



ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

Institute of Legal Studies

**COUNTY ATTORNEYS'
ASSOCIATION OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK**

2025 Annual Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2025
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Cooperstown, New York

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CAASNY

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**2025 CAASNY ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 19 AND 20, 2025**

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COUNTY ATTORNEY’S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
2025 Annual Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2025

10:30am – 12:00pm	Brunch —Fenimore Dining Room
11:30am – 12:00pm	Registration
12:00pm – 12:10pm	Welcoming Remarks Clinton G. Johnson, <i>CAASNY President</i> <i>Ulster County Attorney</i>
12:10pm – 1:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	County Constitutional Exposure and How to Avoid or Limit Liability Brian S. Sokoloff, Esq. <i>Sokoloff Stern, LLP</i>
1:00pm – 1:10pm	Break
1:10pm – 2:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	County Real Property: Purchases, Sales, Easements and Licenses Lino J. Sciarretta, Esq. <i>Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP</i>
2:00pm – 2:10pm	Break
2:10pm – 3:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	Environmental Litigation for Contamination of Water & Wastewater Shayna E. Sacks, Esq. <i>Napoli Shkolnik</i>
3:00pm – 3:10pm	Break
3:10pm – 4:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	PERB Applications and Related Ethical Issues Matthew P. Ryan, Esq., <i>Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP</i>
4:00pm – 4:10pm	Break
4:10pm – 5:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	Legislative Update Stephen J. Acquario, Esq. Patrick R. Cummings, Esq. <i>NYSAC</i>
5:00pm	Business Meeting
5:30pm	Association Reception
6:30pm	Association Dinner

COUNTY ATTORNEY’S ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
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Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:30am – 9:00am	Breakfast - Fenimore Dining Room
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration
9:00am – 9:50am (1 CLE Hour)	Post <i>Tyler v. Hennepin</i>—New York Legislation & Court Challenges H. Todd Bullard, Esq. <i>Harris Beach Murtha Cullina PLLC</i>
9:50am – 10:00am	Break
10:00am – 10:50am (1 CLE Hour)	Affirmative Mass Tort Litigation for N.Y. Counties—A Landscape Sarah Burns, Esq. <i>Simmons Hanly Conroy</i>
10:50am – 11:00am	Break
11:00am – 11:50am (1 CLE Hour)	Advising County Departments & Addressing Insurance Issues When Facing Cyberattacks Meghan S. Farally, Esq. <i>Cipriani & Werner P.C.</i>
11:50am – 1:10pm	Lunch
1:10pm – 2:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	Practical SEQRA Process Made Easy – But it Reaches More Than You Realize Richard B. Golden, Esq. <i>Orange County Attorney’s Office</i>
2:00pm – 2:10pm	Break
2:10pm – 3:00pm (1 CLE Hour)	Public Labor Law—Recent Developments and Defending Claims in the N.Y. Division of Human Rights Emily A. Middlebrook, Esq. Tish E. Lynn, Esq. <i>Hancock Estabrook LLP</i>
4:00pm – 5:00pm	CAASNY Board of Directors Meeting and Dinner

2025 CAASNY Annual Meeting

May 19, and 20, 2025

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.

H. TODD BULLARD, ESQ. represents counties, cities, legislatures, school districts, local development corporations and public authorities in litigation defense both in federal as well as state courts on a range of issues such as Article 78 proceedings, constitutional challenges and municipal agreements. Mr. Bullard also provides outside general counsel services related to operational matters. In addition, he advises organizations on commercial contracts and procurements related to public and private projects. As a result of the recent US Supreme Court decision rendered in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*, 598 U.S. 631 (2023), plaintiffs, as former owners of foreclosed real property, filed legal action asserting constitutional challenges to state real property tax law seeking the return of surplus funds and other damages resulting from municipal governments' in rem tax sales. The number of claims is increasing statewide.

