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SAHN WARD COSCHIGNANO & BAKER, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Spring 2013
Vol. XIV. NO. 1

New Developments at the Firm

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Chris J. Coschignano Selected as a Recipient of a Leadership in Law Award



SWCB Partner Chris J. Coschignano was selected as a recipient of a Leadership in Law Award by Long Island Business News.

Chris J. Coschignano was honored as a recipient of a Leadership in Law Award by Long Island Business News. Long Island Business News created the Leadership in Law Awards to recognize individuals whose dedication to excellence and leadership, both in the law and in the community, has had a positive impact on Long Island. Awardees were selected by a committee of business leaders based on the biographical information submitted to Long Island Business News that reflected their professional

accomplishments. Along with Chris, who is also a Town of Oyster Bay Councilman, a distinguished group of awardees was presented with a commemorative plaque at a gala dinner held on November 29, 2012 at The Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury.

Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of "Report from Counsel," a Newsletter for the Firm's clients and the other professionals who consult with the Firm, updating them on:

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New Developments in the Law

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Let's Make Hurricane Sandy the Catalyst for Change So We Don't Suffer the Same Catastrophic Damage Again

We cannot change what happened with Hurricane Sandy. But, we can use Hurricane Sandy as the catalyst for change so we do not suffer the same catastrophic damage again from the next storm.



By Michael H. Sahn, Esq.

"We need to put an action plan in place now on Long Island, and the entire metropolitan region, so that we can do everything possible to protect our population, communities and businesses in the future."

Here are some ideas to consider in terms of land use, municipal and environmental planning:

We need to increase the number of power-generating plants and facilities in our area. Let's recognize once and for all that we don't have enough power-generating capacity. To get to where we need to be, we need a comprehensive plan to strategically locate new facilities. This will mean setting aside the local "not here" objections and adopting a wider public benefit analysis when we consider new locations for power plants and facilities. Yes, we need to review all proposals for environmental impact. But, we now need to recognize that, to preserve our environment, we need these facilities so we don't

suffer the consequences that we are now dealing with.

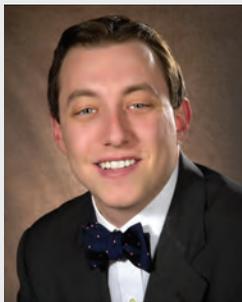
We need to adopt a plan to rebuild our existing infrastructure and construct new infrastructure to support our communities. All of our infrastructure is aging. A lot of it is antiquated. We need to repair and bring up to current standards our roads, bridges, tunnels, water and sewer treatment plants, power-generating facilities and all related facilities. At the same time, we need to plan new infrastructure. We need a Robert Moses-type regional plan, and we need someone with his type of vision to make it happen. It's time to cut through the endless red tape and delays, and get the job done.

We need a plan to "storm proof" our power supply systems and power lines. We shouldn't put in any new lines unless they are underground. When municipalities approve new subdivisions or developments, the municipal code must mandate underground electric and power lines so we are less vulnerable to disruptions. We also need to mandate backup generating systems for vital services and facilities, including gas stations and other facilities vital to sustaining our daily lives.

We need to encourage various types of uses and businesses. This includes businesses that provide power, fuel and vital materials, businesses that manufacture goods and products, local stores that serve communities and service industries. Yes, we should have our regional shopping malls and big box stores. But we also need to make sure that we have local stores and service providers so we don't have

Continued on page 3

Emerging Trends in Facebook, Twitter and other Social Media in New York State Court Litigation and Criminal Proceedings



By Adam H. Koblenz, Esq.

of law, has created modern challenges for the legal system. Recently, the

As Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media evolve and morph on a daily basis, such profound change in how the world communicates presents a growing challenge for attorneys and judges in the practice of law in New York State court litigation. The juxtaposition between what has become widely accepted forms of communication in the social media world, versus longstanding traditions and body of law, rules and ethics governing communications and research in the practice

state and local bar, as well as the judiciary, have attempted to address these concerns through a series of ethics opinions, and an emerging body of case law, in order to provide some guidance as to the permissible standards to be followed in the use of social media in the context of state court litigation. These developments and emerging trends can be seen in recent Supreme Court decisions and a New York City bar opinion highlighted below.

