Queens BAR BULLETIN

Queens County Bar Association | qcba.org | 88-14 Sutphin Blvd., 3rd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11435 | 718-291-4500

August 2026 | Volume 93, No. 8

Remembering Lost Friends

By Jonathan Riegel, CAE

QCBA Executive Director

The Queens legal community lost two giants last month.

On July 9, Hon. Sidney Strauss, retired Justice of the Supreme Court and one of QCBA's longest tenured Past Presidents, having served in 1990-91, died at the age of 87. When I arrived at QCBA in 2021, near the end of the COVID pandemic, I met dozens of people in relatively short order. About three weeks into my tenure, Sid cornered me at a luncheon and made sure I knew who he was, what his role was and how I could best stay out of his way. Taken aback a bit, I was quickly told that was just "Sid being Sid…he is all bluster and no bite and one of the kindest men you'll ever meet."

As time passed, I learned that to be true. Sid chaired QCBA's annual dinner for decades and he would stop by the office a couple of times a year to make sure everything was on track, up to his expectations. I had ideas on how to tweak the event but Sid would have none of it – his response was usually something like, "it has worked well for all these years, no need to change it now."

The Monday before the annual dinner, Sid would come to the office to do the seating assignments. The first year, he made sure I knew my role was to verify the counts at each table but who sat with whom was his domain. And he then reminded me that if anyone had an issue with their table assignment, they could talk to him. At my second dinner in 2023, one individual approached me near the podium to tell me that she had never been seated so far from the dais before. Sid happened to walk up behind her as she was, um, "discussing" this with me. Heeding Sid's advice, I told her that Judge Strauss was responsible for the assignments and she could speak with him.

With that, she turned around and told him, "I didn't really give a f***" but my table has never been so far back, it's just wrong". The words were barely out of her mouth when he replied, "clearly, you do give a f*** with the way you're carrying on. I'll speak loudly so you can hear me from so far away", and with that, he turned and walked away, case closed. The exchange was instantly seared into my brain, as it perfectly illustrated the Sid I got to know later in his life. Sadly, that was the last annual dinner he hosted for us, as he had an accident and had to cancel the day of the dinner in 2024 and was not able to attend the last two years.

Sid, for the respect and friendship you showed to me upon my arrival, I say thank you. You were one of a kind and all those who knew you are better for it.

Just two weeks later, we lost Mark Weliky just six weeks after turning 76 years young, and I lost a trusted friend and colleague. As anyone reading this likely knows, Mark was the executive director of the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, the bar association's sister organization. Mark devoted the past quarter century to helping the most vulnerable in our community stave off foreclosure on their homes, resolve their consumer debt challenges, avoid bankruptcy and other challenges. He helped tens of thousands of indigent clients through the worst times of their lives. He assumed the leadership position of a fledgling organization and built it into a thriving, respected and revered entity.

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The Docket

Being the official notice of the meetings and programs listed below. Due to unforeseen events, please note that dates listed in this schedule are subject to change. Updated and additional information will be made available to members via written notice and brochures. Questions? Please call 718-291-4500.

CLE Seminar & Event listings

AUGUST 2026	
Wednesday, August 12	Solo Power Hour Live: Practice Exchange and Connections – 1:00 pm by Small Firm, Solo Practice & Law Office Management Committee
SEPTEMBER 2026	
Monday, September 7	*Labor Day – Office Closed*
Wednesday, September 9	**EVENT:** Mt. Sinai Mammovan Screening Event - In front of the Supreme Court, Civil Term – 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Wednesday, September 9	Academy of Law Committee Mtg – 1:00 pm
Tuesday, September 15	**EVENT:** Golf Outing at the Woodside Club
Thursday, September 17	**EVENT:** 150th Anniversary Celebration at Queens Supreme Court-Tentative
OCTOBER 2026	
Monday, October 12	*Columbus Day – Office Closed*
Wednesday, October 21	**CLE:** Landlord & Tenant Update 2026 – 5:30 pm
Thursday, October 29	**CLE:** Recent Significant Developments and Decisions from Our Highest Appellate Courts – 5:30 pm
NOVEMBER 2026	
Tuesday, November 3	*Election Day – Office Closed*
Tuesday, November 10	150th Anniversary Gala at Citi Field – 5:30 pm
Wednesday, November 11	*Veterans Day – Office Closed*
Thursday, November 26	*Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed*
Friday, November 27	*Thanksgiving Holiday – Office Closed*
DECEMBER 2026	
Thursday, December 24	*Christmas Eve – Office Closes at 1:00 pm*
Friday, December 25-31	*Christmas Day and Week – Office Closed*

*If you are unable to attend a CLE that you are interested in, you may purchase it to view at home by contacting Sasha at cle@qcba.org.

More on upcoming seminars, CLEs and events, go to qcba.org/CLE-Courses

Visit www.qcba.org for additional resources from the Lawyer's Assistance Committee.

2026-2027 Officers and Board of Managers of the Queens County Bar Association

Queens Bar Bulletin

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Publisher:
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The Queens County Bar Association
Advertising Office:
Queens Daily Eagle
8900 Sutphin Boulevard, LL11, Jamaica, Queens, NY 11435
(718) 422-7412

Send letters and editorial copy to:
Queens Bar Bulletin, 88-14 Sutphin Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11435 • **Editor's Note:** Articles appearing in the Queens Bar Bulletin represent the views of the respective authors and do not necessarily carry the endorsement of the Association, the Board of Managers, or the Editorial Board of the Queens Bar Bulletin.

"Queens Bar Bulletin"
(USPS Number: 452-520) is published eight times annually by Queens Public Media, LLC, 8900 Sutphin Boulevard, LL11, Jamaica, NY 11435, under the auspices of the Queens County Bar Association. Entered as periodical postage paid at the Post Office at Jamaica, New York and additional mailing offices under the Act of Congress. Postmaster send address changes to the Queens County Bar Association, 88-14 Sutphin Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11435

Necrology

Marvin Barry Edelman
Morton Joel Sealove
Hon. Sidney F. Strauss
Mark Weliky
Joseph N. Yamaner

New Members

Feeza Aftab
Stacy Ellen Albin-Leone
Arianna Arca
Frank E. Armano
Eli Babaev
Nicole Buckley
James F. Burdi
Nikolas Colak
Danielle Corbisiero
Kaitlyn Dellegar
Yakeina Dixon
Richard Gordon
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Tariqua Morrison
Madelyne Mostiller
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Zixian Qi
Yvette Rodriguez
Christa Marie Santulli
Andreas Vasilatos
Cathleen Williams

Editor's Note

Revisiting the *United Nations Charter*

By Paul E. Kerson

It is high time that we revisited the United Nations Charter, the law of all of Planet Earth enacted after the horror of World War II by 51 leading nations, now 193.

The Preamble states:

> "We the Peoples of the United Nations Determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
>
> To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small…"

Chapter 1 of the United Nations Charter is entitled Purposes and Principles provides as follows:

> Section 3 – "All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered."
>
> Section 4 – "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."

Applying these principles to today's world, we must find the Governments of Iran, Russia, and our own United States Federal Government to be in violation.

The Government of Iran has for decades funded terrorist groups – Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis to manipulate the people of Gaza and the West Bank to repeatedly attack the State of Israel and to destabilize the Government of Lebanon.

The Government of Russia has repeatedly attacked the Government of Ukraine. Our own United States Federal Government has attacked the Government of Iran. The Government of Iran has repeatedly attacked Israeli civilians (Jews and Palestinians alike) as well as Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan (*See Google, Wikipedia, Iran attacks*).

The State of Israel is Iran's favorite target. Massive deadly bombing campaigns by missile and drone aimed at Israeli Jews and Palestinians alike were done in April 2024, October 2024, and March 2026. Without United States Federal Government military support Israel would not have survived these attacks.

A brutal invasion by Iran-Hamas killed 1250 Israelis and took 251 hostages on October 7, 2023. This Iran-Hamas invasion featured mutilation, rape, murder and kidnapping.

There can be no doubt that the Government of Iran has the same goal as the German Nazi Party of 1934-1945 – the destruction of the 7 million Jewish people now of the State of Israel with the added goal of the destruction of the 2 million Palestinian citizens of the State of Israel – Holocaust II.

Yet there is no American organized protest of this actual Iranian planned genocide of Jews and Israeli Palestinians. Rather, there is a totally false charge of genocide against the State of Israel.

In a typical historical pattern, these outrageous attacks by Iran has caused American public opinion to shift, blaming the State of Israel and the Jewish people generally for Iran's murderous foreign policy in violation of the United Nations Charter. Specifically, Israel is blamed for fighting back too effectively.

Israel has always counted on the United States Federal Government's military support to keep alive its population of Holocaust survivors and their descendants.

Now there are anti-Israel members of the United States Congress and anti-Israel candidates for the United States Congress in both the Democratic and Republican parties. This is as anti-Christian and anti-American as any potential development can possibly be.

Opposite the United Nations building in New York in Ralph Bunche Park is a carved granite staircase inscribed with the words of the Prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 2:4 in the Jewish Old Testament:

> *"They shall beat their swords into plowshares*
> *And their spears into pruning hooks:*
> *Nation shall not take up*
> *Sword against nation;*
> *They shall never again know war."*

How is the United Nations Charter (1945) different than Isaiah 2:4 (740-861 BCE)? Answer: they are fundamentally the same idea. It is not incorrect to say that the idea behind the United Nations came directly from Isaiah 2:4. It is a Jewish contribution to Civilization Itself.

Without United States Federal Government military support, is the State of Israel and the Jewish people all over the world doomed to destruction by Iran, Iran-Hamas, Iran-Hezbollah, and Iran-Houthis, the architects of Holocaust II?

