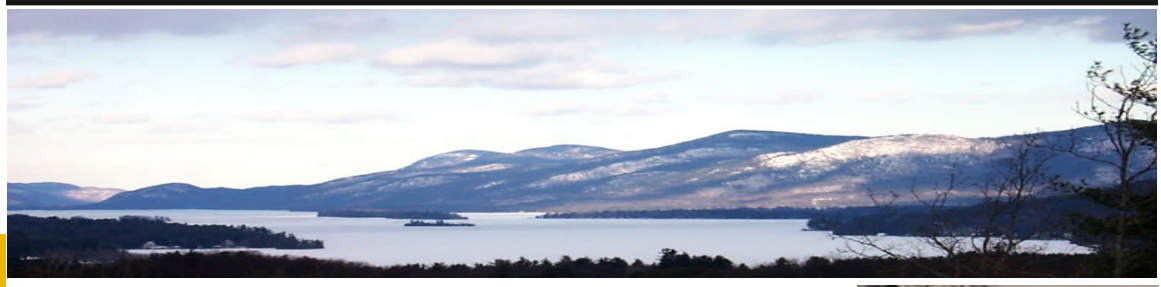
TIPSTAFF



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WARREN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.
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ESTABLISHED 1913

Michele Battle
Executive Director

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Karla W. Buettner, Esq.

"Baby, it's cold outside!"

How many of us mutter this (or some other permutation) each time we walk out of our offices to our cars in the dark to go home?
I know we live in Upstate New York, but sometimes, I'm not sure many enjoy the "take your breath away" cold that accompanies our lifestyles – especially without the snow.

So what should we do?

How about feeling the warmth of collegiality that comes with attending a Bar Association event?

As we move forward in 2017, we have events for everyone, no matter your practice area. In January we hosted a luncheon to discuss the new City Court rules for criminal court, and were fortunate to have Hon. Gary Hobbs, District Attorney Kate Hogan and Public Defender Marcie Flores speak to the topic and answer questions. For those in the real estate and estate practice areas, on February 16, 2017, we are hosting a "free to members" 3 credit Continuing Legal Education course presented by Chicago Title Company. For those who are interested in staying out of trouble (or in need of those oft-times elusive ethics credits), in April we are hosting a one hour Continuing Legal Education ethics course presented by the Third Department's Attorney Grievance Committee. And if you want to come and have fun and support a worthy organization, please come attend the annual March Mixer on March 23, 2017 at the Hiland Country Club.

As we continue in 2017, a year that has already seen its fair share of controversy stemming from Washington, the friendship and comradery that the Bar Association brings is more important than ever. No matter your political affiliation, 2017 has accomplished one thing that is long overdue – people are once again reading the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. While waiting for my son to sing at an Open Mic Event at Spot Coffee, the March for Women took place down Glen Street. I won't pretend it was easy to answer my eight year old daughter's question of the purpose of the March, or to try to explain some of the signs, and I did not speak to the pink hats at all. The best I could do was explain to her that in our country, we enjoyed the freedom to speak out, to walk and share our thoughts with others, and to disagree with the government. I explained that there were many countries in the world in which people were not permitted to do that, and we were blessed to have that freedom. We need to take these opportunities to teach the next generation – and remind ourselves – of the freedoms we enjoy and protect those whose freedoms may be at risk.

There are many times in my career when I felt that pride of being a lawyer. However, I have never felt so moved and proud to be a member of this profession than when I saw attorneys from the ACLU literally sitting on the floor of airports around the country, drafting pleadings for those individuals negatively affected by the President's Executive Order Travel Ban. As I watched those attorneys work feverishly simply to make sure our laws are upheld and rights are not trampled upon, it reminded me of why I went into this profession for the first place, and my goal as your President. Service. I urge all of us to continue to use our profession to serve our clients in the best manner possible, and to serve each other as well.

