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Willets S. Meyer is a partner in the tax certiorari practice group at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale. Meyer concentrates his practice in all aspects of real property taxation reduction/abatement on behalf of developers, owners and tenants of commercial and residential properties throughout New York State. He is a well-known speaker in Long Island real estate circles, delivering numerous seminars on property tax reduction strategies.

Meyer is focused on several current and upcoming issues in the region.

“In New York City the big news is the expiration of the 421-a exemption, which rewarded developers with tax benefits for keeping a certain number of units as affordable housing in new apartment buildings,” Meyer said. “Without these incentives, many experts predict far fewer multi-family building starts by developers who will see greater profits in other types of projects. Some experts even predict a long-term effect on the New York City affordable rental market unless the incentives are renewed.”

“In Nassau County, all the talk is about the new Disputed Assessment Fund (DAF) being implemented for the 2016/17 tax year,” he said. “Under this plan, commercial properties challenging their assessments would have 10 percent or more of their actual taxes escrowed into a special fund in case their challenge ultimately succeeds and the county is



WHO'S WHO

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forced to refund tax overpayments. The DAF is intended to finance the current system that leaves Nassau County holding the bag for all tax refunds — including the portions already spent by local school districts — under the so-called ‘County guarantee’ of its assessment roll to other municipal entities that rely on its accuracy. The only thing that we

know at this point is that the DAF will raise tax rates for all commercial property owners in Nassau County, whether they challenge their assessments or not.”

Meyer has been a member of the board of directors of The WaterFront Center, a not-for-profit organization promoting marine education, conservation and recreation for Long Island residents, since 2011. He also serves as a director and/or officer of several private organizations, as a director of the Oyster Bay Sailing Foundation, and coaches youth basketball for the Police Athletic League. For six years, he was a member of the board of directors for the Queens Botanical Garden. From 2005-2007, Meyer was a member of the Village of Oyster Bay Cove’s Planning Board.

He is a graduate of Connecticut College and Tulane University Law School.

With more than 85 attorneys, the law firm of Farrell Fritz is recognized for providing high quality legal services, practical advice and responsiveness. The firm is also known for its deep commitment to the local community. Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of arbitration and mediation; bankruptcy and restructuring; business divorce; commercial litigation; construction; corporate and finance; eDiscovery; emerging companies and venture capital; eminent domain; environmental law; estate litigation; health law; labor and employment; land use, municipal and zoning; not-for-profit law; real estate; tax planning and controversy; tax certiorari, and trusts and estates for corporations, not-for-profit organizations and individuals.