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“The juxtaposition between what has become widely accepted forms of communication in the social media world, versus longstanding traditions and body of law, rules and ethics governing communications and research in the practice of law, has created modern challenges for the legal system.”

Jury Research and Social Media (NYLJ) • NYC Bar Association Opinion No. 2012-02-2

On June 4, 2012, the New York City Bar released an ethics opinion titled “Jury Research and Social Media,” governing the use of social media to research potential or sitting jurors (N.Y.C. Bar Opinion No. 2012-02). The central question that the Opinion attempts to address is: “What ethical restrictions, if any, apply to an attorney’s use of social media websites to research potential or sitting jurors?”

In answering this question, a recent article by Thomson Reuters, dated June 4, 2012, notes that the opinion “focuses on what constitutes a forbidden *ex parte* communication on websites like Facebook and Twitter, which many lawyers are using to dig up information on potential jurors or monitor for signs of misconduct during trials.”

In particular, the Opinion states that “[c]ommunication, in this context, should be understood broadly, and includes not only sending a specific message, but also any notification to the person being researched that they have been the subject of an attorney’s research efforts.” The Opinion cautions that “[e]ven if the attorney does not intend for or know that a communication will occur, the resulting inadvertent communication may still violate the rule.”

Notably, the article points out that, previously, “in 2011, the New York County Lawyers Association issued an advisory opinion restricting attorneys’ social media research to publicly available information and warning against using the sites to contact individuals. But the question of what constitutes a ‘communication’ has become increasingly difficult for attorneys to navigate, given the myriad of ways in which users can find out who has attempted to view their social media pages, the city bar opinion states.”

For example, “a request to add someone as a ‘friend’ on Facebook would be prohibited under American Bar Association Formal Opinion 319, which prohibits *ex parte* communication with potential or sitting jurors, according to the opinion. Chats and messages sent to users over such sites would also be prohibited.”

With regard to the ‘Duty of the Attorney,’ the article notes that “[t]he opinion cautions against the ‘ethical risk’ that may arise if research is done on a social media service that alerts users when another individual has viewed their information. Professional networking site LinkedIn and some dating websites, for instance, show users who have viewed their profile.” In this regard, “[t]he central question an attorney

must answer before engaging in jury research using a particular site or service is whether her actions will cause the juror to learn of the research.”

The analysis suggests that “[t]he same prohibition against communication via social media websites applies to anyone doing research on the lawyer’s behalf, according to the opinion, as well as midtrial research to investigate potential instances of misconduct. The bar group acknowledged that it intentionally left its definition of ‘communication’ open-ended to account for the evolution in how social media sites function. But ultimately it’s the lawyer’s ethical obligation to be aware of how each site works, according to the opinion.”

Moreover, the Opinion states “[i]t is the duty of the attorney to understand the functionality and privacy settings of any service she wishes to utilize for research, and to be aware of any changes in the platforms’ settings or policies to ensure that no communication is received by a juror or venire member.”

The Opinion ultimately concludes by stating that “[l]awyers can make use of any information made publicly available on social media websites under New York Rules of Professional Conduct 3.5 and Rule 8.4(c).” Nonetheless, as the article clarifies, “[b]ut if it seems the individual has misunderstood the site’s privacy settings and didn’t intend the information to become public, a lawyer should proceed with caution.”

Defendants Granted Disclosure of ‘Facebook’ Postings Pre-, Post-Dating Accident (NYLJ) *D’Agostino v. YRC, Inc., et al.*, (Sup. Ct. Orange Cty., May 17, 2012)

On May 17, 2012, in a case entitled *D’Agostino v. YRC, Inc., et al.*, the Orange County Supreme Court issued an order granting the disclosure of ‘Facebook’ posting pre- and post-dating a car accident.

‘Public’ Tweets Are Subject to D.A.’s Subpoena, Judge Says (NYLJ) *People v. Harris*, 2011NY080152 (Crim. Ct. N.Y. Cty., June 30, 2012)

On June 30, 2012, in a case entitled *People v. Harris*, Criminal Court Judge Matthew Sciarrino Jr., sitting in Manhattan, held, in a case of first impression, that Twitter, Inc. must produce tweets and user information of an Occupy Wall Street protester.