Will the anti-Israel members of Congress and potential anti-Israel members of Congress end this United States military support?

In late June 2026, at the same time three anti-Israel candidates won nomination to the United States Congress from New York City, the Defense Ministers of Israel and India met in New Delhi to announce that they would work together to defend both nations.

Israel has a population of 7 million Jews and 2 million Palestinians, a tiny country under constant threat. India is the largest country in the world with 1.47 billion people, 18 percent of the world's total.

This was big news in India and Israel (See Google, *NDTV World*, "India, Israel identifying New Defence Projects to Build Joint Resilience", June 23rd, 2026, *The Jerusalem Post*, "Israel Looks from the Mediterranean to India for New Strategic Front to Contain Iran – Analysis", July 1st, 2026; Etgar Lefkovits, *Jewish News Service*, "New Israel-India Initiative Aims to Deepen People-to-People Ties", June 25th, 2026).

This major positive development and shift in world affairs suffered a nearly complete news blackout here in the United States. I could not believe it. I sent this NDTV (*New Delhi Television*) article to the Editors of the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Westchester Journal News* (a *USA Today* affiliate) and I asked them for coverage.

No response was received and no coverage provided. This is the very definition of antisemitic bias. The domestic anti-Israel, antisemitic voice of both the left and the right are growing and taking power in our battered United States.

And the greatest antisemitic insult of our time is that the State of Israel committed genocide against Palestinians.

The fact is that the State of Israel takes great pains to protect its 2 million Palestinian citizens in the same way as it protects its 7 million Jewish citizens – with strong Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to repel invasion and repeated bombings by Iran-Hamas, Iran-Hezbollah, and Iran-Houthi terrorists.

Did too many civilians get killed in this process? One is too many. But that is not the nature of war. Iran-Hamas started it unprovoked on October 7, 2023 and it is Iran-Hamas that is thus responsible for every Israeli and Palestinian death that has happened since then.

Put yourself in the position of the State of Israel after the vicious attack against it on October 7, 2023. Should the IDF have surrounded Gaza apartment houses and broadcast "come out with your hands up" to the cowardly Iran-Hamas terrorists hiding behind civilians inside? Would there have been even more casualties if this was the plan? Certainly, those cowardly Iran-Hamas terrorists hiding behind civilians could not be permitted to continue to attack the State of Israel as they did on October 7, 2023.

But the largest country in the world with 18 percent of the world's people – 1.7 billion – India – has come to the rescue of the State of Israel, both its 7 million Jewish citizens and its 2 million Palestinian citizens and the Jewish people all over the world.

Am Yisroel Chai – the Jewish people live. Since Abraham refused to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2)

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Mount Sinai Tisch Cancer Center

JUDGES & LAWYERS BREAST CANCER ALERT

Judges & Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA)
Queens County Bar Association
Queens County Women's Bar Association
Gender Fairness & Equal Justice in the Courts Committees
of the 11th Judicial District – Civil & Criminal Terms are co-hosting a

Mount Sinai Mammovan Screening Event

Wednesday, September 9 | 9 am – 3:30 pm

In front of the courthouse at
88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435

The Mammovan offers easy access to digital 3D mammogram technology, and we also use artificial intelligence for a more precise breast cancer diagnosis. We can also help connect women needing further diagnostics and/or treatment with the appropriate resources at a convenient location. The Mammovan provides breast screening mammograms for women ages 40+ who have not had a mammogram in the past year and do not have any known breast problems. We help insured, underinsured, and uninsured. On the day of your appointment please bring:

- Identification
- Health insurance card (if you have one)
- CD with prior mammogram(s) if possible

To register for a mammogram please call 212-824-8337
For more information scan the QR code or visit
https://www.mountsinai.org/care/radiology/services/breast/mobile-mammography

Learn more about JALBCA

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President's Message

What a summer! What a year!

By Joshua R. Katz, Esq.

Hey, it's Josh, reporting from the non-oval office. I'm excited to have survived my first two months as president. It's been a whirlwind!

I am proud to have represented QCBA at various functions and affinity bar association events, including those hosted by the Brandeis Association, Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County, Columbian Lawyers Association, Queens County Women's Bar Association and the Network of Bar Leaders. I've attended celebrations to honor some of our great judges and leading attorneys, including Kenneth Holder, Sandra Munoz, Karina Alomar, Claudia Lanzetta, Ruben Davidoff and Bradley Siegel. It is so rewarding to participate in recognizing these great contributors to our legal community.

This summer has already seen incredible CLE programs put together by our Ethics Committee, Surrogates Court, Trusts & Estates Committee, Technology and the Law Committee, Criminal Law Committee and more. QCBA continues to offer informative and topical educational programs throughout the year. Most are offered virtually, on Zoom, and at no charge to our members thanks to generous sponsors. Attendance continues to grow, as people recognize the quality of our panelists and presentations. If you are interested in sponsoring or presenting a CLE program, or if you have an idea for an interesting topic, reach out to me, the QCBA staff or our committee chairpersons. We'd love to hear from you!

Of course, this year is our 150th anniversary at QCBA, and we will be celebrating throughout the year. I am so excited to announce our upcoming 150th Gala will be held in the Diamond Heineken Lounge at none other than our iconic Citi Field! Join us for this historic celebration on November 10! Early bird registration is now open, at a phenomenal discount of only $150 per person! Sponsorships and ads in the 150th Anniversary journal are also available.

Our annual Golf, Tennis and Pickleball outing is coming up on September 15, which will be at the beautiful Woodside Club once again. While the golf is already sold out, there are openings for tennis and pickleball, and we'd love to have you join us for cocktails and dinner.

As we get ready for the back-to-school season, we are mindful that new lawyers are being forged at our local law schools. QCBA will be participating in new student orientations at the law schools, looking to recruit new, young members. Help us spread the word about the benefits of joining QCBA. Remember my challenge to each of you: bring three new members to join the Association this year!

On a somber note, my first two months have seen the passing of giants in our legal community. In early July we said goodbye to Judge Sidney Strauss, a QCBA past president and long-time chair and host of our annual dinner. Just a few weeks later, we lost Mark Weliky, the executive director of Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project for the past quarter century. QVLP was built out of QCBA's pro bono committee and Mark developed QVLP into a vibrant and enduring organization that has helped thousands of indigent members of our community with their legal needs. Both men were good friends who will be sorely missed. And I also extend my condolences to Justice Jodi Orlow and her family on the passing of Jodi's beloved husband, Stewart Mackoff.

I can't wait to see you all at our upcoming events. If you don't know me, please introduce yourself, and let me know how QCBA has helped you, or what we can do moving forward!

Remembering Lost Friends

BY JONATHAN RIEGEL, CAE
QCBA Executive Director

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After a valiant nine-month fight with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer, Mark lost his battle. QVLP will never be the same without him but we will carry on in his memory. Mark's legacy will endure and his compassion for those that need our help the most will live on.

I am privileged I got to know Mark these past five years. He graciously welcomed me to the QCBA / QVLP family and helped me navigate my way and was an invaluable resource and confidant. He and I were both avid Mets and Rangers fans, a fate no good-hearted sports fan should have to endure. Yet there we were, although I lacked the appropriate suspenders that Mark frequently wore. I'll miss bemoaning the Mets' and Rangers' latest foibles with him - and there were way too many of both. I can almost hear him questioning how both teams could be so bad as to be virtually unwatchable. I'll miss having to call you into my office to rescue Sasha and Janice from your tales about the prior night's sports games, a topic neither one really understood (or likely cared about) but they did a good job indulging you.

Mark was my partner in crime (excuse the expression!) almost from my first day there. There wasn't a QCBA event that Mark wasn't at, usually lending a hand at the registration table. He was a fixture at the golf outing and raffle seller extraordinaire. He was generous with his time, spirit and humor, corny as the latter might have been.

I'll miss hearing his stories about his family, the apples of his eye. I will miss comparing notes about our gardens (but will definitely not miss the guilty feelings I had that he was) so much more generous in sharing his tomato harvest with the ladies in the office, and generous he was! Many a summer Monday was punctuated by a ziplock bag or goodies from Mark's farm. I like to think that I have a green thumb but his was every bit as green as mine. I'll miss hearing his diatribes about how the latest traffic "scheme" was designed just to screw up his commute. Trucks only on Jamaica Avenue? That was just to punish him. A bus lane on Hillside? A conspiracy to slow him down and make parking more challenging. He would have been screaming about the new left turn restriction onto Sutphin Blvd. There are so many things that I will miss about Mark…but mostly, I'll just miss him.

Rest easy my friend…we'll keep up your mantra to help as many people as we can. Your time may have passed but your legacy lives on.

The Practice Page

New Defense-Friendly Changes To Automobile Threshold Injury Law

BY HON. MARK C. DILLON
Serves on the Appellate Division, Second Department

Significant changes have been enacted to New York's automobile threshold injury laws, effective May 26, 2026 (2026 Sess. Laws of NY Ch. 58 [S9008-C, A10008]). The amendments are defendant friendly, as there is little good news here for the plaintiffs' bar.

Among the statutory amendments is the elimination of the portion of Insurance Law 5102(d) which listed as a defined threshold injury the 90/180 category — "a medically determined impairment or injury of a non-permanent nature which prevents the injured person from performing substantially all of the material acts which constitute the person's usual and customary daily activities for not less than 90 days during the 180 days immediately following the occurrence of the injury or impairment." That provision is no longer a qualifying basis for liability under the Insurance Law. The amendment directs that it "take effect immediately" and be applied to actions and proceedings commenced on or after its effective date. Meaning, that any 90/180 claims asserted in actions commenced prior to May 26, 2026 remain viable. With time and dispositions, the 90/180 threshold prong will disappear from our automobile litigations altogether.

