

State bar creates task force to study eminent domain

The New York State Bar Association has created a task force to analyze the use of eminent domain and to make recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory changes.

Local members of the 21-seat task force include John M. Armentano, a partner at Uniondale-based Farrell Fritz, and Jon N. Santemma, a partner at Garden City-based Jaspan Schlesinger Hoffman.

Patricia E. Salkin, associate dean and director of the Government Law Center of Albany Law School, chairs the task force.

NYSBA President A. Vincent Buzard appointed the task force in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Kelo vs. New London, Conn.*

The Supreme Court ruled that New London could condemn property for economic development even though the land is blighted.

A number of bills have been introduced in the state legislatures nationwide since then regarding eminent domain.



Santemma: Up to the task.

Buzard said that the task force would “make recommendations regarding appropriate legislative and regulatory considerations.”

He added that he hopes the task force “will shed public light on the real issues while removing some of the hysteria from the debate process and, above all, stop the blaming of judges for simply ruling on the law to the best of their abilities.”