Mr. Bullard is the lead counsel in defending these actions both non-class actions and class actions. The firm has been retained by twenty (20) Counties to defend against these claims. In addition, Mr. Bullard provides practical financial and compliance counsel to municipalities such as cities and local governments, and housing authorities and to contractors conducting business with state agencies and local municipalities. He has served as issuers counsel to one of the largest public housing authorities outside of New York City in Rental Assistance Demonstration ("RAD") deals.

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, she has secured billions of dollars in settlements on her clients' behalf. Sarah's 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. Her opioid litigation work is helping to right a significant nationwide wrong and will make a direct difference in the lives of thousands.

Sarah 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 in order 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.

MEGHAN S. FARALLY, ESQ. is a partner at Cipriani & Werner PC in the firm's Philadelphia office and focuses her practice on cyber security and data privacy matters. Ms. Farally advises her clients in order to prepare them for, and help them respond to, data security incidents. Ms. Farally assists her clients through all aspects of an incident response, including the initial investigation and identification of legal duties, as well as ensuring compliance with any obligations the incident may impose pursuant to contract, state and/or federal law. Ms. Farally also guides clients through any subsequent regulatory inquiry and follow up. Prior to joining Cipriani & Werner, Ms. Farally was a Senior Associate attorney at a boutique law firm, focusing exclusively on cyber security and data privacy matters.

Ms. Farally began her legal career as a prosecutor with the Philadelphia County District Attorney's Office. where, she tried hundreds of cases to verdict; more than 40 to a jury, and prosecuted crimes ranging from drug trafficking to the straw purchase of firearms, to attempted murder. Ms. Farally is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. She received her B.S. from Boston University in 1995 and her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2005.

RICHARD B. GOLDEN, ESQ. is the County Attorney for Orange County, New York. He has been practicing law for 45 years. He has served in the role of County Attorney from 1994-2001 and, since 2022, presently serves in that role. Mr. Golden previously worked in private practice representing, among others, developers and more than 30 local governmental bodies, including counties, cities, towns, villages, industrial development agencies, and subordinate government agencies, mostly in the Hudson Valley region.

In his representation of these clients he has shepherded hundreds of residential, commercial, and municipal projects through the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQRA) process, and successfully litigated many, including numerous large and contentious projects, such as (i) a new 600-bed Orange County Correctional Facility, (ii) a new County Courthouse, (iii) a medical devices irradiation facility, (iv) a 500+-acre, \$500,000,000 Legoland resort facility, (v) a Resorts World casino video gaming facility, (vi)

several expansions to the Woodbury Common Premium Retail Outlet store complex, (vii) a 451-unit residential conservation cluster development, and (viii) numerous municipal annexation petitions.

Mr. Golden is the past-President of the County Attorneys' Association of the State of New York, past-President of Orange County Bar Association, a past member of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committee (Second Department, Orange County), a past member of the Grievance Committee of the 9th Judicial District (Orange, Rockland, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties), former Town Justice for more than twenty years, a past member of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board, and a past-Chairman of the Orange County Board of Ethics, as well as counsel to several local government Ethics Boards.

TISH E. LYNN, ESQ. is Partner in Hancock Estabrook's Labor & Employment practice. Ms. Lynn has over 25 years of public sector experience. Ms. Lynn was previously the personnel manager for Livingston County, managing the human resource operation for approximately 1,300 employees. In this role, she administered benefits, payroll, position control, policies, investigations, recruitment, training, employee discipline, Civil Service compliance, layoffs and implemented the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) compliance procedures. Her experience includes working with and leading individuals from all levels of an organization including C-Level executives, managers, human resource professionals and third-party service providers to achieve the client's desired results.

Ms. Lynn has an extensive background with collective bargaining, contract preparation and implementation, grievances, improper practice charges, and other labor relations matters in connection with various labor unions. She also represents clients in civil litigation in federal and state courts, as well as administrative proceedings and audits before federal and state agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York State Division of Human Rights, the Department of Labor and the Public Employment Relations Board.