The elimination of 90/180 claims should not cause much reduction in case filings. In most threshold injury cases, plaintiffs' complaints typically allege multiple prongs of the serious injury statute, so that the elimination of the 90/180 basis will not prevent the filing of any case which raises another serious injury prong. It will nevertheless restrict the plaintiffs' ability to recover damages in any action which would ultimately rely at summary judgment or trial on the 90/180 category of Insurance Law 5102(d). Future plaintiffs will need to focus upon evidence fitting within one or more of the other serious injury categories, which remain unaffected in the statute.

Relatedly, CPLR 1411 is also amended to provide that automobile injury plaintiffs are barred from recovery if their percentage of comparative fault is more than 50% of the total liability assessed against all parties. This change in the law will have two practical impacts. The first, of course, is that plaintiffs who previously would have won monetary awards subject to a proportional reduction for contributory fault will recover nothing when their contributory fault exceeds 50%. The second impact is that during pre-trial settlement negotiations, defendants will have greater leverage than before in cases where there is a reasonable possibility that the plaintiff's contributory negligence is more than 50% of the total. Plaintiffs may feel pressured in such circumstances to accept perhaps-reduced settlements rather than risking a 50%-plus finding of contributory negligence at trial and thereby receive no monetary award at all. In other cases where the plaintiff is arguably more than 50% liable, defendants may be emboldened to try those cases rather than settling them, in the expectation of defense verdicts.

The amendments impose a further defendant-friendly restriction on automobile-related personal injury actions, found in Insurance Law 5104(d). *Non-economic* damages for serious injuries are capped at $100,000 under specified circumstances, including 1) plaintiffs operating vehicles that have been uninsured for 30 or more days prior to the occurrence, 2) plaintiffs convicted of operating their vehicle at the time of the occurrence while impaired, and 3) plaintiffs operating a vehicle during the commission of a felony or the immediate flight therefrom, and convicted of such felony. Thus, injured plaintiffs operating their motor vehicles while insured, sober, and without felonious taint are unaffected by the monetary cap, which should be a relief to the significant bulk of claimants. The cap expressly does not apply to any action involving death, nor economic loss.

The first basis for the new damages cap, regarding uninsured vehicles, is an apparent attempt by the state to minimize the value of staged automobile accidents in the commission of insurance fraud, and to encourage all automobile owners to maintain their general automobile policies of insurance. The second and third bases for the damages cap further a public policy, to prevent claimants from greatly profiting from the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs or during the conduct of felonies.

Might the damages cap affect summary judgment motions? Assume that the equitable value of the plaintiff's alleged injuries, and the settlement demand, exceeds the $100,000 cap. Conceivably, a defendant could make a motion for partial summary judgment on the issue of damages only — demonstrating that the cap applies as a matter of law — which, if successful, might leverage a settlement of those cases for $100,000 or less, or at least cap the defendant's trial exposure at that amount. That's good news for excess insurers and insurers with policies containing underinsured motorist protection provisions. Additionally, a successful motion on damages may negate the need for any damages evidence at trial, if the defendant is liable for a sufficient percentage of common law liability and is willing to concede that the damages are worth at least that $100,000 capped sum.

The $100,000 cap is applicable against plaintiffs "convicted" of being "impaired" while operating a vehicle at the time of an occurrence. These are precise legal terms. Impairment includes Driving While Impaired by Alcohol (VTL 1192[1]) and the greater offense of Driving While Intoxicated (VTL 1192[2], [2-a], [3]). A 0.8 blood alcohol content ("BAC") is the cut-off between DWAI and DWI. The difference between DWI and DWAI does not seem to matter to the $100,000 cap, so long as the plaintiff is convicted of either. Impairment should also apply to the crime of Driving While Impaired by Drugs (VTL 1192[4], [4-a]), whether the drug is of the prescribed, legal, or illegal variety.

The new statutory amendments therefore place a new premium on collateral proceedings in the criminal courts, where the plaintiff's alcohol or drug impairment or felonious conduct at the time of an occurrence is related to the civil personal injury action. Defendants will want those criminal proceedings concluded, assuming an impairment or felonious conduct is found, to trigger the $100,000 cap on damages. Injured plaintiffs have an additional incentive to fight those criminal proceedings with vigor where their damages may be worth more than $100,000, to avoid the sword-of-Damocles cap.

Finally, there is an oddity in the amended law that may need to be worked out in the courts. The amendment to Insurance Law 5104 states that "[i]n any action to recover noneconomic loss pursuant to this article, the trier of fact shall not determine the question of whether an injury is a serious injury until the trier of fact has determined the party or parties at fault." Such language might suggest that determinations be made in a particular order consisting of 1) common law fault, then 2) serious injury threshold, and then 3) damages. Until now, if a defendant were to establish the lack of a threshold injury by summary judgment motion, the action would be dismissed and issues of common law liability and damages would be rendered academic. Is that still the case if common law liability, including whether the plaintiff is more than 50% at fault, now obtains priority? The assessment of the parties' comparative negligence is quintessentially a question of fact for trial, and if prioritized, would necessarily delay dispositive lack-of-serious-injury determinations that may be warranted under Insurance Law 5102(d) (without regard to the 90-180 prong). That construction, of course, makes no practical sense, as trial judges are statutorily authorized by CPLR 3401 to control their calendars, which is a vital consideration to the efficient administration of the courts *(Headley v Noto*, 22 NY2d 1, 4 [1968]. See *Hoven v Hoven*, 100 AD2d 684 [3d Dep't. 1984] [the court has a duty to control its calendar]). Courts should have summary judgment authority to front-load a threshold injury determination ahead of the common law assessment of negligence, or the applicability of the $100,000 cap, if doing so disposes or streamlines an action without the time, cost and judicial resources of unnecessarily adjudicating other issues first. The new language of Insurance Law 5102(d) in this regard is best interpreted to mean that at trial, courts must determine common law liability, then serious injury, and then monetary damages, which is the normal course of events in bifurcated venues, without impeding the authority of trial courts to determine any component question by means of pre-trial dismissal under CPLR 3211 or summary judgment under CPLR 3212. In non-

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NEW PLATINUM SPONSOR

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Scolnick Law is headquartered in Kew Gardens, with additional offices in Manhattan and Akron, OH. They can be reached at office@scolnicklaw.com or 718-554-6445.

QCBA is proud to introduce our newest Platinum Sponsor, Scolnick Law, led by founding member Marc Scolnick and later joined by his brother Scott Scolnick. The firm prides itself on passionately fighting for residents of New York, New Jersey, and Ohio and delivering them cost-effective and efficient legal solutions. They are particularly proud of their ability to combine the individualized attention of smaller law offices with the professionalism and efficiency of major law firms.

Scolnick Law handles almost all matters in the area of real estate; not only do they represent clients in real estate transactions, but they also creatively problem solve in real estate as well as landlord-tenant for both commercial and residential landlords. Their clients and colleagues consult them for their expertise and creative approach to navigating New York City's intricate legal landscape.

Marc Scolnick is the founder of Scolnick Law and is a graduate of Kent State University and the University of Akron School of Law. Marc was admitted to the New York State Bar in January 2019, and subsequently admitted to the New Jersey in 2020, Ohio Bar in 2020, and Florida in 2021. He is also admitted to the Southern District of New York, Eastern District of New York, Northern District of Ohio, and Southern District of Florida. Marc is married to his wife, Arnikka, and together they have a 6-month-old daughter.

Scott Scolnick runs the transactional real estate practice group at Scolnick Law. He graduated from Stony Brook University in 2017 with a degree in Business Administration and Management, with a specialization in International Business. Scott worked as a real estate broker and paralegal prior to graduating from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University. He is admitted to the New York State Bar. Scott also recently celebrated his marriage to his wife, Erica in June 2026.

QCBA President Joshua Katz welcomed Scolnick Law as our newest Platinum Sponsor. "I am grateful to Scolnick Law for the support and commitment they have made to the association and welcome them to an elite group of firms and companies in this program. I look forward to getting Marc, Scott and their team better and continuing to foster our relationship."

Marc Scolnick, founding member of the firm, remarked, "Our roots are in Queens and it is home to us. Supporting the Queens County Bar Association and our local legal community is the next step in our evolution. We are excited to seize this opportunity and getting to know the members better in the coming days, months and years."

Editor's Note

Revisiting the United Nations Charter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

4,000 years ago, its writings in the Old Testament have inspired people everywhere and led to the creation of Christianity and Islam.

Before Abraham understood that G-d did not approve of human sacrifice, the reigning Middle East deity was Baal, who did. See Google, Baal, human sacrifice.

The Tunisian State Museum has an artistic rendering of the sacrifice of a human child to Baal, by a Baalian priest. I saw this artistic rendering myself.

How can Christianity and Islam survive if the world's Jewish population is eliminated by Iran, Iran-Hamas, Iran-Hezbollah, and Iran-Houthis?

What will be the explanation to future generations? "Oops we made a mistake?" Will that be the explanation? Fortunately, India's new alliance with Israel should prevent that "mistake" from happening.

All of this illustrates a centuries-old Yiddish proverb, "Man Plans and G-d laughs" thought to come from Proverbs 19:21.

"India, Israel Identifying New Defence Projects to Build Joint Resilience" *NDTV World*, June 23rd, 2026 – that is G-d laughing at the United States anti-Israel members of Congress and candidates and all the media who refuse to cover this story.

I can hear Him roar.