Torts and Civil Practice: Selected Cases from the Appellate Division, 3rd Department, By Timothy J. Higgins is a partner at Lemire, Johnson & Higgins, LLC

Plaintiffs responsible for their own injuries?

VBarone v. Town of New Scotland
(Lynch, J., 12/29/16)

Defendant's employees made a delivery of wood chips to the plaintiff's home, unloading the product from a dump truck by opening the tailgate and tipping the truck box hydraulically. Trying to dislodge wood chips that had become clogged in the truck bed, plaintiff (as he had seen defendant's employees do in the past) slammed the tailgate; the second such attempt resulting in a crush injury when the plaintiff's hand became wedged between the tailgate and truck body. Supreme Court (Hartman, J., Albany Co.) denied defendant's motion for summary judgment, finding a question of fact whether one of the town employees was aware of what plaintiff was doing and had a duty to intervene. The Third Department reversed and dismissed the action, finding no evidence of a defective tailgate and concluding that "the risk of injuring one's hand when slamming a tailgate is obvious as a matter of common sense". Plaintiff's intervening action was the sole proximate cause of his injuries.

Schorpp v. Oak Mountain, LLC
(Aarons, J., 10/20/16)

Plaintiff was hurt when he fell in a snow-filled depression located about ¾ of the way down the "black-diamond" trail that had been recommended to him by defendant's employee. Supreme Court (Size, J., Fulton Co.) denied the defendant's motion for summary judgment but the Third department reversed and dismissed the claim. Plaintiff, by his own description, was an "expert skier" with decades of experience and had skied weekly at Oak Mountain before his injury. As such, ruled the Appellate Division, he was aware of and assumed "the risk of injury that could be caused by the depression on the ski slope".

Connolly v. Willard Mountain, Inc.
(Lynch, J., 10/20/16)

Plaintiff and her son were tandem snow-tubing at the defendant's ski center, and was hurt when their tubes exited the 1,200-foot long course, went over a 2-foot high berm and into a net (that separated the tubing course from a drop off). The final 400-feet of the course was partially covered with hay; intended to slow down riders before they reached the berm and net. Supreme Court (Melkonian, J., Albany Co.) granted the defendant's motion for summary judgment. Although the defendant met its burden of demonstrating plaintiff assumed the risk of injury (inherent in snow-tubing) from striking the net, the Third Department reversed. Plaintiff's opposition to the motion, including her testimony that an attendant at the top of the mountain it was safe for her to ride in tandem with her son (just under 6-feet tall and approx. 250 lbs.), presented questions of fact that should be resolved by a jury.

Sidewalk trip-and-fall

Brumm v. St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
(Garry, J., 10/27/16)

Supreme Court (R. Sise, J., Saratoga Co.) denied defendant's motion for summary judgment, rejecting the argument that the sidewalk defect identified by plaintiff as the cause of her fall and injury was too trivial to be actionable. Plaintiff's expert forensic architect blamed the fall on an 18-inch long crack in what he called a "deteriorated and uneven sidewalk flag", with a raised vertical surface of approximately 1 inch. Affirming the denial of summary judgment, the Third Department noted that the deteriorated area takes up about 1/3 of the sidewalk section at issue and as such, it is not possible to conclude as a matter of the law that the defect "was so trivial and slight in nature that it could not reasonably have been foreseen that an accident would happen".

Labor Law § 240

Wright v. Ellsworth Partners, LLC
(Peters, J., 10/20/16)

Plaintiff suffered a traumatic brain injury and multiple fractures in a construction site accident in which he was hit by 10-15 stacked scaffolding frames that came loose when a brace failed. Supreme Court (Muller, J., Warren Co.) denied plaintiff's motion for partial summary judgment under Labor Law § 240, and dismissed the complaint in its entirety. Liability under § 240 often does not lie, but is not automatically precluded, when the falling object and injured worker are located on the same level. Noting that the "single decisive question" is whether the risk at issue arose from a "physically significant elevation differential", the Third Department reinstated the plaintiff's § 240 claim. Unclear from the record evidence, among other facts, was the height of the plaintiff, the number of scaffolds in the pile that collapsed, the weight of each scaffold and the manner in which they fell and struck the plaintiff.

