN LAW FIRM

**Excellence, Integrity and Exceptional Service**

**Real Property Tax Assessment Reduction and  
Condemnation for Commercial Properties**

**Brad W. Cronin    Sean M. Cronin    Cara P. Cronin  
Raymond J. Furey    Brian M. Troy**

200 Old Country Road, Suite 470 • Mineola, NY 11501  
(516) 747-2220 • [www.cronintaxlaw.com](http://www.cronintaxlaw.com) • [info@cronintaxlaw.com](mailto:info@cronintaxlaw.com)

## WHO'S WHO

### Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law

leases in order to stay afloat.”

“In addition to the business uncertainty, municipalities face reduced sales tax revenues and it is expected that other sources of municipal income may dry up, as well,” Cronin said. “This will likely result in municipalities being strapped for money and looking for ways to fill the gaps.”

“We don’t yet know the precise impact that COVID-19 will have on real estate values, but we expect dramatic decreases,” he said. “We have been working hard to make sure our client’s largest expense (their taxes) go down as a result.”

Prior to joining Certilman Balin, he was a partner at Cronin, Cronin, Harris & O’Brien, P.C.

Cronin was named to the 2019 New York Metro Rising Star’s list. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and both the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations, and serves as co-chair of the Nassau County Tax Certiorari Committee.

Active in his community, Cronin is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association’s Mentorship Program. He also serves on the associate board of the Association of a Better Long Island (ABLI).

Cronin earned a juris doctor, magna cum laude, from Fordham University School of Law. He was elected Order of the Coif, having graduated in the top 10 percent of his class, and was a member of the Intellectual Property Law Journal.

Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP is among the region’s largest full-service law firms with Long Island offices in East Meadow and Hauppauge and an office in Saddle Brook, NJ. Its 15 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, nonprofit/tax exempt and religious organizations, trusts and estates, elder law, telecommunications law, and criminal law.



**ANTHONY J. FICARA**  
Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP

Anthony J. Ficara is a partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff where he serves as co-chair

of the firm’s Condominium & Co-Op Services Group. Ficara focuses his practice in the area of complex condominium and cooperative matters and represents sponsors of condominium, cooperative and homeowner association developments and conversions throughout the United States. He also serves as counsel to several condominium, cooperative and homeowner association boards in the New York area.

Ficara has extensive experience in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including development project acquisitions, retail and office property acquisitions, multi-family portfolio acquisitions, commercial condominium unit acquisitions, capital markets and structured real estate finance matters and commercial leasing transactions.

He represents some of the region’s most prolific developers of new construction condominium projects. Ficara’s broad range of experience in all sides of these often-complex transactions is viewed as a key quality by his clients, which enables him to represent them from inception of a project through consummation of the offering plan, and ultimate disposition of the newly-created condominium units.

Amid ongoing COVID-19 concerns, Ficara advises clients to take a broader perspective before making decisions.

“The advice I have been sharing with clients during the COVID-19 crisis is — take a step back before making major decisions and speak with your team and trusted advisors before pulling the trigger on any significant action you are contemplating, whether strategic or defensive,” he said. “Do not be guided by fear alone. It’s a normal reaction to slip into ‘panic mode’ during times of crisis but

we are just at the beginning of what is, and will be, a major real estate and capital markets shake up.”

“I’m encouraging my clients to be proactive instead of reactive, to keep even-keeled and informed, and to be receptive to opportunity,” Ficara said. “There will be a lot of innings to get through before the full impact of COVID-19 has played out.”

Ficara also has significant experience, working alongside with corporate transactional attorneys, in the preparation and formation of real estate related investment funds seeking to raise capital through private placement offerings.

Prior to joining the firm, Ficara was the founding member and managing partner of Ficara & Associates, P.C., a well-known Long Island law firm where he was responsible for originating, preparing and filing numerous offering plans for developers in the New York metropolitan area and beyond. His practice also focused on all aspects of commercial and residential real estate transactions.