Paul E. Kerson is a past President of the Queens County Bar Association and has seen past public service as a New York State Assistant Attorney General, Assistant District Attorney, Public Defender, and Acting Village Justice. He is a founder of the Forest Hills, NY law firm Leavitt, Kerson & Sehati. He was the lead counsel in Nacher v. Dresdner Bank, the 2001 case that held the Dresdner Bank and other German corporations responsible for financing World War II and the Holocaust with the stolen funds of the European Jewish community, and resulting in a $5 billion settlement shared by all the Holocaust survivors in the world. You can see the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) lecture he and his law partners gave concerning the outrageous behavior of today's antisemites' role model on his website at www.PaulKersonAttorney.com.

CORPORATE SPONSORED CONTENT.

Alcohol Monitoring in Custody Cases: What the Options Are and What They Actually Prove

It's no secret that alcohol misuse allegations are a central issue in custody matters. A client needs to prove they are sober. The other party wants to verify that claim. Someone is making allegations that cannot be easily disproved. The court wants objective evidence. At that point, the question shifts from "should we monitor?" to "which tool will give us the most verifiable results?"

A search for Soberlink alternatives turns up a range of options: consumer breathalyzers connected to a smartphone, self-reporting apps, ankle bracelets, ignition interlock devices. Each of these exists for a reason. None of them are a genuine substitute for what family law actually requires, and understanding why can save you from recommending a tool that falls apart when a child's safety hangs in the balance.

What the Court Actually Needs

Family courts evaluating alcohol use in custody matters need more than a number on a screen. They need to know that the right person took the test, that the device could not be manipulated, that results reached an independent party in real time, and that the entire record can be authenticated and defended by a qualified witness. A monitoring system that cannot meet those four requirements is not really monitoring in any legally meaningful sense.

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges spelled this out explicitly in the Alcohol Use Disorder Bench Card, a framework designed by judges for use in family courts. The Bench Card identifies the minimum components a reliable alcohol monitoring system must have: real-time results transmitted to multiple designated recipients, facial recognition that verifies who is actually testing, tamper detection, calendar-based visual reporting, and access to expert testimony. This is not a wish list. These are the conditions under which monitoring produces evidence courts can act on.

Why Consumer-Grade Alternatives Fall Short

Consumer breathalyzers connected to a phone camera are the closest thing to what Soberlink does, which is exactly why they are worth addressing directly. The basic idea is the same: the monitored person records themselves blowing into a device and a result is transmitted to specified contacts. The difference is in who controls that transmission and who verifies that the right person is actually testing.

That means the person with the most interest in the outcome controls the recording of their own compliance. The video is transmitted to a concerned party, but that party must manually review footage to verify it — and even then, the system is not foolproof. A monitored individual could record themselves appearing to test while someone else blows into a second device just out of frame. Courts would not accept a polygraph exam recorded and submitted by the subject, and the structural problem here is similar. Forensic psychologist Dr. Aaron Robb has written on this specific vulnerability, noting that systems without robust tamper detection create a false sense of security while actual risk goes undetected. Physical device tampering, using an identical secondary device, and introducing an alternative air source are all documented methods for defeating these systems.

Ankle bracelets with transdermal monitoring were designed for criminal supervision and DUI cases. They measure alcohol as it passes through the skin and generate continuous readings rather than discrete, timestamped, identity-verified tests that map to a parenting schedule. They do not confirm who is wearing the device at any given time. They carry significant social stigma and tend to escalate conflict in co-parenting situations. The data they produce does not translate cleanly into the kind of parenting-time evidence a family court needs.

Ignition interlock devices serve an important function in DUI contexts. In a custody case, they only speak to what happens at the moment a car starts. They say nothing about sobriety during the rest of the day, during school pickups, during parenting time at home. That gap is not a minor limitation. It is a fundamental mismatch between the tool and what it is being asked to prove.

Self-reporting apps have genuine value in personal recovery. They are not evidence. By definition, they produce information generated and controlled

by the person with every incentive to make it look favorable. In a family law proceeding, that is a nonstarter.

What In-Person Lab Testing Can and Cannot Do

Urine tests, PEth blood panels, and hair follicle testing each have a legitimate clinical role, and they are sometimes proposed as cost-effective alternatives to ongoing remote monitoring. A standard

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CORPORATE SPONSORED CONTENT.

Alcohol Monitoring in Custody Cases: What the Options Are and What They Actually Prove

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

urine test detects alcohol for roughly 12 to 24 hours after consumption, with EtG urine testing extending that window to 72 to 80 hours. PEth reflects patterns of heavy drinking over approximately two to four weeks. Hair follicle testing can look back 90 days.

These are useful snapshots, but the problem is that a snapshot is all they are. A parent who drinks between scheduled appointments and abstains before the test may never be detected. There is no visibility into what is happening during this afternoon's parenting time or during a difficult moment in a person's recovery. Results take days to route through scheduling, travel, processing, and review. When accountability during active parenting time is the goal, that lag is not an inconvenience. It is the entire gap in coverage and can pose serious risks to a child's safety.

Why Soberlink Is the Gold Standard

Soberlink was purpose-built for three contexts: family law, addiction recovery, and workplace compliance. It does not serve the DUI enforcement market. That distinction matters because the philosophy behind the product is accountability that supports recovery and rebuilds trust, not punitive surveillance.

The device is roughly the size of a smartphone. The facial recognition camera is integrated directly into the device, so testing requires one hand and takes about four seconds. Systems that rely on a separate phone for verification require the user to simultaneously manage a breathalyzer, a camera, and adequate lighting. Soberlink's device stores in a protective case between tests to prevent contamination that could affect results used in court.

The fuel cell sensor is professional grade, like those police use in field sobriety tests. Tamper detection is hardware-level, backed by an in-house Compliance Team that reviews data and flags anomalies. Results are transmitted in real time to all designated recipients, including the concerned party, without any ability for the monitored parent to filter or delay what is shared. Reports are calendar-based and produce court-admissible certified records with full chain of custody documentation. There are qualified expert witnesses available to testify about those records if needed.

This is not an off-the-shelf product assembled from commodity parts and connected to an app. It is a professional monitoring system designed for family law.

A monitoring agreement designates a Concerned Party, typically the co-parent or a trusted third party, who receives results directly and independently. This structure matters because it distributes accountability across multiple parties. No single person holds all the power over what the record shows. The monitored parent cannot filter, delay, or shape results before they reach someone with a stake in the outcome. That separation is what makes the monitoring meaningful, both to the court and to everyone whose decisions depend on knowing what is actually happening. Most Soberlink alternatives require neither a formal agreement nor a designated Concerned Party, which means there is no built-in structure ensuring that anyone other than the monitored individual sees the results. Without those two components, the system is largely self-governed, and self-governed monitoring is not monitoring in any legally useful sense.

A Note on Cost

Cost is a real consideration, and it would be misleading not to address it. Soberlink costs more than a consumer breathalyzer or a self-reporting app. The reason is straightforward. Professional-grade sensors, proprietary facial recognition hardware, an in-house compliance and support team, court-admissible certified reporting, and expert witness availability all cost money to build and maintain. The question for your client is not which option is cheaper. The question is what happens if the monitoring does not hold up in court, or fails to detect something that puts a child at risk.

For clients who need to prove sobriety and disprove false allegations, Soberlink produces the kind of record that speaks for itself. For clients on the other side of an allegation, it produces evidence that is objective, tamper-resistant, and defensible. Both situations call for the same thing: a system that was actually designed for what you are asking it to do.

When courts, treatment providers, and bar associations across the country have converged on a single tool by name, that reflects the accumulated judgment of practitioners who have seen what holds up and what does not. For family law matters involving alcohol, there is no genuine alternative to a system built to meet the legal standard those cases require.

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QUEENS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
1876–2026

The Gala

IN HONOR OF

QCBA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER
10
2026

HEINEKEN DIAMOND LOUNGE
CITI FIELD
41 SEAVER WAY
FLUSHING, NY 11368

COCKTAILS: 5:30 PM
DINNER & PROGRAM: 7:00 PM

COCKTAILS • PLATED DINNER
LEGACY AWARD PRESENTATION
DJ & DANCING

Celebrate Our Sesquicentennial, Honor Those That Have Built The Bar And Toast The Next 150 Years Of Community Service!

Keynote Presentation • Presentation of Legacy Award • Cocktail Hour
Open Bar • Plated Dinner • DJ & Dancing

Registration:

Early Bird	$150 per person / $1,400 table of 10 (Through September 20)
Regular	$200 per person / $1,900 table of 10 (September 21 – October 21)
Late	$250 per person / $2,400 table of 10 (October 22 – November 8)
Last Minute	$300 per person (November 9 – November 10 or At The Door)

https://tinyurl.com/QCBA150

Make Politics Boring Again!

BY FRANK BRUNO, JR.

"Success is something you attract by the person you become." – Jim Rohn

Six investments every lawyer should make. Investing is typically, real estate, stocks, bonds brokerage accounts. Important, sure but here are six investments no market can match irrespective of economy and they appreciate over time. Fellow attorneys, we spend years investing in our education, our firm, our practices. Among us, the most successful also invest in themselves.

One, invest in your character. Your reputation is built one decision at a time. Clients forget details of a case, but they never forget whether they trusted their lawyer. Judges, opposing counsel, colleagues remember honesty, professionalism, and integrity long after the legal issues have faded. Character is earned in the moments when no one is watching. It becomes your personal brand, and it often enters the room before you do.

Two, invest in your communication. We are professional communicators. It involves more than speaking or writing well. Listening, listen carefully before advising. Explain complicated issues in plain language. Return phone calls promptly. Make clients feel heard. Communication builds confidence. Great communication builds trust. Frequent communication is a plus and when emails and text messages dominate, a personal phone call or handwritten note can distinguish you from everyone else.

Three, invest in your health. A legal career can be demanding. Long hours, difficult clients, deadlines, constant stress gradually take their toll. The practice depends on the person running it. Regular exercise, sufficient sleep, healthy eating, and family time are not distractions, they help make success possible. Energy is the metric of health. It is the greatest competitive advantage a professional can possess.