Indeed, the emergence of social media presents a myriad of issues for attorneys litigating in both civil and criminal courts in New York State. Being current in this area will prevent “impermissible” communications or the appearance of such, and will assist counsel in avoiding potentially sanctionable conduct. With these emerging trends, the difficulty lies in conforming good practices and ethics to an area of uncharted and evolving territory.



Let's Make Hurricane Sandy the Catalyst for Change So We Don't Suffer the Same Catastrophic Damage Again (continued from page 1)

to travel by car to get the equipment, supplies and food we need to sustain our lifestyles.

We now need to realize that email, smartphones and our electronic way of life is great, but we need the infrastructure to support it. Maybe we don't have enough appropriate telecommunications facilities for our needs. Maybe we need to invest in more places to charge our electronic devices, and have backup charging facilities in place for the next power outage. Maybe, we also need to realize that the old-fashioned mail delivery system is essential to our well-being, and make sure we have sufficient postal facilities in our area.

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"We need to invest in the people and institutions that serve us in times of need and crisis: health care facilities, police and fire departments, EMS and EMT personnel, whether paid or volunteers. We need to upgrade their facilities and equipment and also expand our existing forces."
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We need to get serious about inter-municipal agreements and sharing resources. We should have regional supply warehouses and stores for gas, food and necessities that can be delivered to the public in times of crisis. We don't need FEMA to accomplish this.

Most importantly, we now need an action plan to rebuild what Hurricane Sandy destroyed. We need to cut the red tape and get the job done; expedite permits to rebuild and repair; set up a pool of resources people need, such as contractors, plumbers, electricians, architects and engineers; suspend the usual public bidding requirements and expand the scope of contracts governments can award on an emergency basis so we can clean up, restore and rebuild; adopt incentives and laws to encourage rebuilding; give tax breaks to people and businesses so money can go back into their properties and businesses on an immediate basis.

These are just some points to consider. As the days pass after the storm, let's think about these and all other ideas so we don't get caught again the next time. For land use attorneys, beyond the nuts and bolts of everyday practice, these issues demand our focus and creative thinking.

Matters of Interest at the Firm

Daniel H. Braff represented The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in obtaining approval from the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) for a variance to allow the construction of a new chapel to be located in Flushing that will serve three different local congregations. Daniel guided the application through a complex approval process within nine months, notwithstanding significant community interest, and opposition and participation in the proceeding. Dan also continues to expand the Firm's New York City land use and zoning practice, and is presently providing land use and zoning counsel to owners and developers of properties throughout New York City.



The Firm's Litigation Department continues to expand under Jon A. Ward's supervision and leadership. In recent months, the Firm has handled highly complex commercial matters involving cutting-edge areas of the law, which include a lawsuit where plaintiffs seek class action status involving arbitration issues under the Federal Arbitration Act that have been

the subject of recent rulings by the United States Supreme Court; securities litigation implicating breach of fiduciary duty claims involving creditors; federal Fair Labor Standards Act and New York Labor Law claims; partnership disputes regarding voting agreements; construction law and lateral support; adverse possession; complex mortgage foreclosures and environmental contamination.

The Firm recently won summary judgment for a real estate appraiser in a case concerning alleged fraud in the purchase of an apartment. In *Estrada v. Metropolitan Property Group, Inc.*, Andrew M. Roth, Esq., a partner at Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC,

represented a real estate appraiser who was being sued for, *inter alia*, fraudulent misrepresentation. In a recent decision, granting summary judgment for the Firm's client, the court held that, in a real estate transaction, a buyer is required to conduct his own due diligence by the exercise of ordinary intelligence to discover the true nature of the transaction. See Decision/Order, *Estrada v. Metropolitan Property Group, Inc., et al.*, No. 110123/11, at 4-5 (Sup. Ct. N.Y. Co. Jul. 30, 2012).

The Firm recently won dismissal in a complex employment and labor case for three (3) separate companies operating under a trade name in the commercial kitchen cleaning and repair business. Partner Jon A. Ward, Esq., and associates Ralph Branciforte, Esq. and Adam H. Koblenz, Esq. represented the businesses being sued in Manhattan Federal Court by former industrial cleaning employees for, *inter alia*, violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, New York Labor Law and unjust enrichment for alleged nonpayment of overtime wages.