Torts and Civil Practice: Selected Cases from the Appellate Division, 3rd Department, By Timothy J. Higgins is a partner at Lemire, Johnson & Higgins, LLC

"Serious injury"

Martin v. LaValley
(Devine, J., 11/23/16)

Plaintiff's vehicle was rear-ended by defendant's van, after which plaintiff claimed he suffered neck and back injuries that qualified as "serious", as defined by New York Insurance Law § 5102. Supreme Court (Ellis, J., Clinton Co.) disagreed with plaintiff and granted summary judgment dismissing the case. The Third Department affirmed the "serious injury" dismissal, but found the lower court erred in also dismissing plaintiff's claim for economic loss in excess of basic economic loss, which "does not require [plaintiff] to have sustained a serious injury". After reinstating that claim, the Appellate Division considered and denied plaintiff's cross-motion for partial summary judgment on liability. Defendant's proof that plaintiff, a customs official who was providing an escort to a disabled vehicle that would be serviced by defendant's van, "stopped dead" some 100 feet ahead of merging traffic, was sufficient to overcome the inference of negligence that attaches to rear-end collision.

Police shooting not "excessive force"

Diaz v. State of New York
(Devine, J., 11/3/16)

Claimant, while being pursued by a State Trooper, was shot 3 times and left paralyzed from the neck down. Claimant acknowledged that the pursuit was based upon reasonable suspicion that he was engaged in criminal activity (police responded to a call that a bar patron was armed), but alleged the arresting officer used "excessive force". After trial, the Court of Claims (Schaewe, J.) ruled in favor of the defendant, finding claimant's testimony (including that he never removed his loaded pistol from his waistband and that he was shot in the back without provocation) "replete with inconsistencies and evasion". The Third Department affirmed, finding the trial court's credibility determinations and factual findings supported by "a fair and reasonable interpretation of the evidence".

Bonus: Court of Appeals on fan fight at hockey game

Pink v. Rome Youth Hockey Assn., Inc.
(10/25/16)

Defendant rented a local arena to host a hockey tournament for 13-year old players. At a game between teams from Rome and Whitestown, several on-ice fights broke out (resulting in player penalties and ejections) and one coach was ejected. Post-game, two female spectators got into a fight. In the resulting melee, plaintiff, trying to break up the fight, suffered a head injury when he was struck by another male spectator. Plaintiff eventually settled his civil suit against several defendants, including the assailant (who had pled guilty to criminal assault) and the City of Rome. Defendant's motion for summary judgment was denied by Supreme Court and the Appellate Division, which concluded issues of fact existed as to whether defendant's duty to plaintiff included the duty to protect him from the assailant's conduct "given the hostile environment in the arena before the fight". The Court of Appeals reversed and dismissed plaintiff's remaining claims, ruling that the behavior of the fans "certainly did not create the risk that a failure to eject any specific spectator would result in a criminal assault, particularly since such an assault had never happened before". To the extent that plaintiff argued the defendant negligently failed to enforce the USA Hockey Association's "Zero-Tolerance" policy, the Court noted that an internal standard cannot stand as a basis for imposing liability if it "exceeds the standard of ordinary care".

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS
ROBERT J. MULLER, JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

LEE ENTERPRISES, INC., as parent company of The Post Star et al v. e CITY OF GLENS FALLS, et al

This was an application under the Freedom of Information Law seeking a hearing officer's report and recommendation that was considered by the City of Glens Falls Common Council in terminating the employment of an employee of the City of Glens Falls - Lauren M. Stack, who was the City's assessor. Application was granted and included counsel fees.