Four, invest in your relationships. Harvey Mackay built an extraordinary career by understanding a simple truth: people do business with people they know, like, and trust. Networking is about building genuine relationships. Stay in touch with former clients. Congratulate colleagues on their successes. Introduce people who can help one another. Remember birthdays and milestones. Offer assistance before asking for it. Joe Girard, salesman extraordinaire attributed his success to building genuine relationships with customers, maintaining consistent follow-up through personal cards and messages, asking for referrals, and treating every interaction as an opportunity to earn trust. His ideas on customer service, persistence, and relationship-based selling influenced sales professionals. I recommend reading a few of his books. A developed network can be a source of referrals and a community to provide encouragement, ideas, and opportunities throughout a career.

Five, invest in your knowledge. The law and the business of practicing law changes. Read thoroughly. Read more than legal publications. Study leadership, negotiation, communication, psychology, technology, and business development. Learn from professionals in other industries. Continuing legal education is a continuum to remain relevant, adaptable, and valuable. Consider your education beyond CLE requirements are satisfied. Trite but true, lifelong learning is one of the best investments you can make.

Six, invest in gratitude. Where is it on the resume? No matter because grateful people become better leaders, better colleagues, and better counselors. Thank your staff. Recognize those who refer clients to you. Express appreciation to mentors who invested in your development. Let clients know you value their confidence. Gratitude strengthens relationships, and strong relationships are the foundation of every successful practice.

Markets rise and fall. Cases are won and lost. Character, communication, health, relationships, knowledge, and gratitude only grow. They shape your career. The best lawyers may not win the most cases. Real estate, custody agreements, guardianship orders… sometimes there no winners; sometimes only survivors. The best lawyers are the ones people trust, respect, recommend, and remember. Those investments pay dividends for life

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Political discourse has become entertainment. Should you write about it? My answer is no. Not because politics does not matter. It does. Frankly, I do not know enough. I studied Government and Politics in college. I interned for my State Senator before he became a judge. I know more than the average person and I still do not know enough. (Maybe I do but I had to lead with humility especially because I used seven "I"'s in a few sentences.)

The more learned, the more understanding of how complex these issues are. People devote entire careers to immigration, healthcare, tax policy, education, and foreign affairs. They still disagree. No expert has figured it all out and the lay person, between work, family, and scrolling social media, probably cannot either. My topics are about principles not parties, ideas over ideologies, and values above politicians. That is a conversation I can contribute to with confidence.

Have you ever worked somewhere for years? You know what is broken. You know what has been tried. You know why the obvious solution is usually not so obvious. Then someone new shows up and says, "Here is what you should do." That is how most political commentary sounds online. If experts spend their careers studying one issue and still disagree, it is unlikely that the rest of us have solved policy in our spare time (although common sense could probably solve a lot). Even if you know your subject, most people are not looking to learn. They are looking to defend what they already believe. It is like trying to wake up someone pretending to be asleep. Arguments rarely change minds. More conflict than value. Politics has become entertainment. Everyone has an opinion. Politics is now pop culture. Social media rewards outrage more than understanding. We need to make politics boring again.

Talk about your values, your principles, and how you think. Do not argue capitalism versus communism. Discuss competition versus collaboration. Do not argue conservatives versus progressives. Discuss tradition versus innovation. Do not argue Democrats versus Republicans. Discuss creativity versus order. Those conversations reveal far more about who you are than who you voted for.

Last month, my middle son moved to Washington, DC for employment at the National Institute of Health as a researcher. Constant education provided during lunch across a broad spectrum of fields is a perk. He was so excited to let me know about a webinar on Estate Planning for Pets. A few years ago, I wrote about Leona Helmsley and Karl Lagerfield. Google those names for fun. How about we leave our 80-million-dollar estate up for grabs, pure chance and luck of the draw? Gene Hackman had some estate drama. Twists, turns, and timing. Specifically, which spouse passed away first is the key factor that could change everything for their combined estate. The couple was discovered deceased together in their home. Medical examiners determined through autopsy that Betsy likely died about a week before Gene did. This timing discovery completely changes how their estate will be handled.

Here's the short version: if Gene passed first, his estate would go to his wife, Betsy. If Betsy died first (ME says), Gene's Last Will does not work the way he intended. The person meant to inherit the bulk of his estate (Betsy) was no longer alive, so his assets could end up going to his three adult children by default. Even though they were not specifically named in his Last Will.

The takeaway? For a blended family timing is not a theoretical concept. It is a real-life factor that can make or break whether your wishes are honored. Please walk through "if, then" scenarios that cover every possible outcome. This ensures genuine peace of mind, knowing your plan is prepared for whatever life throws at the family.

Maybe Gene wanted his kids to inherit after Betty all along? Then he should have written that into the document. What if he wanted to disinherit his kids? Too bad, so sad.

Details are family specific and what matters most is making sure your plan reflects your intentions in every scenario.

Frank Bruno, Jr. is Past President of the QCBA, a regular contributor to the Bar Bulletin and a practicing attorney for more than 26 years.

The Gala

In Honor Of QCBA's 150th Anniversary

150

QUEENS COUNTY
BAR ASSOCIATION
1876-2026

Sponsorship & Advertising Opportunities

The Gala

In Honor Of QCBA's 150th Anniversary

All sponsorship opportunities below include:

- Inclusion on the QCBA website and *The Gala* pages and marketing
- Signage and recognition from the podium at the 150th Anniversary Bash
- Scrolling message in multimedia presentation at *The Gala*
- Inclusion in the QCBA Founders Society
  Founders Society members will be recognized and commemorated:
  - on a permanent plaque in the QCBA office and in a permanent Founders Society section on the QCBA website
  - in all issues of the Queens Bar Bulletin throughout 2027
  - in *The Gala* commemorative journal
  - in Annual Dinner journals produced in the future
  - on name badge ribbons at QCBA events throughout 2027
  - on signage and/or flyers at QCBA events throughout 2027
  - at a special reception with the Board of Managers
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President's Circle **$25,150**
All of the items at the top, PLUS:
- Exclusivity – limit of one
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Sponsorships except the President's Circle are non-exclusive. Contact Jonathan Riegel at 718-291-4500, x224 or jriegel@qcba.org for additional information, payment terms or Founders Society details.

** For the US Supreme Court Admission program in May 2027, tickets are for the welcome reception and celebration luncheon. Admission to the US Supreme Court Bar or attendance at the admission ceremony is not included. For the Golf Outing in September 2027, tickets are for the awards dinner only. Registration fees to participate in the golf, tennis or pickleball outings are additional.*

The Gala

In Honor Of QCBA's 150th Anniversary

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  - in *The Gala* commemorative journal
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  - on name badge ribbons at QCBA events throughout 2027
  - on signage and/or flyers at QCBA events throughout 2027
  - at a special reception with the Board of Managers
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Brighten up the room with beautiful floral centerpieces!
All of the items at the top, PLUS:
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Signature Drinks **$5,150**
Share your favorite drink or we will create something unique. You get to choose the drink's name!
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- Promotion of your signature drink at the bar(s) and on each dinner table
- You choose the name of the drink

Party Favors **$5,150**
Help us provide a memento of our anniversary and celebration to all attendees!
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- 4 tickets to *The Gala*
- Recognition at the distribution table and with each favor

Cocktail Reception **$5,150**
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- Recognition at the cocktail hour stations, cocktail tables and cocktail hour bars.

Desserts **$5,150**
All of the items at the top, PLUS:
- 4 tickets to *The Gala*
- Recognition at each dinner table
- You select the dessert from the options offered
- You get to name the dessert

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The Gala

In Honor Of QCBA's 150th Anniversary

Commemorative Journal

To celebrate our 150 years of service to the community, QCBA will be producing a commemorative journal to mark the milestone, including:

- a detailed history of the association
- features on the significant people and events since our founding
- produced in both print and digital formats
- presented to all attendees at *The Gala* on Tuesday, November 10
- shared with all members by email immediately following *The Gala*
- permanently hosted on the QCBA website

Advertising Rates

Back Cover (limit of 1)	7.5" wide x 10" tall	**$3,500**
Inside Back Cover (limit of 1)	7.5" wide x 10" tall	**$2,500**
Gold Page	7.5" wide x 10" tall	**$1,750**
Silver Page	7.5" wide x 10" tall	**$1,400**
Full Page	7.5" wide x 10" tall	**$1,000**
Half Page	7.5" wide x 4.75" tall	**$ 750**
Quarter Page	3.5" wide x 4.75" tall	**$ 450**
Eighth Page (business card)	3.5" wide x 2.25" tall	**$ 250**

Scrolling message in multimedia presentation on venue screens throughout The Gala — **$ 250 with journal ad** / **$ 375 without ad**

Scrolling messages will be randomized and shown repeatedly throughout The Gala.
Messages should include a short greeting (6-10 words) and your name and/or company logo
(i.e. "Congratulations to the Queens County Bar Association" and you name/logo)

All advertisements except the back covers are non-exclusive. Reservation deadline is Friday, October 23, 2026 and ad/copy deadine is Wednesday, October 28, 2026. Contact Jonathan Riegel at 718-291-4500, x224 or jriegel@qcba.org for additional information, payment terms or Founders Society details. Ads may be reserved beginning August 1, 2026 at www.qcba.org.

What the World Cup Can Teach Us About Family Dispute Resolution

BY JOSEPH TROTTI, ESQ.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has been a truly historic sporting event. With an expanded field of 48 teams competing across the US, Canada, and Mexico, it's delivered some unbelievable moments of triumph, disappointment, and resilience. It's made the US a soccer nation.