With Joseph R. Bjarnson as lead counsel on behalf of the Firm, we have joined as pro bono co-counsel for the Plaintiffs in *David, et al. v. Signal International, LLC et al.*, No. 08-cv-1220 (E.D. La.). Mr. Bjarnson will join attorneys from the law firm of Crowell & Moring LLP, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Louisiana Justice Institute in representing the Plaintiffs. For the Firm, its participation in the lawsuit reflects its ongoing commitment to serving the community and individuals in need through pro bono services and community involvement efforts.

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For more information on this case, or other litigation matters, please contact us.
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New Developments at the Firm

Michael H. Sahn Named By Super Lawyers For New York Metro Area 2012



For the third consecutive year, Super Lawyers magazine named Michael H. Sahn as one of the top land use and zoning lawyers in the New York metro area for 2012. The selections are made by the research team at Super Lawyers, a service of the Thomson Reuters Legal division. Each year, the research team at Super Lawyers undertakes a rigorous selection process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by the attorney-led research staff, a peer review of candidates by practice area, and a good-standing and disciplinary check. The objective is to create a comprehensive list of outstanding attorneys that can be used by attorneys and consumers seeking superior legal counsel.

Daniel S. Cohan Joins Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC as Counsel



Daniel S. Cohan has joined Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC as Counsel. He comes over from Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP in East Meadow, where he was the firm's estate planning and estates counsel.

Mr. Cohan concentrates his practice in the areas of estate and tax planning, probate law and estate administration, with a focus on private family foundations and complex trust arrangements. A frequent lecturer on estate planning issues, he is a member of the

Estate Planning Council of New York City, Inc. and the Tax and Estate Planning Council of Nassau County, Inc. He is also a member of the committee for the Surrogate's Court of the New York County Lawyers Association and a member of the Trust and Estate Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association.

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds a Doctor of Law degree from Fordham University Law School. In addition, he has served as Adjunct Professor of Estates, Trusts and Wills in Adelphi University's program for paralegals. He is a resident of Great Neck and is Board President of his co-op unit, the Barclay.

Welcome to the Firm



We welcome to the Firm our newest staff members, Kelly Kehoe and Lauren Spagnoletta.

Daniel H. Braff Promoted to Partner



Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, has announced that Daniel H. Braff, counsel with the firm, has been promoted to Partner.

Mr. Braff concentrates his practice in zoning and land use planning, real estate, environmental and telecommunications law, with a particular emphasis on regulations governing the use of development of real property within the City of New York. He provides zoning analyses, counsels clients in connection with air rights transfers, advises on environmental matters and represents clients before various city agencies, including the Board of Standards and Appeals, the City Planning Commission, the Department of Buildings and the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

He has also secured local discretionary approvals for numerous complex public utility projects throughout the tri-state area, including telecommunications towers, telephone switching facilities and electric utility substations. In addition, Mr. Braff has handled several high-profile New York City development projects, including securing approval from the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals for a new chapel in Flushing, Queens, on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Mr. Braff is admitted to practice in both the states of New York and New Jersey. He is also a member of the Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York and a member of the New York State Bar Association. He is also an active member of the UJA-Federation of New York's Real Estate Executives (REX) group, a member of the New Leadership Division at the North Shore-LIJ Health System and a Weinfeld Associate at New York University School of Law.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Sciences from Lehigh University in 2000, he attended the New York University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor in 2003.

The Firm Welcomes Brian Sales



The Firm is pleased to welcome Brian Sales, EA, who joined the Firm as Controller this past September. As Controller, Brian is responsible for oversight of all the finance, accounting and reporting activities at the Firm. Prior to joining the Firm, Brian worked with our outside accounting firm to consult on all financial and management matters as well as assist with tax compliance issues.

As Controller, Brian is responsible for oversight of all the financial aspects of the firm as well as helping to lead the firm with its future long-range growth strategies. Brian comes to us with ten (10) years of accounting and tax experience with concentrations in professional service, manufacturing and real estate industries. Brian is registered to practice before the Internal Revenue Service as an Enrolled Agent and also holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, as well as a MS degree in Taxation from St. John's University. Brian and his family reside in West Islip, New York, where they enjoy spending time with family and friends.

