

**COUNTY ATTORNEY’S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**2026 Annual Meeting**

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**Monday, May 18, 2026**

10:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Brunch</b> – Fenimore Dining Room
11:30am – 12:00pm	<b>Registration</b>
12:00pm – 12:10pm	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> Tina Wayland-Smith, <i>CAASNY President</i> Madison County Attorney
12:10pm – 1:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Municipal Attorney Ethics – Who is my Client when Representing an Entity?</b> Victor L. Prial , Esq. Steven W. Williams, Esq. <i>Smith, Sovik, Kendrick &amp; Sugnet, P.C.</i>
1:00pm – 1:10pm	<b>Break</b>
1:10pm – 2:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Federal Funding of Municipal Projects: Understanding How Federal Funding for Municipal Projects May Clash with State and Municipal Funding Needs</b> Teno A. West, Esq. <i>West Group Law PLLC</i>
2:00pm – 2:50pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Municipal Cybersecurity: New York’s Chapter 177 Mandate</b> Robert Braumuller, Esq. Zaina Khoury, Esq. <i>Bleakley Platt &amp; Schmidt, LLP</i>
2:50pm – 3:00pm	<b>Break</b>
3:00pm – 3:50pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Labor &amp; Employment Updates</b> Whitney Kummerow, Esq. Lindsey Hazelton, Esq. Emily A. Middlebrook, Esq. <i>Hancock Estabrook LLP</i>
3:50pm – 4:00pm	<b>Break</b>
4:00pm – 4:50pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Legislative Update</b> Stephen J. Acquario Patrick R. Cummings <i>NYSAC</i>

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**Tuesday, May 19, 2026**

9:00am – 9:50am (1 CLE Hour)	<b>First Amendment Issues for Counties</b> Brian S. Sokoloff, Esq. <i>Sokoloff Stern LLP</i>
9:50am – 10:00am	<b>Break</b>
10:00am – 10:50am (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Using Electronic Evidence at Trial in the Age of Smart Cities</b> Daniel J. Pautz, Esq. Bond Schoeneck & King
10:50am - 11:00am	<b>Break</b>
11:00am – 11:50am (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Recent Developments in SEC Municipal Securities that County Attorneys Need to Know</b> Douglas E. Goodfriend, Esq. <i>Orrick, Herrington, &amp; Sutcliffe LLP</i>
11:50am – 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00pm – 1:50pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Current Issues and Ethical Concerns in Affirmative Litigation on Behalf of Counties</b> Sarah Burns, Esq. Thomas I. Sheridan, III, Esq. <i>Simmons Hanly Conroy LLP</i>
1:50pm – 2:00pm	<b>Break</b>
2:00pm – 2:50pm (1 CLE Hour)	<b>Public Sector Labor Relations</b> Matthew P. Ryan, Esq. <i>Roemer Wallens Gold &amp; Mineaux LLP</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>CAASNY Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner</b>

## 2026 CAASNY Annual Meeting

May 18–19, 2026

### Speaker Biographies

**STEPHEN J. ACQUARIO, ESQ.**, is Executive Director and General Counsel of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). In this capacity, Mr. Acquario presents a single voice for the county governments of New York State. He is responsible for the overall direction of the association and oversees the association's agendas to ensure a cohesive and coherent legal and legislative strategy on behalf of New York State's 62 county governments. Mr. Acquario graduated *magna cum laude* from Albany Law School. He holds a B.A. in Industrial and Labor Relations from the State University of New York at Potsdam. In addition, he earned a graduate certificate in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University. He is admitted to practice law in New York.

**ROBERT BRAUMULLER, ESQ.**, is a Co-Managing Partner of Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP, member of the Firm's Executive Committee, Chair of the Health Law Practice Group, and Chair of the Corporate Law Practice Group. Mr. Braumuller serves as outside General Counsel to several clients. He represents hospitals, ASCs and other outpatient facilities, physician groups, laboratories, pharmacists, technology companies, and medical suppliers. He serves as regular corporate compliance counsel to health industry clients, including large urgent care practices and complex multispecialty practices operating in New York and Connecticut. Mr. Braumuller has extensive experience representing health industry clients on compliance with the Stark Law, anti-kickback statutes and other health care fraud and abuse and health care regulatory laws. Mr. Braumuller also represents corporate clients in diverse industries on a full range of corporate transactions, including private mergers and acquisitions, franchise transactions, joint ventures, and restructurings. In addition, he counsels clients regarding general business matters and corporate governance issues. He received his J.D. (1995, *cum laude*) from Georgetown University, Project Editor, American Criminal Law Review, 1994-1995; his B.A. and M.A. from Georgetown University. Robert is admitted to practice in New York and Connecticut.