Ficara has provided numerous CLE lectures to his peers on the topics of condominium law and affordable housing related matters. He earned a juris doctor from Hofstra University School of Law and a bachelor’s degree from Lehigh University.

Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP is a full service, AV-rated commercial law firm with 20 areas of practice and 75+ attorneys. The firm is based in New York with offices on Long Island and in

New York City and provides a wide range of legal services to businesses, corporations and individuals worldwide.



**JACQUELYN MASCETTI**  
Herman Katz Cangemi Wilkes & Clyne, LLP

Jacquelyn Mascetti is an associate at Herman Katz Cangemi Wilkes & Clyne, LLP (HKCWC) in Melville. Mascetti handles all aspects of tax certiorari and

condemnation litigation in jurisdictions across New York. She has participated in several successful tax certiorari trials and appeals relating to a variety of commercial properties, including golf courses.

Prior to joining the firm in 2013, Mascetti gained valuable experience at a boutique firm in Manhattan where she was involved in all phases of complex commercial litigation, insurance coverage issues, corporate investigations and white-collar and regulatory defense matters.

During law school, Mascetti interned for The Hon. Anthony F. Marano, Supreme Court Justice and Administrative Judge of Nassau County.

She earned a juris doctor, cum laude, from St. John’s University Law School; a master’s degree in business administration from the McCallum Graduate School of Business, Bentley College; and a bachelor’s degree, magna cum laude, from Bentley College.

Mascetti is admitted to practice before the courts in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Mascetti has published two articles: The Fifth Circuit Clarifies Who May Bring a Violation of the Automatic Stay, ABI Bankruptcy Litigation Committee Newsletter, Vol. 8 No. 1 (Feb. 2011); Going for Broke in the Music Industry: Aligning the Code with the Interests of Recording Artists, Note, 19 Am. Bankr. Inst. L. Rev. 185 (2011).

Mascetti is a member of the New York Bar Association, New York City Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association, the Long Island Builders Institute and the Columbian Lawyers’ Association of Nassau County.

The partners of Herman Katz Cangemi Wilkes & Clyne, LLP each have long standing and unique backgrounds and experiences throughout New York, as well as nationally, in the complex world of commercial real estate taxes. From its offices in midtown Manhattan, HKCWC oversees and litigates a wealth of different properties throughout New York City, from major office buildings and hotels, to

## WHO'S WHO

### Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law

large retail projects and multi-family residential, to industrial and specialty property. The Melville and Tarrytown offices serve as the hubs for the firm's comparably diverse portfolio of real property tax appeals on Long Island, in Westchester County, and throughout upstate New York. Wherever the property is located, and whatever property type it is, HKCWC has had success with the local assessors.

HKCWC represents clients at both the administrative and judicial levels throughout New York State, as well as providing additional assistance by overseeing properties throughout the country. The property tax business requires local expertise and experience, and HKCWC has spent decades establishing its reputation in New York, and developing relationships nationwide to make sure the right expert is implicated in every jurisdiction. In this regard, the partners of HKCWC act as outside property tax counsel for both national and international real es-

tate operations and oversee portfolios across the United States.

The partners at HKCWC have been at the forefront of navigating the complex world of real estate taxes for decades. They understand property taxes are a major expense for most companies and a reduction in these taxes flows directly to a company's bottom line. They are a particularly sensitive issue in New York, which has among the highest property taxes in the country. HKCWC combines its unique trial and transactional expertise with a pragmatic and flexible approach to meet and exceed its clients' needs and expectations.



**WILLETS S. MEYER**  
Farrell Fritz, P.C.

Willets S. Meyer is a partner in the tax certiorari practice

group at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale. Meyer concentrates his practice in all aspects of real property taxation reduction/abatement on behalf of developers, owners and tenants of commercial and residential properties throughout New York State. He is a well-known speaker in Long Island real estate circles, delivering numerous seminars on property tax reduction strategies.