New Developments at the Firm

Elaine M. Colavito Named to Nassau County Women's Bar Association's Board of Directors



Elaine M. Colavito, an associate with Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, has been named to the Board of Directors of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association. She will serve on the board until her term expires in 2014.

The mission of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association is to promote the advancement of the status of women in society and the legal profession; to promote the fair and equal administration of justice; and to act as a unified voice for its members with respect to issues of statewide, national and international significance to all women, and to female attorneys in particular.

Ms. Colavito concentrates her practice in matrimonial and family law, civil litigation and immigration matters. Prior to joining Sahn

Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, she worked for a civil litigation firm on Long Island.

She is also a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association and the New York County Bar Association and writes the monthly "Bench Briefs" column for *The Suffolk Lawyer*. Her article, "Social Networking Sites and the Right to Privacy: Kathleen Romano v. Steelcase and Education Institutional Cooperative Services, Inc., Index No. 2233/06" was published in the Winter 2011 issue of the *Medicine and Law Committee Newsletter*, a publication of the American Bar Association.

After graduating summa cum laude from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Ms. Colavito attended the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center at Touro College, where she graduated magna cum laude.

Partner Miriam Villani and Jason Kaplan Attend the New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section's Fall Meeting in Lake Placid



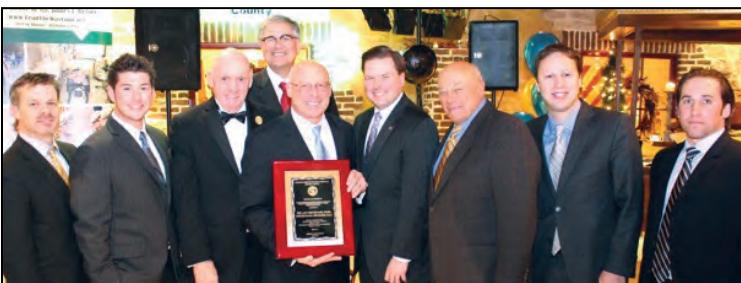
Partner Miriam E. Villani and Associate Jason L. Kaplan attended the New York State Bar Association Environmental Law Section's Fall Meeting on Oct. 12-14, 2012 in Lake Placid, New York. Miriam, the current editor-in-chief of the Section's Journal *The New York Environmental Lawyer*, and Jason, the Co-Chair of the Section's Membership Committee, engaged in such topics as SEQRA Reform and Environmental Regulation in Adirondack Park. Miriam and Jason also recently attended the NYSBA Environmental Law Section's Annual Meeting in New York City on January 24 and 25, 2013. They were engaged in panel discussions on zoning and redevelopment of contaminated properties, as well as the complexities of SEQRA.



In conjunction with the New York State Bar Association's effort to assist with disaster relief in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Jason has volunteered to assist with the program and has been fielding inquiries from victims with environmental legal questions. During the storm, many aboveground oil storage tanks were damaged and resulted in the discharge of petroleum product into the soil. Jason has provided affected residents with preliminary guidance on the reporting and remediation of the contaminated property.

Jason was also interviewed by *Long Island Business News* for an article examining the hazardous waste contamination at the Port Washington Landfill and the attempts by the major responsible parties to recover environmental costs from Long Island businesses who may have disposed at the landfill over 30 years ago. He notes that these businesses should not ignore the settlement demand letter made by these parties, as it could lead to costly litigation. Rather, these businesses should consult experienced environmental counsel to determine whether they are, in fact, liable.

Building Inspectors Association of Nassau County Honors Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC



B.I.A.N.C.O. President James Gilhooly (third from left) poses with the attorneys at Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC as the firm receives the Industry Leadership Award at the organization's annual installation dinner at The Inn at New Hyde Park on March 14.

Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC received the Industry Leadership Award from The Building Inspectors Association of Nassau County (B.I.A.N.C.O.) at the organization's annual meeting and installation dinner, which took place March 14 at the Inn at New Hyde Park.

The Industry Leadership Award is presented to a company or business which is honored for its professionalism and dedication to its respective field. B.I.A.N.C.O. President James Gilhooly said the law firm was being recognized for its excellence in the field of zoning law and real estate law.

