

# shakers and makers

BY VICTOR G. MIMONI, TONI N. CIMINO,  
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## FERNANDO AQUINO DIRECTOR OF MARKET DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NEW YORK METS



**T**he New York Mets named Fernando Aquino, 39, as Director of Market Development at the end of March.

Aquino joined the Mets organization after leaving the Office of the New York State Senate Democratic Conference, where he served for five years as Press Secretary of downstate press operations for the State Senate Minority Leader, currently Malcolm Smith.

In a statement, Smith called Aquino "a trusted friend and colleague to the Conference," saying "The New York Mets are truly fortunate to have such a talented individual joining their team."

While wishing Aquino "an abundance of success and happiness in his new endeavor," Smith admitted he was "sad to lose a gifted writer and professional."

Smith added, "I am fully confident Aquino will bring his invaluable talents to the organization."

Aquino's position is responsible for "building and enhancing the image of the club in the multicultural market as well as elevating the profile of the Mets and their players beyond the sports pages – focusing on off-field, business, entertainment, community and lifestyle media coverage," according to the team.

"I'm not breaking any new ground," Aquino said, adding "The Mets are already doing a lot in the schools and for health causes."

Before moving into government communications in 2003 as Deputy Press Secretary for then State Senate Democratic Leader David Paterson, Aquino spent four years as political and community reporter for El Diario/La Prensa, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S.

He previously served as Chief of Information for Listin USA, the state-side arm of the largest newspaper in his native Dominican Republic, Listin Diario, and reported from New York as a foreign correspondent for El Siglo, a major Dominican news outlet at the time.

A 2006 graduate of The City College of New York in Manhattan, Aquino has been married for "sixteen wonderful years." He currently resides in the Bronx with his wife, Melissa Coss and their two sons, Gabriel, 15 and Antonio, 12.

## JOHN J. BARNOSKY FARRELL FRITZ, P.C.



**J**ohn J. Barnosky of Farrell Fritz, P.C. was recently selected for inclusion in The Best of the U.S.'s 2008 list of the best professionals in the U.S.

Barnosky is a partner in the firm's trusts and estates department. His practice focuses on estate litigation; estate planning, probate and administration of estates and trusts; and taxation.

In 2007, he was named a "Super Lawyer in New York" by Super Lawyers Magazine, metro edition. He has also been named one of the Best Trusts & Estates Lawyers in America by American Lawyer.

Barnosky serves on the EPTL/SCPA Advisory Committee established by the New York State Legislature to review and modernize statutes relating to trusts and estates. He is a member of the Taxation Section of the American Bar Association and a Fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estates Counsel. Barnosky is a former Chair of the

4,500-member Trust and Estate Law Section of the New York State Bar Association and was a member of the NYSBA's Task Force on Court Reorganization.

Barnosky has been the editor of the North Fork Bank Estate Review and has written numerous articles published in the New York Law Journal, The New York State Bar Journal, The Nassau Lawyer, and The Journal of the Suffolk Academy of Law. He is a frequent lecturer at New York State Bar Association seminars on trust and estate practice.

Barnosky earned his LL.M. in taxation in 1974 from New York University School of Law and his Juris Doctor degree in 1967 from St. John's University School of Law. He received his A.B. degree in 1964 from Assumption College.

## VERONE KENNEDY TEACHER AND SLOAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD WINNER



**O**ne of New York's finest teachers, Verone Kennedy, was honored for his extraordinary commitment to cultivating the young minds

and future leaders of this city.

Kennedy was one of six other city workers awarded The Fund for New York City 2008 Sloan Public Service Awards. The award is given to city employees who achieve exceptional results in serving the public. The St. Albans native was singled out over roughly 250,000 city workers for this honor.

"Everything I do is motivated by my love for teaching children," said Kennedy. "I believe that every child has the right to receive a fair and equitable opportunity to learn."

Kennedy, a 21-year veteran of the Department of Education, currently works as Network Leader in the Department of Education's Community Learning Support Organization. In this role Kennedy supports 18 schools within Brooklyn that are under-funded or in danger of being closed.

He spearheaded programs such as "Scholars Week," a weeklong series of seminars that allowed students to learn about things not taught in the classroom. This week gave instructors the opportunity to teach the subjects they were passionate about.

Kennedy feels that a child should not be denied the opportunity to learn just because of where they are from; every child has the potential to learn. "The more one learns, the more he or she is capable of learning," said Kennedy.

In 1985, Kennedy was hired as seasonal park ranger at the age of 19, and he was eventually promoted to the position of provisional ranger in recognition for his passion towards teaching and nature. Telma Harper, a Brooklyn Public School principal, noticed Kennedy's enthusiasm for teaching and helped push him towards what he considers "his calling."

Kennedy has held the role of principal, staff developer, curriculum planner, teacher mentor, U.F.T. chapter leader, middle school teacher, elementary school teacher, paraprofessional, safety patrol advisor, student government advisor, newsletter advisor, chess coach, and basketball coach, just to name a few.

## ARTHUR SAITTA RIDGEWOOD SAVING BANK ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT AND RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



**R**idgewood Savings Bank recently appointed Arthur P. Saitta as Assistant Vice President and Residential Business Development

Officer.

Saitta comes to Ridgewood with more than 20 years experience in residential mortgage lending, where he has worked on both the retail and wholesale sides of the business.

"We are pleased to welcome Arthur Saitta to the Ridgewood Savings Bank family," said William C. McGarry, Chairman, President and CEO of Ridgewood Savings Bank. "Art brings a proven expertise in real estate financing that will certainly assist prospective and current homeowners in realizing their dreams. Investing and reinvesting in the neighborhoods we serve is one of the core missions of our community-focused bank."

Previously, Saitta was the Director of Sales and Operations for Trump Mortgage, LLC. In addition, he worked for Astoria Federal Savings Bank as an officer and manager of mortgage originations; European American Bank (EAB) as vice president; and Great Western Mortgage Bank as regional manager and bank officer.

In his new position with the bank, Saitta will be responsible for new product development and implementation. He will also oversee Ridgewood's residential mortgage account team and the operations of the bank's mortgage centers in Glendale, Hicksville and Garden City Park.

"I am truly excited to have joined Ridgewood Savings Bank and am looking forward to continuing its history of providing customers with personalized mortgage services tailored precisely to meet their needs," Saitta said. "I am proud to be a part of that tradition."

Ridgewood offers a wide variety of products and services for home mortgages and home equity as well as consumer and commercial loans, all with flexible terms and affordable rates.

Ridgewood Savings Bank, which was chartered in 1921, is the largest mutual savings bank in New York State with \$4.1 billion dollars in assets and has 10 branches throughout Queens.

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