**SARAH BURNS, ESQ.**, is a partner in the Complex Litigation Department at Simmons Hanly Conroy. She has substantial legal experience handling prescription opioid litigation, consumer safety cases, mass tort multidistrict litigations and other complex business torts. Over the past 14 years with the firm, Ms. Burns has secured billions of dollars in settlements on her clients' behalf. Her current caseload includes representing county and municipal governments against the pharmaceutical companies responsible for the aggressive and fraudulent marketing of prescription opioid painkillers that led to the opioid epidemic. Ms. Burns earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa College of Law, where she graduated with honors. She graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia with a bachelor's in biochemistry. Sarah is licensed to practice in Missouri; the Eastern and

Western Districts of Missouri; the U.S. Patent Bar; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; and the Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation. In addition, she is admitted pro hac vice in courts around the country.

**PATRICK R. CUMMINGS, ESQ.**, is Counsel for the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC). In this capacity, he works with the New York State legislature regarding pending legislation to help county governments run more efficiently. Mr. Cummings also provides support, when requested, to county attorneys regarding laws, policies, and cases that impact counties. Prior to joining NYSAC in 2011, he was an Assistant County Attorney for Schenectady County. He is admitted to practice law in New York.

**DOUGLAS E. GOODFRIEND, ESQ.**, is a New York Public Finance partner at Orrick with extensive experience in municipal general obligation financings for various New York counties, cities, towns, villages, school districts and fire districts. He frequently serves as bond counsel to municipal issuers participating in the financing programs of the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and the grant and loan programs of the Rural Development division of the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Goodfriend's areas of New York municipal law interest include open spaces programs and financings, town and county improvement district formation, consolidation and improvement, innovative lease-purchase financings, bond resolution referendum law, village local improvement programs and the drafting of local laws and propositions, as well as state legislation on behalf of clients. He received his J.D. from Columbia Law School, 1985; his M.A. from the University of Chicago, 1978, his M.T.S. from Harvard University, 1975 and his B.A. from the New College of the University of South Florida, 1973. He is admitted to practice in New York.

**LINDSEY HELMER HAZELTON, ESQ.**, Is a partner in the Labor & Employment Practice at Hancock Estabrook, LLP. Ms. Hazelton represents both private and public-sector employers in all aspects of labor and employment law. She regularly counsels clients on a variety of employment issues, including discrimination and harassment, wage and overtime matters, hiring and termination strategies, employee discipline and leaves of absence, and defends employment litigation claims before state and federal agencies and in the courts. Ms. Hazelton's practice also focuses on the representation of management, municipalities and school districts in labor matters, such as collective bargaining, contract management, grievance administration, labor arbitrations and unfair labor practice proceedings. Ms. Hazelton is a frequent lecturer and provides in-house training sessions to clients on various labor and employment topics. She received her J.D. from the University at Buffalo Law School, 1997 and her B.S. from Cornell University, 1994

**ZAINA S. KHOURY, ESQ.**, is a member of Bleakley Platt & Schmidt's Health Care Law, Healthcare Litigation, and Corporate Law practice groups. Prior to joining us, Ms. Khoury represented a variety of medical professionals, including physicians, hospitals, and medical device manufacturers in malpractice and product liability claims, as well as professional misconduct allegations. She has previously held roles within the New York City Health and

Hospitals Corporation, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She has substantial knowledge of New York and federal health care regulations and fraud and abuse laws, including the anti-kickback statute, the Stark Law and their implementing regulations, and the implementation of corporate compliance programs. Ms. Khoury provides counsel to clients in the health care industry and other industries on regulatory compliance obligations and general risk management. Ms. Khoury received her J.D. (*cum laude* 2016) from Brooklyn Law School; B.A. from Lehman College in Philosophy, magna cum laude, minor in Law and Government, 2012. She is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