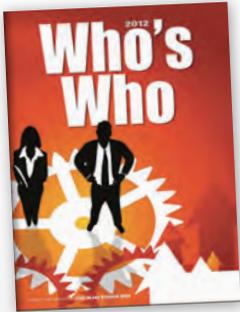
B.I.A.N.C.O. is a professional and educational organization whose mission is to encourage professionalism throughout all aspects of the building industry, including the enforcement of laws and the free flow of information. This is done by providing educational seminars to its members, opportunities to attend statewide and national educational and code formulation conventions and the encouragement of the free exchange of ideas and concerns related to the building field.



Michael H. Sahn (center), Managing Partner of Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, receives a proclamation from Nassau County Executive Ed Mangano (left). They are joined by B.I.A.N.C.O. President James Gilhooly (right),

New Developments at the Firm

Michael H. Sahn Featured in Long Island Business News' Annual Who's Who Guide for 2012



The Who's Who guide is a compilation of profiles of the region's top business leaders in the fields of real estate, law, accounting, environmental, construction/building services, healthcare, banking, education and green industries. Michael was featured in the Who's Who in Commercial and Residential Real Estate Law based upon his contributions and insight on some key issues in that area of the law that shaped the year.

Daniel H. Braff is completing the third year of his three-year appointment to the Land Use Planning and Zoning Committee of the New York City Bar Association. The committee is comprised of approximately 25 distinguished attorneys and provides reports and recommendations on new laws and regulations affecting land use in the City of New York.

Out and About

John Farrell Nominated for Touro Law Center's 2013 Long Island Public Interest Attorney of the Year



John Farrell (left), an Associate with Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, is recognized by Patricia E. Salkin (right), Dean and Professor of Law of Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, as one of Touro Law Center's 2013 Long Island Public Interest Attorney of the Year nominees.

John Farrell, an Associate with the firm, was named as a nominee for the 2013 Public Interest Attorney of the Year award at the Goods & Services Auction at the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in Central Islip. Mr. Farrell was nominated for his outstanding public-interest work with the Town of Babylon's Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Farrell, a 2000 graduate of the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, is a member of the New York State Bar and the Suffolk County Bar Associations. He concentrates his practice in the areas of zoning and land use planning, municipal and environmental law and litigation. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Town of Babylon Zoning Board of Appeals.

Managing Partner Michael H. Sahn and Judge Edward McCabe Featured in Long Island Business News Article Entitled "Bench Players"



Managing Partner Michael H. Sahn and Judge Edward McCabe were featured in the March 8-14, 2013 edition of Long Island Business News in an article entitled "Bench Players." The article examined the recent trend amongst the top Long Island law firms of hiring former New York State Supreme Court justices following state-mandated retirement, and the unique benefits, perspectives and referrals these former judges add to private practice.

Judge McCabe stepped down from the bench in 2009 after 23 years of public service. His tenure included six years as chief administrative judge of Nassau County courts.

Every month, Elaine Colavito writes the "Bench Briefs" column for *The Suffolk Lawyer*, an official publication of the Suffolk County Bar Association. She reviews decisions of interest and briefs those that she finds pertinent to Suffolk County attorneys in a variety of practice areas. Readers of her column appreciate being kept up-to-date with new significant decisions that are relevant to their respective practices.

John Christopher Remains Active in the New York State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section



John and his co-representative, Andrea M. Brodie, Esq., organized a holiday party for the 10th District of the YLS, in conjunction with the Nassau County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Committee, to raise donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots Program.

John Christopher, an Associate with the firm, continues to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Section (YLS), holding the position of Co-Representative for the 10th Judicial District (consisting of Nassau and Suffolk Counties). In addition, at the NYSBA Annual Meeting on January 23, John was elected to the position of YLS Co-Liaison to the Real Property Law Section. In furtherance of the YLS charitable initiatives, on December 6, 2012, John and his co-representative, Andrea M. Brodie, Esq., organized a holiday party for the 10th District of the YLS, in conjunction with the Nassau County Bar Association, Young Lawyers Committee, to raise donations for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots Program. In response to the collaborative efforts of both bar associations, nearly all those who attended brought a donation for the Toys for Tots Foundation and many toys were collected at the party. We applaud John's dedication to this important organization.