The initial weeks of the pandemic produced a myriad of delayed filing deadlines for annual property tax challenges that vary between jurisdiction and may change again depending on the course of the New York State shutdown, Meyer said.

"Taxpayers looking to challenge their taxes should monitor the situation carefully or make sure that they have someone knowledgeable doing it for them," he said. "It is important to remember that most assessments issued by Long Island municipalities in 2020 will be based on a 'valuation date' (the

date that the property is valued for assessment purposes) that preceded the pandemic and subsequent economic fallout."

"Accordingly, there may not be a strong case for an immediate assessment reduction this year," Meyer said. "Nevertheless, assuming property values fall as the economy weakens and local governments begin to raise tax rates to cover pandemic expenses, property owners would be wise to consider a property tax challenge."

Meyer chairs the Board of Ethics for the Incorporated Village of Upper Brookville. He is a board member of The Water-Front Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes marine education, conservation and recreation for Long Island residents. He also serves as a director of the Oyster Bay Sailing Foundation. For six years, Meyer was a member of the board of directors for the Queens Botanical Garden. He is a former member of the Village of Oyster Bay Cove's Planning

## IT'S TIME TO LOWER THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS



HERMAN  
KATZ  
CANGEMI  
WILKES  
& CLYNE

**MANHATTAN**  
360 LEXINGTON AVE. | SUITE 1502  
NEW YORK, NY 10017  
T: 212.953.5000 | F: 212.953.5001

**LONG ISLAND**  
538 BROADHOLLOW RD. | SUITE 307  
MELVILLE, NY 11747  
T: 631.501.5011 | F: 631.501.5012

**WESTCHESTER**  
120 WHITE PLAINS RD. | SUITE 510  
TARRYTOWN, NY 10591  
T: 914-631-1500 | F: 914-631-1501

Real estate taxes can be the difference between profitability and loss. Keeping your property taxes as low as possible takes experienced counsel, capable of negotiating favorable resolutions and litigating matters that require it.

For decades, our clients have come to value our expertise for superior management of their diverse real estate tax portfolios throughout New York State — and beyond. Let us do the same for you.

**HERMANKATZ.COM**

## WHO'SWHO

### Real Property & Tax Certiorari Law

Board.

Meyer earned a juris doctor from Tulane University Law School and a bachelor's degree from Connecticut College. He is a member of the American, Suffolk County, Nassau County and New York State Bar Associations.

Established in 1976, Farrell Fritz is headquartered in Uniondale, with offices in Hauppauge, New York City, Albany and Water Mill. The firm has more than 90 attorneys across 19 practice areas.

Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring; business divorce; commercial litigation; construction; corporate and finance; eDiscovery; emerging companies and venture capital; employment law; environmental law; estate litigation; health-care; land use and zoning; New York State Regulatory and Government Relations; not-for-profit law; real estate; tax planning and controversy; tax certiorari, and trusts and estates.

Farrell Fritz attorneys take active roles in scores of business, legal and philanthropic organizations; numerous are recognized regionally or nationally as leaders in their fields. The firm is well known for its pro bono work, board involvement, volunteer service and substantial financial support of local community organizations.



**JAMES P. ROSENZWEIG**  
Forchelli Deegan  
Terrana LLP

James P. Rosenzweig is a partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP (FDT). Rosenzweig is a member of the firm's Real Estate, Banking & Finance and Restaurant & Hospitality practice groups.

Prior to joining FDT, Rosenz-

weig was vice president and general counsel at The Riese Organization, where he spent more than two decades counseling and representing a complex and integrated set of commercial real estate and restaurant businesses in Manhattan and on Long Island.

Cash conservation is the preeminent concern of all small to mid-size businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rosenzweig said.