**WHITNEY M. KUMMEROW, ESQ.**, is Partner at Hancock Estabrook LLP, practicing in the areas of labor and employment, municipal law, education, and startup & emerging businesses. She counsels both public and private sector employers in all types of labor and employment-related matters. Ms. Kummerow regularly represents clients regarding the New York State Taylor Law. She has served as Chief Negotiator, successfully negotiating collective bargaining agreements with a wide range of employee bargaining units for public employers across the State. In addition, she has served as an advocate presenter in contentious interest arbitrations involving various police departments and sheriff's offices. As a member of the Startup & Emerging Business Practice Area, Ms. Kummerow counsels entrepreneurs on various issues, including best hiring practices, policy creation, and initial wage and hour compliance for new businesses. Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Kummerow clerked for and served as an Attorney Advisor at the United States Department of Labor's Office of Administrative Law Judges and worked as a judicial intern for the Honorable Jean K. FitzSimon of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. More recently, she practiced labor and employment law at Sobol & Sobol, P.C. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She received her J.D. (*magna cum laude*, 2010) from Drexel University School of Law and her B.S. from Syracuse University.

**EMILY A. MIDDLEBROOK, ESQ.**, is a Partner in the Labor & Employment, Municipal & Public Entities, Education and Nonprofit practice areas at Hancock Estabrook LLP. Ms. Middlebrook is a management-side labor and employer lawyer who represents private and public sector employers. She counsels employers on issues such as wage and hour compliance, leave obligations under state and federal law, addressing discrimination and harassment issues in the workplace and compliance with all applicable employment laws and regulations. Ms. Middlebrook regularly assists employers in developing employment policies and handbooks and addressing issues concerning employee work performance. Ms. Middlebrook also has experience in the defense of labor and employment litigation claims before state and federal courts and administrative agencies including the defense of claims under the New York State Human Rights Law, Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the New York State Public Employees' Fair Employment Act (the Taylor Law) and other labor and employment laws. Ms. Middlebrook also represents management in connection with labor arbitrations, collective bargaining and

in the negotiation of employment contracts. She received her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law and her B.A. from Wells College.

**DANIEL J. PAUTZ, ESQ.**, is a trial attorney at Bond Schoeneck & King, where he handles a wide range of litigation matters on behalf of individuals, corporations, insurance companies and public entities. He is well-versed in all phases of civil litigation, including investigations, pretrial discovery and motion practice. Mr. Pautz has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict in New York state and federal courts and has represented clients in the Appellate Division. His practice focuses on litigating business and commercial disputes for clients ranging from large institutions to small businesses. He also has extensive experience in defending toxic tort and other negligence claims in the areas of products liability, premises liability and motor vehicle accidents. He has also represented clients against claims of professional malpractice and has considerable experience in the areas of criminal defense and collection law. In addition to his practice, Daniel donates a significant amount of time to the firm's pro bono initiatives, including Syracuse City Court Eviction Defense Clinic. He received his J.D. (*cum laude*, 2008) from the University at Buffalo School of Law and his B.S. (*summa cum laude*, 2005) from Niagara University. He is admitted to practice in New York; the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York; the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York; the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York.

**VICTOR L. PRIAL, ESQ.**, is a trial lawyer and appellate advocate at Smith Sovik with a breadth of experience in a variety of areas. He was named an Upstate New York State “Rising Star” by Super Lawyers in 2017. His practice focuses on products liability, professional malpractice, contract disputes, premises liability, labor law, personal injury, construction matters, and employment law. Mr. Prial joined Smith Sovik in 2014 after working at a prominent Syracuse law firm where he maintained a wide-ranging litigation practice representing clients in real estate, service, manufacturing, financial, construction and technology industries. Before relocating to Syracuse, he worked at a large law firm in New York City concentrating on complex commercial litigation including business litigation, products liability, employment, consumer protection and antitrust matters.

Mr. Prial began his career as a judicial clerk in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. While in law school at the Syracuse University College of Law, he was an Executive Editor of the Syracuse Law Review, where his student note was selected for publication. He received his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law (2004); B.A. *Magna Cum Laude*, English and Spanish (1999). He is admitted to practice before all Courts of the State of New York and all U.S. District Courts of New York.

**MATTHEW P. RYAN, ESQ.**, is Partner at Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux, LLP. He joined the firm after serving as associate general counsel for a labor union for almost 13 years. Prior to his labor union experience, he was an attorney in the private sector focusing on personal injury litigation. Mr. Ryan now concentrates his practice in all aspects of labor and employment law focusing on public sector labor relations. In this regard, he has conducted numerous arbitrations, collective negotiations, mediations, fact findings, and interest

arbitrations. His experience also includes representing parties before the New York State Public Employment Relations Board in all aspects of matters conducted before the Board. He also has significant experience in practice before the courts of the State of New York and New York's Federal Courts. He received his J.D., Albany Law School of Union University (2001) and his B.A., Political Science, Siena College in (1997). Matthew is admitted to practice in New York; United States District Court for the Northern District of New York; United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; and the United States Supreme Court.