Out and About

Daniel H. Braff continues to serve as a member of the New Leadership Division (NLD) of North Shore-LIJ Health System. Dan is instrumental in organizing NLD's annual "Chefs Cook For Kids" event, which raises money for pediatric services at the Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. This year's event will be held on April 17, 2013, and the Firm is proud of Dan's involvement with NLD.

Adam H. Koblenz was selected to serve as a mentor in the inaugural mentoring program of his alma mater, The George Washington Law School. The GW Law mentoring program matches distinguished law school alumni with first-year law students and offers alumni the opportunity to share their experience and put current students on the path to success. We applaud Adam for his contribution to this important program.

Daniel H. Braff continues to be an active member of UJA's Real Estate Executives (REX) group. The group consists of leading young professionals in New York's real estate world, including developers, attorneys, owners, financiers and investment strategists. Dan serves on the REX Event Committee, which plans two annual REX events. The first is the REX Premier event in the fall, and the second is the REX Gala event in the spring. The REX Premier event, which was held on October 25, 2012 in Manhattan, brought together hundreds of prominent real estate professionals, and is considered one of the most exclusive annual real estate networking events in the industry. Attorneys Adam H. Koblenz and Jason Horowitz from the Firm joined Dan at the Fall REX Premier event.

Jason Horowitz has become an Associate Board Member for the Association for a Better Long Island. ABLI is a group comprised of business leaders committing resources to promoting economic growth on Long Island. We congratulate Jason for his leadership in this important organization.

Firm Sponsors Town of Oyster Bay 5K Run

For the third consecutive year, the Firm was pleased to have been the Presenting Sponsor of the annual Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor's 5K Run, which was held on Saturday, October 13th. Supervisor John Venditto's 5K Run kicked off the 29th annual Oyster Festival and was conducted under the auspices of the Town of Oyster Bay Department of Parks. Race management services were provided by the Greater Long Island Running Club (GLIRC).

All smiles as they announced plans for the 2012 Oyster Bay Town Supervisor's 5K Run are (from left to right) GLIRC Senior Administrator Linda Ottaviano, Oyster Bay Town Councilman Chris J. Coschignano (who is also a Partner in the firm), GLIRC President Mike Polansky, Michael H. Sahn, a Partner in the Firm, and Allison Coo, one of the Principals of the key sponsor, The Runner's Edge.



Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC Participates in "Cycle for CMF" Event

On March 17, members of Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC joined representatives of the Children's Medical Fund of New York (CMF) for "Cycle for CMF," which took place at Lifetime Fitness in Syosset. Over 40 riders participated in the one-hour event, which raised over \$10,000 for CMF.

Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker was also a Team Sponsor. The firm's Associate, Adam H. Koblenz, who was the Event Chairperson, received a proclamation from Chris J. Coschignano, a Partner in the firm who is also a Councilman with the Town of Oyster Bay, recognizing him for his hard work on the event.

Children's Medical Fund of New York is a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising funds for the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Children's Medical Center of New York. Through a wide network of friends, volunteers and deeply committed donors, CMF has raised over \$80 million to help build, equip and secure ongoing funding for programs that are vital to the needs of seriously ill children and their families.



Pictured (left to right): Adam H. Koblenz, Associate, Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, and Event Chairperson, "Cycle for CMF"; Wendy Talerman, Event Director; Children's Medical Fund of New York; Chris J. Coschignano, Partner, Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC; Neil Schorr, CMF Men's Division President and Mark Goodman, CMF President.

Up Close & Personal

Congratulations to our administrative assistant Tiffany Marachilian, and her husband, who recently became proud parents to a second baby boy. We wish them all the best!

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SAHN WARD COSCHIGNANO & BAKER, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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SAHN WARD COSCHIGNANO & BAKER is a full-service law firm concentrating in the areas of zoning and land use planning; real estate law and transactions; civil litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts; municipal law and legislative practice; environmental law; corporate/business law and commercial transactions; telecommunications law; labor and employment law; real estate tax certiorari and condemnation; estate planning and administration. The Firm is committed to providing its clients with the highest quality legal representation, counsel and advice, and to using our expertise to achieve our clients' goals. The Firm has an extensive client base that includes Fortune 500 companies, prominent regional businesses, municipalities, government agencies and authorities, and individuals. Our offices are centrally located to serve our clients on Long Island and in New York City.

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