Probst v. Horicon

Petitioner owned the subject property since 1983, and prospective purchasers applied to the Town of Horicon Planning Board in 2004 for a variance to construct a home on the lot, arguing it was pre-existing, and exempt from minimum size requirements, but were rejected. The board, in a 2011 response to petitioner's claim the lot should have been classified as pre-existing, stated it no longer had jurisdiction to entertain the request. Yet, the Zoning Administrator also claimed it did not have authority to overturn the board's 2004 decision, noting his 2011 decision could not be appealed to the ZBA. An inquiry to the ZBA went unanswered and this Article 78 action ensued. The court found the board's 2004 determination was binding on petitioner, and the time to challenge expired. When petitioner applied to re-open the issue asserting changed circumstances, the board indicated it was outside its jurisdiction, the administrator claimed to lack power and the ZBA did not respond. Yet, the court stated an avenue must exist for a landowner to make such application, finding petitioner established that respondents denied that avenue, and granted the petition directing ZBA to consider the application.

Application of JACOBSON, , for a Judgment Pursuant to CPLR Article 78. v. Butterfly BLAISE, Title IX Coordinator, SUNY Plattsburgh

This order to show cause challenged a determination by SUNY Plattsburgh dismissing him from the college in May 2016 (and placing such dismissal on his transcript). He was dismissed for allegedly failing to obtain affirmative consent when engaging in sexual activity with another student. The arguments was that SUNY violated due process and rendered a determination that was not supported by substantial evidence. The only testimony at the hearing was that of an individual who interviewed the other student. When asked to question that student- who was in a room nearby and watching the proceedings by Skype this was denied. Procedurally the case was transferred to the Appellate Division with this Court noting that in several recent cases involving challenges to college disciplinary determinations where, in addition to a substantial evidence issue, other issues (including due process) were raised, the cases were transferred to the Appellate Division, which addressed all issues and did not indicate in such decisions that any part thereof should have initially been addressed by Supreme Court.

Burgess v. City of Glens Falls et al

The infant plaintiff was on an upper tier of a set of bleachers at the East Field Little League Complex in the City of Glens . A section of the bleachers' foot plank was missing and allegedly resulted in the infant falling and sustaining injuries. The property where East Field is located is owned by the City and is leased to defendant Glens Falls Little League, Inc. Under the terms of the lease the league had “exclusive use of the Property” for conducting its baseball program. Court held that in the absence of notice of a specific dangerous condition, this out-of-possession landlord cannot be faulted for failing to repair or otherwise rectify it. The plaintiff failed in their burden to prove actual or constructive notice and a reasonable opportunity to repair or remedy the dangerous condition. Action against the City was dismissed.

Closing Arguments
By James Cooper, ESQ.

Some lawyers are truly gifted. Even among those, some are exceptional. In covering a murder trial, the *Oregonian* characterized the skills of Jerry Spence with this analogy: "Saying that Jerry Spence is a trial lawyer is like saying that Bruce Springsteen is a musician from New Jersey".

All trial lawyers, who seemingly all call themselves 'litigators' now, must be possessed of self confidence in their skills, but only a fool is not humbled by the brilliance and intelligence of predecessors of exceptional skill. Here are a couple of examples.
The first is from an article in the New York Law Journal of about thirty years ago.

"I am sure we all enjoyed Mr. _____'s good sense of humor, his charm, and his wit. But ladies and gentlemen, that is not what we are here for. All of you promised, not only on your oaths as jurors, but on your word of honor, which is equally important, to 'well and truly to try this case on the evidence and nothing but the evidence'. If you now focus on what you set out to do and not be sidetracked by such matters as which lawyer is older or younger, or told the most jokes, it is certain that you will be proud of fulfilling your duty and using your immense power to do good and render justice."

