

## PATRICIA STREICH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS!



Pat and her daughter Anne, Senior Human Resources Assistant, celebrate Pat's 40th anniversary with the firm.

Legal Support Manager, Pat joined our firm 40 years ago! In August, we celebrated her dedication and commitment to the firm.

In her early years at F& P, Pat worked as a legal secretary in commercial and personal injury law. These experiences provided her with the opportunity to learn a

broad array of legal work and expand her overall knowledge base. In 1990, she was promoted to supervise the "No Fault" Department and worked with Information Services to update the department's computer systems and establish workflow policies and procedures. This launched Pat's management and information services career as she studied workflow and computing needs and sought better ways to enhance productivity and customer service. Her accomplishments include the introduction of document imaging. Today she serves as Supervisor to the Case Assistants.

*Congratulations, Pat!*

## GEORGE LEVY CELEBRATES 30 YEARS!



George Levy celebrates with Carl Gold, Director of Human Resources

Senior Trial Attorney George Levy celebrates 30 years with Finkelstein & Partners! He became a partner in 1987. Mr. Levy has handled some of the most significant cases in the office including the Coldenham Elementary School wall collapse case in which several children were killed and seriously injured. After resolving that matter in a multi-million dollar settlement, Mr. Levy has continued to handle many other multi-million dollars cases through jury verdicts or settlements.

# Finkelstein & Partners<sup>LLP</sup>

## THE INJURY ATTORNEYS<sup>TM</sup>

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Newburgh, NY 12551

## ANTI-TEXTING AND DRIVING: SPREADING THE WORD TO THE COMMUNITY

### TEXTING AND DRIVING IS DEADLY!



In 2011 we launched a public service campaign, with the goal of making young drivers aware of the dangers of texting while driving. Research has shown that drivers are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash if they are texting while driving. Due to their inexperience, people under the age of 24 are most likely to engage in this dangerous task, putting them at the highest risk for texting and driving-related collisions.

dangers of distracted driving. This year, we teamed up with CBS6 News in Albany to spread the word. Managing Partner Andrew Finkelstein and Attorney Elizabeth Wolff spoke at five high schools in the Albany area, giving powerful presentations to students about the dangers of texting while driving.

If you would like us to speak at your child's school, visit our website at [www.lawampm.com](http://www.lawampm.com) or contact our Marketing Director, Danielle Mackey at [dmackey@lawampm.com](mailto:dmackey@lawampm.com).

As a firm that is highly involved in this issue, our attorneys speak to high school students (at no cost) about the great



Managing Partner Andrew Finkelstein speaks to the students of Mechanicville about the dangers of texting and driving.

## OUR CLIENTS ARE TALKING

### Do you have something to say?

Please share your positive experience with us on Google or Yelp. Please visit: <http://httpwww.lawampm.com/office-locations.html>

We'll help you post your comments online! You can also email [communications@lawampm.com](mailto:communications@lawampm.com) and we will share your feedback with the team.

**Matthew A.** "I would like to take a few moments to thank your firm for the representation you've given me. I deeply appreciate my attorneys' patience in answering even my most obvious and mundane questions about the nuances of my case, and the timeliness with which they responded to those questions. Your representation was flawless and seamless and I wholeheartedly trust your firm to be my legal representatives in any matter in the future. My few words of appreciation cannot accurately convey my respect for you as lawyers, nor do they accurately reflect how personable and pleasant you are as people."

**Patricia & Jack Y.** "Amanda Chanowsky set herself apart in our minds. Her engaging style assured us that not only she, but the firm was concerned for our well-being. Mr. George Levy, as our attorney, was exceptional in keeping us informed as to the progress of the case and of any future events of which he was aware. Again, our deepest thanks to Amanda, George and your firm."

**Bernard S.** "I was extremely satisfied with the service I received from start to finish. I hope in the future I will be accident free, but if not, I absolutely will retain your firm again! 5 star firm"

**Jerry W.** "I want to thank you for your help in my VA appeal. I applied for compensation from the VA for my PTSD and after being denied for an amount greater than 30%, a friend recommended your firm. Contacting your office was the best decision I have ever made. In less than one year, I have received by full compensation from the VA Court of Appeals. I owe it all to you folks. You really gave me your all and I will always be grateful for your help."

**Ryan B.** "Your staff is not only truly professional, but they are also genuinely compassionate. I was cared for, my sons were cared for. Thank you."

#### New York Locations:

Albany, Binghamton, Bronx, Hempstead, Kingston, Manhattan, Middletown, Newburgh, Port Jervis, Queens, Syracuse, Wappingers Falls

#### New Jersey Locations:

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Attorney Advertising.

Finkelstein & Partners<sup>LLP</sup>  
THE INJURY ATTORNEYS

## ARMED FORCES DAY ON THE HUDSON 2013



Armed Forces on the Hudson Day, a community celebration, will be an annual event that is a tribute, an outreach and a fundraiser for the benefit of our veterans. The team at Finkelstein & Partners participated in the inaugural Armed Forces Day celebration in May 2013. We handed out brochures, hats, bracelets, and totes while recognizing active duty military and veterans. Our veterans have served us, now we want to serve them by helping in their appeals for VA benefits. Learn more about our Veterans Services Group on our website at [www.lawampm.com](http://www.lawampm.com).

## GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO ISSUES NEW LAW WITH TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR YOUNG DRIVERS WHO TEXT AND DRIVE

The Governor recently signed a new law that issues tougher penalties for drivers with probationary or junior licenses, who have been found guilty of texting while driving. He has also increased the number of points issued to all licensed drivers who are guilty of texting or talking on the phone while driving. The points increased from 3 to 5.

He also signed a law in 2011 that categorized distracted driving as a primary traffic offense. Law enforcement was then allowed to issue tickets for texting-while-driving. Within a year, there was a 234% increase in the number of tickets issued for texting and driving in New York State alone.

Governor Cuomo has dedicated a lot of time and effort to increasing our safety by reducing the amount of distracted driving on our roads. New York State Police are required to crack down on distracted driving, and now use undercover

We are dedicated to keeping our roadways safe! If you would like us to speak at your child's school as part of our "Commit to Quit: Don't Text & Drive" program, visit our website for more information.



Follow us on Facebook and our blogs for the latest in safety news and food recalls.

[Facebook.com/FinkelsteinAndPartners](http://Facebook.com/FinkelsteinAndPartners)

[www.LawAMPM.com](http://www.LawAMPM.com)



# FIRM AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## NEW YORK’S NURSING HOMES EARN FAILING GRADE

According to Families for Better Care, a Florida-based nursing home resident advocacy group, nursing homes in New York State earn a failing grade when it comes to the care provided to residents.

The group published a first-ever state-by-state report card for nursing homes nationwide, using eight federal measures to analyze nursing home quality. The quality of care was so low in New York that it was the only state on the eastern seaboard to receive a failing grade.

When applying the measures to New York nursing homes, the group assigned a failing grade on half the measures, and assigned only one above average grade. The poorest grades were given to areas related to direct care staff hours, professional nursing services and ombudsmen complaints.

It was found that professionalism in nursing homes throughout the state was scarce, and residents received as little as 40 minutes of professional care per day. This was attributed to a lack of staff.

According to the report card, over 92% of the facilities were cited for one or more deficiencies, while ombudsmen verified 9 in 10 registered complaints.

If you believe your loved one is being neglected or abused in their nursing home, visit our website for help.



## FINKELSTEIN & PARTNERS SUPPORTS LITERACY CONNECTIONS’ 22ND ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPELLING BEE

This year we helped in the fight to promote literacy by participating in the 22nd annual Community Spelling Bee, hosted by Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley. Our team, “The Legal Bee Girls” was comprised of Marketing Assistant, Emily Boziwick and Legal Assistant, Nicole Giovinazzo.

The Bee, held at Marist College was supported by more than 50 local businesses and organizations. The fun, friendly competition promotes awareness of Literacy Connections’ mission to help people read, write, and reach their full potential. The funds raised from the annual event support literacy services for adults and children in the Hudson Valley.

"Our Legal Bee-Girls, Emily and Nicole, did a fine job representing Finkelstein & Partners at the annual spelling bee," said Managing Partner, Andrew Finkelstein. "Their participation in this event is another example of the firm's commitment to giving back to the community we serve. I'm proud of them for getting involved."

## WE WELCOME OUR NEW FINKELSTEIN & PARTNERS ATTORNEYS

### SASHA ENSSLIN



Sasha Ensslin, of the Albany office, joins us from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law where she received her J.D. in 2012. Sasha was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2013

### NICHOLAS MAIORANO



Nicholas Maiorano, of the Newburgh office, joins us from New York Law School where he received his J.D. in 2012. Nick was admitted to the New York State and New Jersey State Bar in 2013.

## NINE OF OUR ATTORNEYS HAVE BEEN NAMED TO THE LIST OF SUPER LAWYERS 2013!

Howard S. Finkelstein, founding partner of Finkelstein & Partners LLP, is proud to announce that seven of the firm’s attorneys have been named 2013 Upstate New York Super Lawyers and two more as 2013 “*Rising Stars*”.

Managing partner Andrew G. Finkelstein was named to the list for the fourth year in a row. Partners Nancy Y. Morgan and Ron Rosenkranz of the Newburgh office have been recognized for the third year. Kingston-based partner Kenneth Fromson was named for the second year. Partner Thomas Pronti was recognized again as an Albany Super Lawyer.

New to the 2013 Super Lawyers list are Partners Eleanor Polimeni and Thomas Yatto. Named to the 2013 Upstate New York Rising Stars list are Melody Gregory, based in Newburgh, and Elizabeth Wolff, located in the firm’s Albany office.

*“Being named Super Lawyers, many for a second time or more, is clear evidence that these attorneys provide a high level of expertise and dedication to meet the needs of our clients,”* said Howard Finkelstein. *“They have the experience and proven track record that's necessary to win the toughest cases for our clients.”*

This is the seventh consecutive year that Finkelstein & Partners has had attorneys nominated to the list!