Ms. Lynn received her B.S. from Le Moyne College, Industrial and Labor Relations; Cambridge University, Emmanuel College, Summer Law Studies; and her J.D. from the University of Richmond, The T.C. Williams School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia and New York.

EMILY A. MIDDLEBROOK, ESQ. is a Partner in the Labor & Employment, Municipal & Public Entities, Education and Nonprofit practice areas. 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.

Ms. Middlebrook is a lecturer on issues including how to avoid discrimination and harassment related issues among the workforce, managing leave obligations and marijuana in the workplace and offers in-house training to clients on these, and other issues, as well.

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. Matt 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

SHAYNA E. SACKS, ESQ. Shayna E. Sacks is a partner at powerhouse national law firm Napoli Shkolnik where she provides experienced representation to individuals, communities, local and state governments in multiple mass torts, including healthcare litigation, anti-trust litigation, defective pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, the opioid crisis, and complex environmental & emerging contaminant litigation. Known for their ability to oversee large-scale litigations, firm lawyers are consistently appointed to leadership roles in a variety of mass tort litigations, notably for Shayna in the Plavix Product and PPI Litigations.

Ms. Sacks is a sought-after speaker at conferences such as the NACo Annual Conference; has been interviewed by national media outlets such as the Associated Press and ABC News; and has contributed thought leadership articles on Social Media Addiction and product recall processes. For her legal accomplishments, Shayna is regularly selected to Super Lawyers®, The Best Lawyers in America®, and The National Trial Lawyers – Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Lawyers. As a part of a dedicated team of attorneys with a proven track record of success, Shayna exemplifies the firm's knowledge, resources, and tenacity to pursue justice and compensation for their clients.

She received her undergraduate degree at American University in Washington, D.C., and her J.D. at New York Law School. She is admitted in numerous state and federal courts including in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

LINO SCHIARRETTA is a land use and real estate attorney who uses his considerable commercial litigation and transaction skills in representing clients on zoning, municipal, leasing, transactional and environmental matters. Lino has extensive experience defending governmental agencies, developers, municipalities and private sector clients in zoning, real estate development, civil rights, discrimination in employment, and environmental matters. In addition, Lino has a wide range of experience in real estate transactions, encompassing commercial mortgages, construction loans, sales and acquisitions, and leasing. He represents sellers, buyers and public benefit corporations (Industrial Development Agencies) in various transactions involving commercial/industrial/residential properties, and has represented lenders in workouts, mortgage closings and commercial loan transactions.

Lino served and, continues to serve as municipal counsel, as well as special counsel, for numerous municipalities. He has successfully litigated numerous complex cases in state and federal courts at the trial and appeal levels and defended municipalities in claims brought under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. In his capacity as Village and Town attorney, he has been involved in representations related to collective bargaining agreements, police contracts, and numerous disciplinary proceedings.

Lino represents developers, municipalities, for-profit and nonprofit entities, institutions, IDAs and other clients on a wide variety of commercial, residential, mixed-use and commercial/industrial projects. Lino provides strategic legal guidance to bring projects to fruition quickly, efficiently, and effectively. Additionally, Lino has represented corporations, developers, partnerships, funds and trusts in the acquisition of land, establishment of a credit history, and selection of lenders, including banks, independent lenders, insurance companies, private investors, and other capital sources. He received his J.D., 1997, Pace Law School, J.D., 1997 and his B.A., 1994 from Marist College. He is admitted to practice in New York 1998 and New Jersey 1997, US Supreme Court, Southern District of NY, Eastern District of NY, and the Federal District of NJ

BRIAN S. SOLOKLOFF In 1998, Mr. Sokoloff co-founded Miranda & Sokoloff, LLP, 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. 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. He routinely litigated cases involving alleged discrimination in employment and public accommodation, police misconduct, and election law issues.