In 1870 a case that had gained wide publicity and emotional impact was tried in Warrensburg, (MO.) Charles Burden's best black and tan hound, Old Drum, had been shot and killed by Leonidas Horrnsby, who asserted various factual defenses, demurrer and justification. Each side was represented by two each of the cream of Missouri's bar. Geroge G. Vest, a United States Senator, made the closing argument for the plaintiff. He did not discuss the testimony, the credibility of the witnesses, or the theory of the case. He just spoke briefly the following remarks:

Gentlemen of the jury. The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter whom he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name, may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads. The one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog.

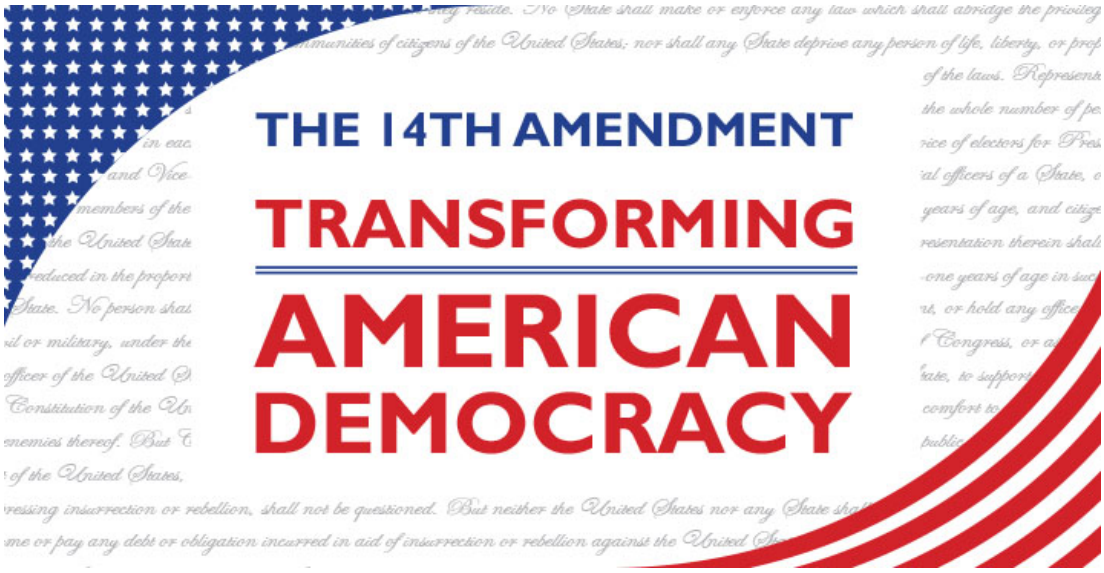
Gentlemen of the jury, a man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground when the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only he can be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer, he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince.

When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens. If fortune drives the master forth an outcast into the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laidin the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by his graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws and his eyes sad but open, in alert watchfulness, faithful and true, even unto death.

Members of the jury, Civil War veterans, survivors of Quantrill's raiders and the lawless Missouri country, rough as cobs, were said to be openly weeping. Except for defense counsel and the defendant, it was reported that there was not a dry eye in the courtroom. Burden won his modest judgment, and Vest left future lawyers with a humbling model.

It is not a model of appeal to sentiment that would be successful in our cynical age. It is a model of a lawyer understanding the culture of his era and his jury.

LAW DAY



The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy

The 2017 theme provides the opportunity to explore the many ways that the Fourteenth Amendment has reshaped American law and society. Through its Citizenship, Due Process and Equal Protection clauses, this transformative amendment advanced the rights of all Americans. It also played a pivotal role in extending the reach of the Bill of Rights to the states. Ratified during Reconstruction a century and a half ago, the Fourteenth Amendment serves as the cornerstone of landmark civil rights legislation, the foundation for numerous federal court decisions protecting fundamental rights, and a source of inspiration for all those who advocate for equal justice under law.