**THOMAS I. SHERIDAN, ESQ., III** is a partner at Simmons Hanly Conroy in the Complex Litigation Department. Based in the New York office, he has more than 45 years of experience trying cases and arguing appeals in the state and federal courts in New York and throughout the country. In recent years, his practice has focused on representing plaintiffs in pharmaceutical, medical device, and other mass tort litigation. Mr. Sheridan joined the firm as part of the 2014 merger of Simmons Browder Gianaris Angelides & Barnerd LLC and Hanly Conroy Bierstein Sheridan Fisher & Hayes LLP, which he joined as a named partner in 2004. Prior to 2004, he was a partner in the New York office of Torys LLP, an international law firm. Before entering private practice, he served for two years as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Thomas J Meskill, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Mr. Sheridan has represented plaintiffs and defendants in trials and appeals involving a wide range of cases, including those involving pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automobiles, securities fraud, fiduciary duties, products liability, contracts, intellectual property, unfair competition, professional liability, insurance, real estate, and employment. In addition to his trial and appellate practice, he has served as a court-appointed mediator in numerous cases involving employment, contract, partnership, fiduciary duty, insurance, products liability, real estate, negotiable instruments and personal injury. He has also served as appellate counsel by appointment of the Court of Appeals to represent individuals in civil rights cases unable to afford a lawyer.

Mr. Sheridan received his B.A. *cum laude* (1973) from St. Michael's College, his J.D. *cum laude* from Fordham University School of Law (1976) where he was Associate Editor for the Fordham Law Review. He is admitted to practice in New York, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit; Seventh Circuit; Eighth Circuit; Ninth Circuit; the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York and the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York.

**BRIAN S. SOLOKLOFF, ESQ.**, co-founded Miranda & Sokoloff, LLP, in 1998, where he continued his zealous advocacy for insurers, municipalities, and private clients. In 2008, he co-founded Sokoloff Stern LLP, where he continues as a high profile, well-respected federal litigator, to whom clients turn with their most challenging trial court and appellate court assignments. Mr. Sokoloff's broad-based litigation experience spans his entire legal career, often with a focus on difficult federal and constitutional issues, including alleged discrimination in employment and public accommodation, police misconduct, and election law issues. From 1986 to 1989, Mr. Sokoloff was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the General Litigation Division of the New York City Law Department, representing the City of New York, its agencies, and employees in their role as employer and service provider.

Previously, Mr. Sokoloff worked for the NYC law firm of Thurm & Heller, LLP, serving as a partner for his last two years at the firm. He defended employment discrimination, police misconduct, municipal land use, and other civil rights cases, such as claims brought under the First Amendment's speech and religion clauses, for private business, municipalities, and schools, and acquired an expertise in handling insurance coverage litigation.

Mr. Sokoloff attended Brooklyn Law School, graduating cum laude in 1986. He was admitted to the bar in New York State in 1987. He is admitted to the following federal courts: United States District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, Northern and Western Districts of New York; the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He was admitted pro hac vice in cases in Washington, D.C., Texas, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and California.

**TENO A. WEST, ESQ.**, serves as the Managing Partner of West Group Law PLLC. His practice focuses primarily on representing municipal governments in the areas of water and wastewater law, solid waste management, environmental, regulatory, public-private partnerships, alternative project delivery, public contracts, municipal law, litigation, procurement law, administrative law, and construction law. Mr. West has extensive experience in representing government agencies and municipalities in the public procurement process and is a frequent lecturer on this and related subjects. He has served as the lead negotiator for the development of several cutting-edge environmental and civic municipal infrastructure projects throughout the United States.

Mr. West has special experience in the development of urban renewal and municipal construction projects representing municipalities and development corporations in the procurement, construction, operation, and financing of a variety of civic projects, including sports stadiums, municipal buildings, and educational facilities. His litigation experience includes representing public clients on numerous matters, including in connection with challenges to legislation, environmental matters, Freedom of Information Law issues, Article 78 proceedings, project approvals, bid protests, construction claims, and contract enforcement. Mr. West has assisted governments with the drafting and enactment of legislation necessary for alternative project delivery methods to be lawfully implemented.