Previously, Mr. Sokoloff worked for the NYC law firm of Thurm & Heller, LLP, the last two as a partner. 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. He regularly lectures at seminars on employment discrimination and civil rights, and has been invited to speak before the New York State Association of Towns, the New York State Conference of Mayors, the Suffolk County Bar Association, and groups of New York State Chiefs of Police and others.

He attended Brooklyn Law School, graduating cum laude in 1986. He was admitted to the bar in New York State in 1987, and 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.

2025 CAASNY Annual Meeting
Monday, May 19, & Tuesday, May 20, 2025
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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.

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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.

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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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Since 1919, when two distinguished Capital Region attorneys, William C. Maynard and Gerald W. O'Connor formed a partnership for the practice of law, the Maynard, O'Connor law firm has been a hallmark for legal expertise throughout upstate New York. Today, 99 years later, Maynard, O'Connor, Smith & Catalinotto, LLP, has a team of over a dozen attorneys and associates working for clients out of three upstate New York offices.

Since the firm's inception, a substantial portion of our practice has centered on the broad area of civil litigation in both New York State and Federal Courts. Throughout this entire period of time, we have also offered comprehensive legal services in the area of Municipal Law, including, civil rights claims; construction litigation arising from public works projects; commercial disputes; Native American sovereignty/Non-Intercourse Act claims; bankruptcy; and, general liability claims.

At Maynard, O'Connor, we pride ourselves on the important things. Our partners and attorneys work every day to help our clients with the best possible legal representation. Every attorney works with our clients and every attorney evaluates him or herself on the successful resolution of matters for our clients. There is nothing more important. Our team subscribes to the highest code of ethics in our industry. We work for our clients and want them to feel comfortable knowing that we are only here to help them. We work to ensure that each of our clients feels that they are the most important client we have. We strongly believe in our team and our community. Working together, we strive to improve our community through charitable and civic contributions and efforts. This makes us all better attorneys and people. Because of our history, values and people, our clients often stay with us for decades. We've been here for them for 99 years and will continue to be far into the future.

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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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Since its founding more than thirty years ago, Thorn Gershon Tymann and Bonanni, LLP, dedicated itself to cost-effective litigation of complex civil trials and appeals in the New York and New England area. Since that time, the firm has served as trial, appellate, managing, and coordinating counsel for a number of clients throughout the region. Currently the firm is dedicated to complex defense litigation and appeals and takes pride in having extensive experience in the defense of medical professionals and hospitals as well as product manufacturers.

Thorn Gershon Tymann and Bonanni, LLP, is an AV rated law firm and maintains a strong national client base involving the defense of complex litigation throughout New York and New England. Members of the firm have extensive experience within the Supreme Court in every County and Federal District in New York and members being admitted to the State Bar of The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal District Court of Vermont.

A team approach has always been at the forefront at Thorn Gershon Tymann and Bonanni, LLP which enables any lawyer from the firm to use the combined knowledge of all of the firm's attorneys. Frequent consultation and resourcing of information and experts are hallmarks of our team-oriented approach.

The firm's defense and appeal work include the following practice areas: Medical and Hospital Malpractice Defense; Professional Discipline and Licensing; Product Liability Defense; Civil Litigation and Appeals.

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Members of West Group Law PLLC ("WGL") have extensive experience representing municipalities and other public entities in connection with water and wastewater systems and projects, solid waste systems and projects, civic projects, municipal buildings, environmental and regulatory matters, transportation, developing regional utility systems, structuring requests for proposals, contract negotiations, alternative project delivery methods, land use development, and construction law.

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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Since 1999, we have continually provided advice and service to insurance carriers, and employers as well as their agents on all matters involving work related injury, occupational disease and related matters having been part of establishing rulings and participating in discussion that shape the NYS Workers' Compensation Board and claim system since our inception. We routinely appear before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board throughout New York State and before the Appellate Division, Third Department.