The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy
ABA President, Linda Klein's Message
Click on her Picture to view her message

CONTINUING LEARNING EDUCATION (CLE) OPPORTUNITY

Fidelity National Title Group

in conjunction with the Warren County Bar Association
Offers a Continuing Legal Education Seminar

Real Property Update:

Estate Law and Real Property,
Examination Errors & Title
1031Tax Reform Future

3.0 CLE Credit Hours in Professional Practice

Thursday, February 16, 2017, 8:30 am registration - Noon

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY CHICAGO TITLE

Queensbury Hotel 88 Ridge Street
Glens Falls, New York

Agenda

Time: 8:30 am - 8:55 am Registration
Time: 8:55 am - 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions
Time: 9:00 am - 9:50 am Estate Law and Real Property (M. Wildgrube, Esq.)
Time: 9:50 am - 10:00 am Break
Time: 10:00 am -10:50 am Examination & Title Problems (J. Kenealy, Esq.)
Time: 10:50 am-11:00 am Break
Time: 11:00 am - 11:50 am 1031Tax Reform Future (M. Flavin, Esq.)
Time: 11:50 am - Noon Evaluations and Adjourn

THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES CREDIT FOR NEWLY-ADMITTED AS WELL AS FOR EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS. FIDELITY NATIONAL TITLE GROUP HAS BEEN APPROVED AS AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER BY THE NYS CLE BOARD

Non-Warren County Bar Association members $15.00 service charge
Local sponsor Lake George Title Agency

REGISTER HERE BY CLICKING HERE

February 16th Speakers for Real Property CLE

Marie C.Flavin, Esq.
Senior Vice President, Regional Manager
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic

Marie C. Flavin, Esq., Vice President and Northeast Regional Manager of Investment Property Exchange Services, Inc. (IPX1031®), is a member of the New York and Connecticut Bars, and has been practicing real estate law since 1992. Marie has been specializing in 1031 exchanges with IPX1031® since 1999. Marie frequently lectures and writes articles on IRC §1031 tax deferred exchanges, teaches Continuing Legal and Professional Education to Attorneys and CPAs, and is an adjunct professor at the University of New Haven where she teaches Business Law.

Michelle H. Wildgrube, Esq.
Principal at Cioffi • Slezak • Wildgrube P.C.

Ms. Wildgrube has been a principal of Cioffi • Slezak • Wildgrube P.C. (formerly Carpenter & Cioffi, P.C.) since 2004, and has been with the firm since 1999. Prior to joining Cioffi Slezak Wildgrube P.C., Ms. Wildgrube worked for a general practice firm that provided a broad foundation for her practice which now concentrates in the areas of estate planning and administration, corporate and business law, and real estate.

As a volunteer with The Legal Project's Affordable Housing Attorney Assistance Program (AHAA), Ms. Wildgrube trains attorneys to represent clients with regard to real estate purchases. She frequently lectures for the New York State Bar Association and the Schenectady County Bar Association on real estate and estate planning issues. Ms. Wildgrube is a panel member of the Legally Speaking Program for The Legal Project. Through this program, Ms. Wildgrube presents seminars on estate planning and elder law issues to community groups.

Ms. Wildgrube is a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Fourth Judicial District. She currently serves on the boards of directors of the Federation of Bar Associations, Fourth Judicial District (Immediate Past President), the Disability Education Forum of New York (Treasurer), and the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. In addition, Ms. Wildgrube is a member of the Executive Committee for the New York State Bar Association's Real Property Law Section, the New York State Bar Association's Lawyer Referral Committee, and the New York State Bar Association's CLE Committee.

John F. Kenealy, Esq.
Vice President and District Manager,
Chicago Title

John Kenealy started in the title business in 1985 when he joined Central New York Abstract Corp., in Herkimer NY. While at Central, he became Branch Manager of the Herkimer County office in 1991. He also served as a corporate officer, holding the position of assistant secretary and vice president. In 1995 he left Central New York Abstract and matriculated at Western New England University School of Law, graduating with honors in 1998. During law school, he worked at Ellis Title Company in Springfield MA. He then joined the Kiley Law Firm, PC, Oneida NY in 1998, becoming a vice president in 2003. In January of 2004, he joined the firm of Helmer Johnson Misiaszek & Kenealy in Utica NY. In November of 2015, John joined Chicago Title as Vice President and District Manager, responsible for the Syracuse and Oswego branches, covering a 12 county district.