But beyond the last-minute upset goals and fun watch parties lies a surprising lesson for separating and divorcing families, as well as their lawyers: success depends a lot less on defeating your opponent and a lot more on navigating the conflict with clear strategy, discipline, and, even when it's hard, respect.

I've been a family lawyer for over 35 years and playing soccer for even longer, and I co-chair the **Forest Hills Youth Athletic Association**, so trust me when I say that the two have a lot in common. I'm being playful, but I'm also serious.

Separation, divorce, or custody litigation is like soccer in that it's a contest governed by rules. Emotions inevitably run high, but the most successful participant understands that lasting success comes from focusing on the process rather than striving to win at all costs. (In fact, oftentimes when one side scores a lopsided victory at the expense of the other, everyone loses.)

Every team entered the World Cup with the same objective, but only those that adapted to changing circumstances survived. Teams that lost their composure after conceding an early goal often performed poorly for the rest of the game. The same is true in family disputes.

Divorce, parenting disagreements, and financial conflicts rarely unfold exactly as expected. Parties who remain flexible, communicate effectively, and keep their long-term objectives in mind are far more likely to achieve positive outcomes than those driven by anger, revenge, or hopelessness.

While being willing to adjust to changing circumstances is key, what separates champions from early exits is preparation. Elite soccer teams spend years studying opponents, their strengths and weaknesses, their tactics, and then develop counter tactics and practice set plays, all before the opening whistle.

Similarly, effective dispute resolution begins long before entering a courtroom or mediation. Gathering the right financial information, understanding your legal rights, identifying your priorities, and seeking (and listening to) sound legal advice are what allow for informed decision-making. Preparation reduces uncertainty and often creates opportunities for negotiated settlements that avoid costly and emotionally harming litigation.

The World Cup also demonstrates the importance of teamwork. Individual stars can influence a match, but Messi didn't score his goal against Egypt alone. He needed teammates, coaches, assistants, medical staff, analysts, and others.

Families in legal dispute (and not just in family law matters) likewise benefit from a collaborative approach. Lawyers, mediators, financial advisors, mental health professionals, and parenting specialists each bring expertise that can help a family resolve disputes more constructively. When professionals work together for a common goal (pun intended), the focus shifts from conflict to solution.

Perhaps the greatest lesson comes from the role of the referee. Players may disagree with decisions, but the match can't continue without an independent official enforcing the rules fairly.

Courtroom judges perform a similar function. However, unlike a soccer match, where every dispute requires a referee's decision, many family law conflicts can be resolved through mediation, negotiation, or collaborative processes, with the courtroom being the last resort.

These alternatives actually allow parties to retain greater control over the outcome, while preserving relationships that often continue long after the legal proceedings end—particularly when children are involved.

Another takeaway from the World Cup is respect. The fiercest rivals, including teams from warring nations, routinely shake hands before and after matches. They acknowledge that competition need not destroy mutual respect, and that even if the respect isn't sincere, it's essential for the success of the game and so in their common interest.

Family disputes are a lot more personal, but maintaining civility can significantly reduce emotional and financial costs. Parents who communicate respectfully create a healthier environment for their children and are more likely to develop workable co-parenting arrangements.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup has been a spectacle of extraordinary athletic talent, tactical brilliance, and unforgettable drama. It's also a reminder that the best outcomes rarely come from relentless confrontation alone. They emerge from preparation, discipline, teamwork, adaptability, and respect.

These principles win soccer matches, and they help families resolve disputes in ways that build stronger futures. In family law, as in the World Cup, you should always keep your eye on the ball.

Partner Joseph Trotti is the head of Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP's Litigation Department and the Matrimonial and Family Law practice. He is the founding partner of the VMM Family Institute℠ and is a key member of the firm's Surrogacy, Adoption, Assisted Reproduction and LGBTQ Representation practices.

For his pioneering work, the New York Law Journal named him a "2019 Trailblazer," one of a handful of attorneys statewide selected for the prestigious recognition. He was also named the "2019 Top Lawyer of Long Island" in the Family Law category by the LI Herald and a 2020 Super Lawyers "Top Rated Family Law Attorney."

Mr. Trotti possesses over 35 years of trial experience in custody, divorce, and support matters, including several landmark cases. His work also includes estate and commercial real estate litigation, involving will challenges, trust mismanagement, guardianship contests, and other estate plan disputes.

Mr. Trotti additionally has extensive experience representing LGBTQ individuals in matters unique to the community, including marriage and domestic partnership, divorce and separation, and adoption and custody. He is the executive producer of Left Out in America: Legislating Life, Love and LGBT, which won "Best Directorial Debut of a Documentary" in the 2011 New York International Film Festival.

In Memory Of

Hon. Sidney F. Strauss

QCBA President, 1990-1991
Retired Justice of the Supreme Court

BY DAVID LOUIS COHEN

What can one say about Sidney F. Strauss. He was a lawyer, a Justice of the Supreme Court, a Judicial Hearing Officer, a Past President of the QCBA from 1990-91 (the first son to follow his father, Harold, who was president 1956-57), the MC of our annual dinner, and a lifelong NY Ranger and Brooklyn-Los Angeles Dodgers fan. However, if you knew Sidney for as long as I did, his most important accomplishment to him was his marriage to Naomi and the family they raised together.

Sidney was also a fighter. If he saw an injustice, he did all that he could to right the "wrong" regardless of any personal consequences that he might suffer. He was instrumental in the creation of the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, an arm of the Bar Association that provides pro bono support to litigants who could not afford counsel. He fought to become a member of the City Council, knowing that running against the "organization" was difficult and comes with a price. He fought long and hard to become a Judge, and that finally became a reality.

Sidney also fought on behalf of his judicial colleagues to raise the mandatory retirement age. He fought Madison Square Garden, home of his beloved Rangers, to change their policy on how it held season ticket holder's funds. This fight cost him his season tickets!

Sid's most gallant fight was the one he waged against the infection that ravaged his body for more than two years. With Naomi and the rest of the family by his side, he refused to give in. He fought back when he was told he was not going to be able to walk. He struggled mightily and he regained the ability to walk, albeit with the use of a walker.

Whenever we would speak, rather than dwell on his condition, he would always tell me about the visits from his grandchildren and how good they made him feel. You could tell by the sound of his voice that there was a smile on his face.

Sidney was a courageous warrior, and sadly he could fight no more. He will be missed, but not forgotten. We will remember Sid for the good life he lived as a decent, hard-working individual who served his community, this bar association, and most importantly, by his family for the legacy he left them. May his memory be for a blessing.

In Memory Of

Joseph N. Yamaner, Esq.

Joseph N. Yamaner, Esq., affectionately known as Yossi, passed away recently at the age of 80. A valued member of the bar and legal community, he practiced in Queens for 42 years. He was a force of nature who lived every moment of his life on his own terms. His distinguished legacy is a life journey that spanned multiple continents, deeply touching the lives of the many people he encountered.

Joseph was born in Istanbul, Turkey and emigrated to Israel at the age of 9, where he lived in Kibbutz Yifat. He later enlisted in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) where he served for seven years. His original assignment was that of a paratrooper before being transferred to an anti-terrorist unit of the border guard known as Mishmar HaGvul Magav and later advanced to commanding officer.

During his military service, Joseph fought in the Six-Day War of 1967, the War of Attrition of 1969, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973, during which he suffered an injury which affected his hearing for the rest of his life. Joseph was cited for bravery after he led a victorious attack against a gang of organized terrorists in 1969. During his years in service, Joseph lost many fellow soldiers and friends, and during his lifetime, he continued to sponsor lone soldiers and injured soldiers in the IDF.

After the wars, Joseph began yet another new chapter when he relocated to New York City. In the US, he served as guest lecturer for multiple Jewish organizations; he graduated from Queens College with a degree in international relations; and later received his law degree from Yeshiva University's Benjamin Cardozo Law School in 1981. He met and, in 1985, married the love of his life, Geri Ludwin Yamaner, and together, they had their only child, Julie Yamaner Eitan.

During his law career, Joseph was most known for his exceptional work in connection with the Estates of Ferdinand and Ignatz Nacher (and the related state and federal cases in connection with Nacher v. Dresdner Bank). Joseph and his law partners often lectured about the Nacher case, and prior to his passing, was in talks with a producer about having a movie made about the Nacher estate and related cases.

In order to settle the Nacher Estate, Joseph went to East Germany to inspect and catalogue the countless properties and breweries the Nazis confiscated from the Nacher family. He was able to convince the heirs of the Nacher Estate to assist him with gathering information and he personally supervised the apostilization of over 110 documents at the German Consulate in Berlin in order to substantiate the claims of the heirs of the Estate.

Through the personal efforts of Joseph and his law partners, the Nacher case inspired and contributed to the conclusion of 56 other related US cases demanding restitution for thefts and inequities perpetrated by the Nazi regime. The Nacher case helped prompt the US government to settle all the Holocaust claims in the entire world from a five-billion-dollar fund assembled from dozens of German corporations and the German government. Joseph was most proud that his achievements on the Nacher case helped to ensure that every surviving member of the Holocaust worldwide (many of whom were destitute), was able to receive restitution from the fund.

Joseph prioritized having strong personal relationships with his many clients and stressed prioritizing client's interests ahead of his own so as not to confuse his loyalties. Often quoting scriptures in Hebrew, Joseph stressed the importance of cultivating traditional biblical virtues, including personal responsibility for one's actions, giving to charitable or noble causes, serving the greater good, doing the right thing no matter the personal cost, and the need to practice temperance and compassion towards others.

These values and many other legal skills were something that Joseph taught to the attorneys and others whom he mentored over the years. He assisted and guided the careers of several prominent attorneys and support staff who continue to be grateful for what he taught them and remain indebted to him and his great legacy.