His experience as a lawyer was preceded by a unique opportunity to serve as the Town Manager of Hardwick, Vermont, and Town Administrator of Carlisle, Massachusetts. In his capacity as a municipal manager, he also served on regional solid waste district governing boards in both states. His numerous professional associations and memberships include the Design-Build Institute of America; the International Municipal Lawyers Association; the Solid Waste Association of North America; the International City/County Management Association; and the American Bar Association. Mr. West is also admitted to the New York Bar; the New Jersey Bar; the Massachusetts Bar; the Pennsylvania Bar; and the Connecticut Bar. Mr. West received his J.D. from New England School of Law and his M.P.A. from the University of Vermont.

**STEVEN WARD WILLIAMS, ESQ.**, joined Smith Sovik in 1995 and was made a partner in 1997. Since joining the firm, he has earned a reputation as an excellent trial lawyer. Mr. Williams handles a wide range of litigation matters, including construction accidents, automobile accidents, labor and employment law, products liability, contracts, professional

malpractice and general liability. He has represented high profile clients such as the National Basketball Players' Association (NBPA) and has appeared as a legal analyst on television programs such as The O'Reilly Factor and Hour CNY.

After law school, Mr. Williams served as an officer in the U.S. Navy's Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. There he gained valuable trial experience. He was promoted to the position of Senior Trial Counsel (i.e., senior prosecutor), where he supervised a staff of prosecutors. He specialized in handling some of the Navy's most complex and high-profile cases. In 1994, Mr. Williams was assigned as counsel to Rear Admiral F. M. Dirren, Jr. Steve advised the Admiral on a wide range of issues, including, but not limited to, labor and employment, tort law and criminal law. He was twice awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.

Mr. Williams earned his B.A. from Cortland College and then worked in the New York State Legislature as a writer. He attended law school at California Western School of Law in San Diego, California. Mr. Williams was admitted to the California Bar in 1990 and the New York Bar in 1994. He is admitted to practice before all Courts of the State of New York and California, all U.S. District Courts of New York, the Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the Court of Military Appeals.



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Participant List – Alphabetical**

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2026 CAASNY Annual Meeting  
Monday, May 18, & Tuesday, May 19, 2026  
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Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC is a full-service law firm known for our broad legal capabilities, practical problem-solving and strong presence across New York State and beyond. With more than 300 attorneys, Bond supports clients through a collaborative, team-based approach that brings together deep experience in labor and employment, business and corporate matters, litigation, higher education, real estate, environmental and energy law and intellectual property. Bond serves a diverse client base that includes businesses, colleges and universities, municipalities, nonprofits and individuals, offering both day-to-day counsel and representation in complex, high-stakes matters. Bond is recognized for its responsiveness, accessibility and commitment to delivering clear, actionable guidance tailored to each client's needs. Bond's attorneys work across offices in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida and Kansas, supported by a "one-firm" mentality that allows us to provide consistent, high-quality service regardless of location. With our combination of multidisciplinary expertise and a client-centered philosophy, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC continues to be a leading legal partner for organizations and institutions.

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From its main office atop the historic Liberty Building in Buffalo, New York, the law firm of Colucci & Gallaher, P.C., provides business counseling and litigation-related services to private businesses and municipal entities throughout western New York, the northeastern United States and nationally.

The business attorneys of C&G are skilled advisors and advocates who work hard to provide the highest-quality legal services on time and at a reasonable cost. The firm currently counsels some of the world's largest and upstate New York's smallest businesses, including oil companies, one of upstate New York's largest commercial real estate brokers, downtown Buffalo's largest commercial landlord, one of the area's fastest-growing development companies, the world's largest manufacturer of aerial work

platforms, the nation's leader in designing specialty trucks, and the largest hospital and nursing home in the region.

The firm's attorneys have handled disputes in federal and state courts across the country, including California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

In these forums, C&G has protected the interests of clients in products liability claims, employer-employee disputes, complex commercial and business litigation, the defense of personal injury claims and contract litigation.

The attorneys of C&G regularly practice in the courtroom, before private arbitration panels and in mediation proceedings.