"Commercial rents are usually one of the largest line items on a company's income statement," he said. "Tenants are thus well advised to approach their landlords to negotiate rent deferral agreements, to give their business time to breathe until economic activity improves. Review your lease, security deposit clauses and any guaranty or other source of personal exposure, and make a reasonable proposal to your landlord to reduce or eliminate rent while closed."

"Offer a mix of abatement/repayment terms to let the landlord know you understand that he has his own set of cash flow needs, as well," Rosenzweig noted.

Rosenzweig earned a juris doctor from University of Chicago Law School and a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from University of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1976, Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP (FDT) is one of Long Island's largest and most distinguished law firms. Headquartered in Uniondale, the firm employs 60+ attorneys across more than a dozen practice groups. FDT is committed to providing exceptional service to a broad range of national, regional and local clients.



**MATTHEW J. ZANGWILL**  
Ruskin Moscou  
Faltischek, P.C.

Matthew J. Zangwill is a partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C. in Uniondale. Zangwill's practice centers on real estate transactions, including the acquisition, sale, development and financing of buildings, shopping centers, multi-family residential complexes, self-storage facilities, retail sites and vacant land throughout the country.

Zangwill has extensive experience in the real estate finance space including negotiating and closing commercial mortgage loans, building construction loans, mezzanine loans, private equity financing and bridge loans.

His work on behalf of borrowers and lenders includes the negotiation of complex loan documents including guaranties, mortgages, building loan agreements, ISDA master agreements as well as working through complex title issues. Zangwill's real estate practice also covers transactions involving any one of the many Industrial Development Agencies operating in the State of New York, affordable housing development, tax-deferred exchanges, ground lease transactions including financing ground lease positions, defeasance transactions, net zero bond leasing, condominium conversions, offering plan preparation and no-action applications, purchase options and architect's and construction agreements.

A significant portion of his real estate practice is dedicated to representing both landlords and tenants in connection with leasing and subleasing of retail, office, medical and industrial spaces.

Zangwill has the experience to navigate the various challenges facing not-for-profit corporations and religious institutions seeking to buy, sell or mortgage real property, as well as assisting those seeking

to create not-for-profit corporations, obtaining tax exempt recognition and ensuring compliance with law.

Although COVID-19 has hindered plans, Zangwill encourages clients to be resourceful.

"Uncertain times such as the present require creativity and caution – a combination often easier said than done," Zangwill said. "Those who can be proactive seeking opportunity whether it be restructuring a lease, purchase price negotiation, refinancing opportunity or obtaining government-backed assistance, increase their likelihood of turning short-term pain into long-term gain."

An advocate for small business, Zangwill serves as legal counsel for the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce, Inc., the umbrella organization advocating for the interests of over 40 local Chambers of Commerce in Nassau County and their member businesses. He has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Zangwill earned a juris doctor from Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center and a bachelor's degree from Binghamton University.

Ruskin Moscou Faltischek is the premier business law firm in the New York region. With more than 70 attorneys, superior knowledge of the law, polished business acumen and proven credentials, we have earned a reputation for excellence and success. The strength of our firm's resources greatly enhances what we can accomplish for clients; to not only solve problems, but to create opportunities. This ongoing achievement makes Ruskin Moscou Faltischek an acknowledged leader among our peers and the preferred choice among business leaders.



**Still Here for Long Island.  
Still Here for You.**



## **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

Help for Long Island's children, families, seniors and communities during the coronavirus pandemic is just a phone call away. Contact us for more information on our continued services including virtual and telecounseling.

**Help Us Continue to Provide For Those We Serve Across Our Five Divisions.  
Donate Today at [FCALI.org](https://www.FCALI.org)**

- Addiction Treatment & Recovery
- Children's Mental Health and Wellness
- Prevention and Family Support
- Residential Services
- Senior and Adult Services

[www.FCALI.org](https://www.FCALI.org) | 516.746.0350 | [Info@FCALI.org](mailto:Info@FCALI.org) |