He is survived by his daughter, Julie Yamaner Eitan, his son-in-law Ofir Eitan and his three grandsons.

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Not a golfer but want to sponsor? Contact Jonathan Riegel in the QCBA Office.

Questions?
Contact Golf Outing Chair David Louis Cohen or QCBA Executive Director Jonathan Riegel

Reflections On Fifty Years Of Law Practice By A Golden Jubilarian

Third in a three-part series

BY JAMES S. KAPLAN

Approximately four years after I was at the firm, I again encountered the occupational hazard of the management telling me that the firm was merging with a larger firm of tax and estate lawyers with more business, and the Department would henceforth be headed by an allegedly prominent tax lawyer named Mel Paradise. As it turned out, Mr. Paradise's younger and probably more able partner Tim Fisher (who today is now an important counsel to my firm) elected not to come with the group and Mr. Paradise did not have the volume of business which he had promised. Thus, the merger failed and Mr. Paradise and his group left the firm approximately a year and a half later for another law firm, McClaughlin and Stern. Meanwhile, Len Polisar around this time announced to me and my then-colleague in the Corporate Department that he was leaving Herzfeld & Rubin after 22 years to join a New Jersey law firm, Crummey Del Dio, and taking his corporate and estate business with him. Although he said he had tried to find positions there for me and my corporate colleague he was unable to do so.

My corporate colleague was fired shortly thereafter, and it was certainly rumored that I would be next. At the time I found it was extremely difficult for a service partner in his mid-50's to find another comparable position unless he had at least $750,000 to $1,000,000 of business. I thus approached the firm's management committee and pointed out that the firm had the wills of a number of potentially large estate clients in its files, and that if it ever wanted to rebuild its corporate or real estate practice it would need an experienced tax lawyer. With some reluctance, I was told that I had 9-12 months to see what I could develop. After my third junior associate left for a more lucrative position at another firm a few months later, I was pessimistic about my ability to stay at the firm for more than another year.

Then, however, I again got a lucky break as I had 20 years earlier. Uncertain as to whether the firm would permit me to hire another associate, I bravely, with our senior counsel Larry Kalik, advertised in the placement offices at Brooklyn, Cardozo and New York law for entry level graduates. One resume that came across my desk was that of a young attorney who had worked as an intern in the Brooklyn Surrogate's Court for Judge Frank Seddio. As I had less experience in estate administration than tax, Mr. Kalik and I decided that we would try to convince the firm's management to hire her. Although they complained about the proposed salary that I thought was the minimum we could offer her, they agreed to do so. At the time I had no idea if we had sufficient work for her and asked if she could delay her start date by three weeks. In the intervening period, we were informed that a 96 year old French woman with an estate of more than $50 million whose will Mr. Kalik had drafted and who, with Mr. Rubin, was the executor, had died. The beneficiary of her estate was the United Jewish Appeal and most of her assets were in stocks and bonds.

> "From my point of view, the practice of law was a profession; from the management's point of view, the practice of law was a business."

Based on her experience in the Brooklyn Surrogate's court, this young attorney knew exactly what to do and within a week we were able to have Mr. Kalik and Mr. Rubin appointed preliminary executors. This was right before the 2008 market crash, and Mr. Kalik and Mr. Rubin immediately sold $40 million of securities before the market plunged saving approximately $10 million for UJA, the beneficiary, than if the securities were sold two months later. UJA and Mr. Kalik and Mr. Rubin, who earned executor commissions for the firm, were delighted. Talk of eliminating the firm's tax and estates Department abated for some years.

The firm was not successful in rebuilding the firm's corporate department (although under Arthur Strauss it had some success in real estate), and my department was still less important than the litigating divisions. I also had some differences of philosophy with the firm and its management. When I was at Cahill and Stroock, layoffs of lawyers were relatively uncommon, but the firm, apparently widespread in some other firms, developed the practice of laying off numbers of associates if there was a downturn in business, and continued its practice of underpaying associates. Apparently because I became known as an opponent of this practice, and I was told that associates who believed they were at risk of losing their jobs would sometimes ask to be assigned to my department, where even if they were not necessarily enthused about tax or estates, they thought they might get training and perhaps some protection.

In a sense things came to a head when I received a referral from Rick Reinhold, the head of the Willkie Farr tax department and a former Cahill Gordon tax partner, of an executive of flooring design business who was being assessed $250,000 of personal sales tax because he had initially signed papers setting up the company even though he was not really the responsible property for making the tax payment. I assembled a team of young associates who, by analyzing invoices, showed in a hearing before an administrative law judge that he really had no liability for the assessment. I was very proud of our victory in this case and wanted to show in a meeting before the firm's management what a good job the associates on my team had done. I was somewhat surprised that so many of the management committee showed up but was even more surprised that I was significantly criticized not for the result but for the fact that I had allegedly failed sufficiently to see that the firm had received security for payment in advance from the client for the work done. From my point of view, it illustrated that although for me the practice of law was a profession, from the management's point of view the practice of law was a business. The matter was particularly embarrassing for me when the client who had assured me he would pay our bill did not do so.

In any event some months later after an estate client unfairly complained about me, I was called into the office of the Managing Partner and told that the firm was changing and the committee had decided that I was no longer going to be part of its future. Since I had for some years had been running a department of four or five associates which while not wildly profitable, was at least holding its own financially, I took the unusual step of requesting a meeting with the full Board of Directors of the firm. I argued that the firm had a number of significant tax and estate clients who needed and either could or would be relying on its services and it was not clear that the associates or whoever else the firm hired would be able effectively to handle them. I was criticized for what was my perceived reliance on associates, but I argued that unless associates were trained the firm would have no future. After my proposal that my deputy, the associate we had hired several years earlier, take over the department and I be permitted to remain on as counsel to assist her was rejected, I had no choice but to leave the firm. I

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Reflections On Fifty Years Of Law Practice By A Golden Jubilarian

BY JAMES S. KAPLAN

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was told immediately that I was not to contact my clients in the firm's name without approval, and was somewhat disappointed to discover that my staff who I had trained was asked to make a list of my clients on whom they had worked and inform the clients that I was leaving the firm and they were not to talk to me.

As a result, I was left at the age of 64 as a highly experienced lawyer without any significant clients or prospects for obtaining any comparable position with another firm. I again considered, as I had 30 years earlier, abandoning the practice of law and perhaps focusing on New York history.

Formation of Greenberg & Kaplan 2014 – present

My elder daughter Olivia had also just quit her job as an analyst with the World Bank in Washington but had previously worked as a paralegal with a plaintiff's litigation lawyer named Bill Greenberg, who had an established practice working out of his house in Westchester. I decided that after almost 40 years in law practice, in good times and bad, I was not ready to give up on what had been my life's work. Rather than operating on my own name completely, Greenberg agreed that I could operate under the name Greenberg & Kaplan out of Manhattan and see how we did.

My younger daughter Caroline worked for me as a paralegal for seven years, and she became, in effect, the firm's chief financial officer. She was invaluable in obtaining loans and other government benefits during COVID which in essence kept the firm afloat in those difficult years. She also was invaluable in meeting with me with older female estate clients with whom she often was able to establish a greater rapport than I was. In addition, she established excellent relationships with the clerks in various Surrogate's Courts which proved of significant value in probate work. As an honors graduate of NYU's Tisch program in writing, she wanted to become a screen writer, but this proved more difficult and less lucrative than she had hoped. Approximately two years ago, much to my regret, she moved to more lucrative positions at larger firms, where she was making approximately $30,000 a year more than I could afford to pay her.

> **After almost 40 years in law practice, in good times and bad, I was not ready to give up on what had been my life's work.**

Perhaps ironically, I found that the barriers to entry in starting a law firm in Manhattan were relatively low. I signed up for a virtual office at 380 Lexington Avenue for $75 a month and later a phone service receptionist at a company called Davinci. With my daughter assisting me as a paralegal, I was able to get a computer, a bank account and a letterhead, and I was in business. I called a long-term client for whom I had done real estate tax work and he agreed to retain me on a matter on which I had been working for a $5,000 retainer. Several others followed.

I also signed up for the legal referral services in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan, which I had previously been members of at Herzfeld & Rubin. Soon I was receiving periodic calls from all range of purported clients, at least some of which had real legal problems. About three months later I received a call from Scott Hur, a lawyer who had worked for me at Herzfeld & Rubin, who had a somewhat robust Korean practice. Mr. Hur, with Robert Lash, another Herzfeld associate, said he and Mr. Lash were going out on their own and asked if I would have any interest in joining them. He had found space at 390 Fifth Avenue (near 36th Street) which was in the heart of the Korean district. We shared space at that location for more than five years until he moved to New Jersey. When we moved in, we raised our glass and said that in 10 years we would be a more important law firm than Herzfeld & Rubin from which we came.

Meanwhile, I gained over the next several years considerable expertise in estate litigation and guardianships. My daughter went to New York Law School at night, and my chief paralegal became an immigration lawyer in New Jersey. My younger daughter Caroline worked for me as a paralegal for seven years before moving to a more lucrative position at a larger firm. Billy Greenberg and I have recently litigated major Will contests in Manhattan and Brooklyn. From my point of view, other than possibly my years with City Law Department, the twelve years since age 64 that I have been in private law practice have been the most rewarding of my career. Although I doubt I will be practicing law like my former boss Herbert Rubin at the age of 100, I have no intent or desire to stop now. As an older lawyer, I feel I have greater judgement and understanding of legal cases than when I was younger. With respect to the issue of technology, I can and do hire younger lawyers or law students or paralegals to assist me.