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In 2001, Goldberg Segalla was founded as a modern, refreshing alternative to the typical law firm. Today, we are proud to serve as trial counsel for a number of Fortune 100 companies and to continue building an ongoing history of success. Of course, we also care for our communities and support numerous efforts to enhance the diversity and quality of life in the areas in which we work and live.

Every day at Goldberg Segalla, we are guided by our mission to be a Best Practices firm. We pride ourselves on following client guidelines and exceeding client expectations. We have also invested in Best Practices in numerous other ways, including implementing systems that reward the team over the individual, thereby helping us achieve our goal of exceptional client service.

We truly appreciate the accolades we have received from our clients and colleagues acknowledging our commitment, outstanding legal skills, dedication to client service, and professional demeanor.

Goldberg Segalla has been lauded for its commitment to diversity. We believe a diverse work environment—one that brings together a wide range of perspectives, cultures, and experiences—enhances our ability to represent our clients successfully and benefits the greater business community. We continually develop relationships with law schools and diversity-focused associations, and we are proud to have been recognized by national, regional, and local organizations for implementing initiatives that make a difference.

We recognize the importance of supporting our communities and we are proud to contribute to, volunteer for, and serve on boards of many charitable organizations, some of which were actually founded by our attorneys. We support all endeavors that our attorneys

and other professionals are passionate about, from charitable and professional organizations to pro bono projects and activities. Our lawyers proudly work hard on behalf of their clients and just as hard in support of important causes.

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Hancock Estabrook, LLP, founded in 1889, is one of Upstate New York's leading law firms. We represent clients in a number of different industries, offering counsel and representation on a wide array of legal topics. Our attorneys are recognized in their practice areas as having both the knowledge and experience to represent clients in complex legal matters. At the same time, our attorneys in various practice areas function seamlessly with one another to provide comprehensive and efficient delivery of legal services. Our legal services are provided in a timely and responsive manner providing our clients with value and personal attention. Our Firm's clients range from corporations traded on national stock exchanges to small local businesses and not-for-profit organizations, and from emerging companies to long-standing enterprises. The Firm's reputation for excellence in handling complex legal matters in its primary practice areas of law is unsurpassed.

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Harris Beach recognizes the issues that are unique to municipalities because the firm has served or serves well over 100 counties, cities, towns and villages throughout New York State. Our attorneys and professionals assist these entities by providing legal guidance and support on a full range of municipal matters including, but not limited to, general municipal law; municipal litigation; regulatory compliance and oversight; strategic and operational efficiencies for municipalities; land use, zoning, and development; community planning; economic development; labor and employment; real estate and project management; energy law; communications and crisis management services; and grant writing and administration. In addition, we represent virtually every level of state and local government, along with dozens of public authorities, industrial development agencies and local development corporations. In this capacity, Harris Beach has represented municipal boards, municipal corporations, agencies and authorities, in a diverse array of legal, policy, regulatory and programmatic matters.

Through our experience representing a broad range of public entities for decades, our attorneys fully understand the financial pressures and operating constraints municipalities face as well as the preferences for how to best manage the delivery of legal services. This understanding not only comes from our service to public entities but also from the fact that many of our attorneys have served in the public sector. By way of example, Harris Beach has over 50 attorneys with government experience, including current and former state legislative representatives, public authority chairs and board members, municipal attorneys, as well as other professionals who have served in the public sector as policy makers, economic developers, chief executive officers and project managers. This unique collection of experience provides public sector clients with an unmatched perspective when providing counsel to ensure responsible governance, implementing effective policies, addressing finance goals, and adhering to federal, state and local regulations. Harris Beach is a leader in the practice of municipal law and provides public service information and guidance through an acclaimed online blog at [www.nymuniblog.com](http://www.nymuniblog.com).

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Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP is the only national law firm in the United States whose practice is devoted primarily to public finance and public projects. Each of our specialty areas supports and complements our municipal transactions practice. The Firm has more attorneys engaged in the full time practice of public finance and projects than any other law firm in the country. This concentration of expertise constitutes an unparalleled resource for our clients. The Firm is consistently ranked among the top in the nation among law firms in terms of volume as bond counsel and underwriters' counsel, according to Thomson Financial, and on a cumulative basis, the Firm has been ranked first nationally since 1980 (when statistics began to be compiled). Hawkins has participated in virtually every type of transaction in the public finance arena. Our project finance and public contracts practices are also distinguished in their breadth and experience. The Firm also has the richest heritage in terms of service to the municipal industry. Founded in 1854, the Firm has been recognized nationally for its bond opinions since the late 19th century. Our attorneys have taken part in many of the landmark undertakings in our nation's history, including toll ways, port authorities, housing finance agencies, environmental facilities, fiscal recovery agencies, and non-profit institutions. Hawkins has evolved into a full service public finance law firm of over 100 lawyers. The Firm's New York office is on the site of Alexander Hamilton's law office, at 67 Wall Street. The Firm now also maintains offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento, California, Washington, D.C., Newark, New Jersey and Hartford, Connecticut. Areas of Practice: Public Finance, Public Law, State and Federal Securities, Tax, Real Estate and Redevelopment, Banking, Eminent Domain, Procurement, Contract, and Privatization.