WELCOMING NEW LAWERS

MARY KATE LEAHY JOINS WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Mary Kate Leahy is new to the practice of criminal law and to the Warren County Public Defender's Office. She is an avid reader – in fact her first word as a baby was "book". She is originally from Illinois and went to law school at William and Mary, so she has lived in several regions of the country. She is a somewhat accomplished knitter and will gladly make a variety of winter gear for anyone who asks.

BRIAN PILATZKE JOINS WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Brian Pilatzke grew up in the Capital District and attended SUNY Albany and Albany Law School, graduating law school in 2005. He began working for the St. Lawrence County Office of the Public Defender in 2006 and was appointed the Public Defender for the county in 2008, handling the felony caseload for the office. After leaving the Office of the Public Defender, Brian spent several years as a sole practitioner in St. Lawrence County representing clients in all manner of criminal, family and civil matters.

LYNN PUCCIARELLI JOINS WARREN COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Lynn Pucciarelli is a newly admitted attorney working in the Warren County Public Defender's Office. She attended Dickinson College for undergrad where she majored in Law and Policy and minored in Spanish. Further, she swam competitively on a collegiate level as the captain of her team. She attended Western New England University School of Law where, while she wasn't studying case law, she was the chairperson of the athletics committee which continued the Law School Basketball Tournament for the 40th year. She now lives on Brant Lake with her three year old black lab and two chocolate lab puppies.

BRENT FRARY JOINS FITZGERALD MORRIS BAKER FIRTH, P.C.

Glens Falls, NY— The law firm of FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth, P.C. (FMBF) is pleased to announce that Brent A. Frary has joined the firm as an Associate Attorney in the Business and Real Estate practice group. Brent received his Juris Doctor from Albany Law School, while concurrently earning his Master of Science in Bioethics from Clarkson University and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He earned his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Potsdam. Brent is admitted to practice in New York State. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, with membership to the Warren County Bar Association pending. Brent currently lives in Albany, New York.

GEOFFREY RAFALIK JOINS FITZGERALD MORRIS BAKER FIRTH, P.C.

Glens Falls, NY— The law firm of FitzGerald Morris Baker Firth, P.C. (FMBF) is pleased to announce that Geoffrey A. Rafalik has joined the firm as an Associate Attorney in the Trusts and Estates practice group. Geoff received his Juris Doctor, with a concentration in tax law, from Albany Law School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Siena College. Geoff is admitted to practice in New York State. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, with membership to the Warren County Bar Association pending. Geoff currently lives in Greenfield Center, New York.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attorney Robert H. Coughlin, Jr. Selected as District Representative of the Year by the NYSBA Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section

ALBANY, N.Y. (January 27, 2016) – On Wednesday evening, Attorney Robert H. Coughlin, Jr., of counsel to Towne, Ryan & Partners, P.C., was presented with the District Representative of the Year award by the New York State Bar Association's (NYSBA) Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (TICL). The presentation took place at the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section and Trial Lawyers Section Reception and Dinner during the NYSBA's 140th Annual Meeting in New York City.

This award recognizes Mr. Coughlin's work as one of the District Representatives for the Fourth Judicial District. A 32-year member of the NYSBA, Mr. Coughlin has serviced the TICL Section extensively since becoming involved. His various leadership roles include serving as Chair (2014-2015), Vice Chair (2013-2014), Secretary (2012-2013), Chair of Membership Committee (2005-2012), and Chair of Committee of Laws and Practices (1987-2005).
Mr. Coughlin is a trial attorney practicing in the area of civil litigation with a focus on commercial litigation, personal injury and insurance matters.