Attorney, Eleanor Polimeni



Attorney, Thomas Yatto

## CARLY’S KIDS DAY 2013



Andrew Finkelstein and his daughter, Zoe Finkelstein at the Carly's Kids Day Event!

In loving memory of Carly Marie Sigelbaum, a beautiful young girl whose life was cut short in a tragic car accident in 2008, the Finkelstein & Partners team came together at the Orange County Choppers in Newburgh for the 5th annual Carly’s Kids Day. We handed out lots of informative brochures, hats, totes and bracelets to visitors of the event! Carly’s family, with the assistance of many friends, has established the Carly Fund as a lasting way to honor Carly and keep her memory alive. Through the Carly Fund, grants are awarded to local schools or nonprofit organizations that focus on random acts of kindness.

"Finkelstein & Partners has a long tradition of giving back to the community we serve," said managing partner Andrew Finkelstein. "We're proud to participate in Carly's Kids Day and support The Carly Fund so that the memory of a beautiful young girl can live on in a way that will help other young people in the community."

## LATIN FEST IN ALBANY 2013



The Albany LatinFest is a free, family-oriented festival that attracts an ethnically diverse audience from across the region. The festival features food, crafts, The Capital District YMCA Healthy Kid Zone and music. Finkelstein & Partners teamed up with CBS6 News in Albany to celebrate! Attorney Elizabeth Wolff represented the firm by handing out Spanish language firm brochures, bracelets, hats and anti-texting and driving postcards to visitors of the event. We promoted our Commit to Quit Texting and Driving campaign! We are passionate about the safety of our community and are dedicated to preventing deaths caused by texting and driving.

# RECENT CASE RESULTS

## \$5,750,000

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

Our clients, self-employed brothers, were rear ended by a delivery truck while stopped in traffic in the Town of Newburgh. Their injuries required multiple surgeries, and resulted in what will be a lifetime of pain and suffering as well as an inability to continue in their chosen profession. This case settled prior to trial.

*Team:* Attorneys Melody Gregory, Michael Feldman, Ron Rosenkranz, Brian Acard, Elizabeth Wolff, Marie Dusault, Ann Johnson, Lawrence Lissauer, George Kohl, and Kara Campbell.  
Case Manager Judy Gentile  
Trial Assistant Lisa Venuto  
Paralegal Heather Stigliani  
Calendar Coordinator Maggie Bonaparte

## \$765,000

### TRIP AND FALL

Our client was leaving a friend’s apartment in Newburgh on her way to a church function when she tripped and fell on an eroded concrete step. While falling she hit her head on the metal hand railing, damaging her spine in several locations. The Plaintiff was put on pain medication and given trigger point injections that offered no relief, and she eventually underwent spinal surgery. After two and a half years of treatment, our client was unable to walk without a cane and was awarded Social Security Disability. She endures constant pain in her neck and back and suffers from repeated severe headaches. An inspection of the step by our expert revealed that repairs to a similar erosion had been made in a nearby location, indicating that the defendant knew or should have known about this defect and repaired it. This case settled before trial.

*Team:* Attorneys David Akerib, George Levy and Ron Rosenkranz  
Adjustor Kevin Hines  
Case Manager Samantha Howland  
Paralegal Barbara Rignanese  
Calendar Coordinator Kirsten Hansen

## \$150,000 AWARD

### REVERSAL OF VA DENIAL VETERANS SERVICES GROUP

As a result of his military service, our client was suffering from bladder cancer, as well as other serious disabilities. The Veterans’ Administration had denied him a finding of Total Disability Due to Individual Unemployability (TDIU) and had awarded him only 20% disability for his service related bladder cancer. Our Veteran’s Service Group submitted a Notice of Disagreement on the veteran’s behalf. In 2013 the VA reversed it’s decision on TDIU retroactive to 6/25/2003, and increased the disability for bladder cancer from 20% to 40%, retroactive to 10/20/10. This resulted in a cash award to our client of just over \$150,000 as well as an increase in his future disability payments.

*Team:* Attorney Nancy Morgan and Case Manager Angela Fontaine

## \$152,000

### REVERSAL OF VA DENIAL VETERANS SERVICES GROUP

Our client was denied service connection for Diabetes Mellitus, Type II with secondary connection for renal failure. Our Veterans Services Group submitted a Notice of Disagreement and a Statement in Support of Claim arguing that the Veteran served at the Udom Air Base in Thailand when herbicides were used. Our client was a military policeman who patrolled the boundaries and gates of the base. We requested that the VA concede to the Veteran’s exposure due to the policy change of May 2010. Our client was awarded 100% service connection for Diabetes Mellitus Type II and secondary connection for renal failure retroactive from June 2008 to December 2012, then 80% from December 2012 until present.

*Veterans Services Group Team:* Attorney John Dowd and Case Manager Angela Fontaine.