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Lippes Mathias is a full-service law firm with nearly 170 attorneys serving clients regionally, nationally, and internationally. With offices in Buffalo, Albany, Rochester, Long Island, and New York, N.Y.; Greater Toronto Area; Chicago, Ill.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Cleveland, Ohio; San Antonio, Texas; and Washington, D.C., the firm represents publicly and privately-owned companies, private equity and venture capital firms, real estate developers, financial institutions, municipalities, governmental entities, and individuals. Year after year, Lippes Mathias is proud to be recognized by The Best Lawyers in America®, U.S. News – Best Lawyers®, Super Lawyers and Chambers USA.

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Napoli Shkolnik is a national law firm that represents victims and governmental entities across the country in complex litigation, arbitration, and mediation related to a number of practice areas, including civil rights, class actions, mass torts and environmental litigation. As it relates to governmental entities, the firm recently secured landmark verdicts in the New York jury opioid trial, in which many ‘Big Pharma’ companies were found liable in the state’s deadly opioid crisis; and the national opioid trial in Ohio where national pharmacy chains were confirmed to have fueled the opioid epidemic by flooding communities with painkillers.

The firm has been honored by *The U.S. News & World Report* – Best Lawyers® 2022 Edition and numerous Napoli Shkolnik attorneys are consistently recognized by *Super Lawyers*®. The Partners continue to be sought-after legal commentators at conferences and for on-air appearances by national news outlets as well as through their thought-leadership articles published by respected legal industry publications.

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Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP opened its New York office in 1984. Today, with nearly 200 lawyers in New York, it is among the top forty law firms in the city. Our size, broad-based practice in New York, and international presence clearly position Orrick as a global player today and in the future.

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Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP is a law firm with offices in Albany, the state capital of New York. The firm has a respected reputation for providing its clients with responsive, thoughtful, creative, efficient and effective legal services. The firm is resolution-oriented and recognizes that all aspects of the practice revolve around its clients' ability, directly and with the assistance of counsel, to negotiate the best possible results.

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Simmons Hanly Conroy is one of the nation's largest mass tort law firms, representing businesses, government subdivisions, individuals, and families harmed by corporate negligence and wrongdoing. With more than 275 professionals, including 100 attorneys across the country, the firm has recovered more than \$11.7 billion in verdicts and settlements for clients since 1999. Primary areas of litigation include asbestos and mesothelioma, dangerous drugs and medical devices, environmental contamination, prescription opioids, sexual abuse, personal injury, and other mass torts and class actions. The firm's attorneys have been appointed to leadership in numerous national multidistrict litigations, including prescription opioids, Insulin Price Fixing, Uber Rideshare sexual assault, social media adolescent addiction, hair relaxer products injury, Norfolk Southern East Palestine train derailment, Toyota unintended acceleration, BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, DePuy Pinnacle, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Vioxx, Yaz, and the Volkswagen emission scandal. Firm offices are located in New York City, Alton, Illinois; Boston; Los Angeles; Miami; San Francisco; and St. Louis. Read more at [www.simmonsfirm.com](http://www.simmonsfirm.com).

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The Firm's areas of litigation practice include municipal liability, medical and professional liability, products liability, automobile, trucking, vehicle and aircraft liability, construction litigation, commercial law, labor and employment practices law, environmental and toxic tort liability, general negligence, premises liability, and workers' compensation law, as well as appellate advocacy in all those areas.

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Members of our firm have spent their careers serving state and local governments. We understand the challenges public entities face because many of our attorneys once worked in senior positions in local government. This experience enables us to provide state and local governments with efficient, creative, and low cost solutions across the United States. WGL has offices located in Albany and White Plains, and we represent clients throughout the country.

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