> **"The twelve years since age 64 that I have been in private law practice have been the most rewarding of my career."**

I encourage all lawyers whether Judges or lawyers in private firms facing mandatory retirement to try it. I applaud the Queens Bar Association for their program honoring Jubilarians and their proposed program honoring Super Jubilarians.

James S. Kaplan is one of the City's leading Tax, Estate and Guardianship Lawyers. He has practiced law in Manhattan for nearly 40 years. For 17 years prior to forming Greenberg & Kaplan, Mr. Kaplan was Head of the Tax & Estates Department at the Wall Street law firm Herzfeld & Rubin, P.C., where he had a diversified international practice representing individuals, closely held companies, governments and not for profit entities in tax, estate and employee benefit matters.

He is also a historian who has led over 200 walking tours over the past 25 years, including his annual all-night July 4th Revolutionary Heroes walking tour through Fraunces Tavern Museum. He has written prolifically on numerous figures in American history, with a special interest in "unsung heroes." He was recently awarded the Coin of Excellence by the U.S. Army's Regimental Association for his work in promoting knowledge about General Horatio Gates, the first Adjutant General of the U.S. Army. He is Chairman of the New York Lower Manhattan Historical Association.

The Practice Page

New Defense-Friendly Changes To Automobile Threshold Injury Law

BY HON. MARK C. DILLON

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bifurcated venues, a verdict sheet arranged in that issue-sequence should satisfy the dictates of the statute.

But reasonable minds can disagree about the sequencing of litigation issues, and there have already been legal observers suggesting that the language of Insurance Law 5104 prevents the trial courts from considering threshold injury on summary judgment unless, in the same motion, common law liability is first granted in favor of the plaintiff on both the main claim and against the affirmative defense of contributory negligence. By that reasoning, if primary or contributory negligence is an issue requiring an assessment at trial, common law liability cannot be resolved by summary judgment, and the issue of threshold injury must therefore be put off to the trial. Trial and appellate courts will need to resolve these statutory interpretations in the months and years ahead.

Mark C. Dillon is a Justice of the Appellate Division, 2nd Department, an Adjunct Professor of New York Practice at Fordham law School, and a contributing author of the CPLR Practice Commentaries in McKinney's.

Back By Popular Demand!

2026 QCBA PICKLEBALL & TENNIS OUTINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

WOODSIDE CLUB

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IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE QCBA GOLF OUTING!

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For those who prefer tennis, we will be hosting our annual tennis outing as well on Woddside's Har-Tru tennis courts.

PICKLEBALL AND TENNIS OUTINGS
beginning at 2:00 pm

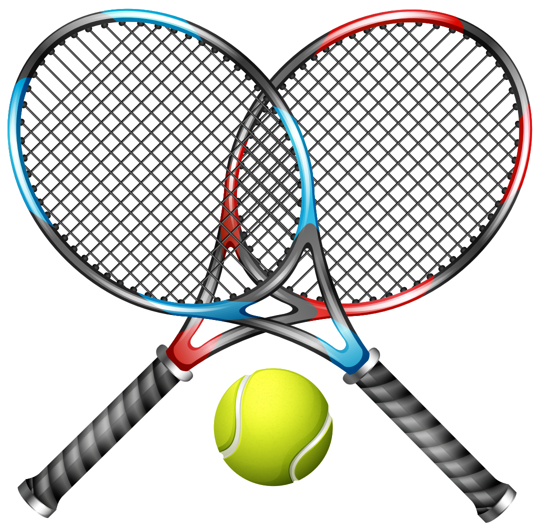
COCKTAILS, BUFFET DINNER & AWARDS
beginning at 6:00 pm

Presented by
Subin LLP

Pickleball or Tennis Outing - $250
Registration includes the outing, on-court refreshments, gift bags, lunch and dinner

Cocktails and Dinner only - $195

REGISTRATION:
https://tinyurl.com/QCBAgolf26



The 2026 QCBA Golf Outing is sold out! Contact Sasha Kahn at the QCBA office to be added to the waitlist in case of any cancellations. Sponsorships for various elements of the outings are still available.

Small Story For A Big Man

BY KRISTEN DUBOWSKI BARBA

I remember the first time I met Mark Weliky. I was interviewing for my job as staff attorney at the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project. Mark appeared as a tall, imposing looking man and he intimidated me. That was, until I got to know him. Shortly after I started working at the Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, I learned how wonderful a man he was. He truly cared about the work that we did, serving the indigent in many different areas of the law. Mark was especially passionate about our CLARO clinic. He established the Civil Legal Assistance Resource Office (CLARO) in Queens County almost 20 years ago! It was important to him that all his attorneys understood the significance of the program and participated. Before COVID, CLARO took place every Friday and closed only one day a year. Mark was determined that the litigants that needed our assistance knew we were always available to them.

After Hurricane Sandy, Mark went to the Rockaways and volunteered every weekend assisting the residents with any legal problem they had. He spent countless weekends helping that community rebuild.

I had the pleasure of working with Mark for almost 15 years and I developed a friendship with him. Mark loved sharing "small" stories as he called them, that were never small. From when Mayor Michael Bloomberg introduced Mark and pronounced his name Mark "veh-LEE-kee-ah" to how he created and printed a "No Pets" sign for the dumpling restaurant because he thought their sign needed help.

I learned so many things while working for Mark. Not only did I learn about the law and how to manage clients, but I also learned about Mark and his family. I learned how our day was going to go was based on how the Mets or Rangers did in their game the night before. He loved going to games with his son, Jonathan.

Mark loved sharing about his weekend adventures or the trip he just took with his family like apple picking at his family's apple orchard. He would show you all the photos he took even if you were in the middle of working on a complex legal project. This would happen until Mark realized it was time for him to run out and pay the meter for his car. He loved to watch movies with his wife Barbara and daughter Fiona and would tell you the plot of the movie whether you wanted to hear it or not. He even started a new hobby of doing crafts with his granddaughter, Lila.

Almost every year Mark would submit one of our volunteers as a nominee for the Pro Bono award at the state bar and almost every year our nominee would win. The award was given at a lunchtime ceremony in Albany. Once a year, some of the staff and the award recipient would all pile into Mark's car. We would drive in his little blue car that was dubbed "the blueberry". He would drive us up to Albany for the ceremony and luncheon and then drive us back home all in one day.

Mark loved good food, one of his favorites was Chinese food. I have been advised that all Chinese food restaurants had a moment of silence when they learned of Mark's passing. He had two particular restaurants that he loved Dave's Chinese restaurant in Queens which he was a longtime customer of, even though he now lived in Long Island. He would go at least once a week. He also single-handedly supported the dumpling restaurant on Sutphin Boulevard.

The Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project and Queens County Bar Association became like a second home to all of us. We celebrated many happy occasions together and supported each other through hard times. That was all because of Mark. Mark even got us all matching QVLP sweatshirts. We were truly family.

We have lost an important person in the Queen Legal community, and I have suffered a personal loss.

Mark was dedicated to his family, his friends the Mets and Rangers and QVLP.

Goodbye, Mark. Thank you for everything. Your legacy will live on.

Tributes to Mark Weliky

In response to the notification that Mark Weliky had passed away, tributes from across the Queens legal community poured in. We share the words from many who knew and worked with Mark over the years.

"This is sad news. However, he left behind a legacy which will always serve as an inspiration and reminder for future generations to come. May he be in Peace."

"What a wonderful gentleman. Always friendly, and incredibly conscientious as far as his work, which is reflected in the phenomenal respect accorded the organization he built over the years. Its growth alone is testament to the success of his efforts. May Mark's memory serve as a blessing for all he knew."

"This is very sad news. Mark was a dedicated lawyer who in his nearly 25 years with QVLP transformed the office to enable it to serve many more low-income Queens residents. He was a gentleman and a pleasure to be around. He will be missed. May he rest in peace."

"Queens just lost a real mensch."

"Mark was a kind person who put his heart and his soul to QVLP! He will be missed by many."

"I came as a student volunteer in 2008 to QVLP and the mission was simple...help as many people as we can! 18 Years later I can testify he was a good man and a great mentor!! In his 25 years of service to Queens Volunteer Lawyers Project, he assisted "hundreds of thousands" of people who really needed help."

"Mark was one of the most decent human beings I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Without him giving me an opportunity in 2009, I would not be where I am today. I like to think there are a slew of people who feel the same. He will be missed."

"Mark was very kind to me when I first started volunteering with QVLP. My condolences go out to his family and friends."

"My heart is broken! What a dear person! I will miss him!"

"We lost a good man. May his memory be eternal."

"Mark was a good friend and employee who will not be forgotten."

"Always a fine gentleman. He was the prime mover behind QVLP. He will be missed! Heartfelt condolences to his family."

"Mark was an incredible person to work with, and I will always be grateful for everything he taught me. I'm so very sorry to hear about Mark's passing."

"Mark was an excellent Executive Director. He and staff elevated QVLP to statewide recognition for their volunteer work. My heartfelt condolences to his family."

"Mark was a really nice guy and good people and did a great job for QVLP."

"I am very sorry to hear about Mark's passing. Mark's dedication and presence have always been felt, and his loss is deeply saddening."

"Not the news I ever wanted to hear about Mark. My sincerest condolences to his family. He touched so many lives and I know his memory will live on through others. May he rest in peace."

"I am so sorry to hear about Mark. He was an outstanding leader and the spirit of QVLP. I will keep QVLP and his family in my prayers."

"He was a good seed…a wonderful human being."

"Oh no!!!! I am deeply saddened!!! What a huge loss! I will miss him tremendously."

"What a very good and kind man! - The Queens legal community admired his career long dedication to helping the poor and disenfranchised."

"The words of my colleagues say it all. We will greatly miss Mark Weliky. I am teary-eyed."