

PRESS RELEASE

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Michael P. Stafford & Suzanne Q. Burke Join Farrell Fritz

Farrell Fritz welcomes **Michael P. Stafford** to the firm's real estate and trusts & estates departments as counsel and **Suzanne Q. Burke** to the trusts & estates department as an associate. Mr. Stafford will focus his practice in commercial real estate, and in estate administration and planning in both New York and Florida. Ms. Burke will focus her practice on estate planning and administration in both New York and Florida.

Prior to joining Farrell Fritz, **Mr. Stafford** was a sole practitioner in his home town of Garden City, NY and was also a partner at Rivkin Radler, LLP.

Mr. Stafford, admitted to practice law in New York and Florida, lectures at continuing legal education programs (CLE) in both states. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) and The Florida Bar, where he has been a member of the Executive Council of the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section since 1992. Mr. Stafford has served The Florida Bar in the following capacities: Board of Directors, Florida Bar Foundation, 2002-2006; Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Professionalism, 2004; Board of Governors, 1995-1999; Executive Committee, 1996, 1998; Chair, Long Range Planning Committee, 1994-1995; and President, Out of State Practitioner's Division, 1992-1993. He is a Fellow of the Florida Bar Foundation.

Mr. Stafford has been active in civil and charitable organizations. He is the Treasurer and an Executive Board member of the St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association. He is an Honorary Trustee of Variety Child Learning Center, having served as a Board member for nineteen years. He is a former Vice President of Government Affairs, member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Long Island Association (LIA). Mr. Stafford is a former Garden City Chamber of Commerce board member. He has served on Advisory Committees to the Diocesan Television Center (Telecare) and Mercy Hospital, as well as other community organizations.

Prior to practicing law, Mr. Stafford was a sportswriter, political reporter and editor for United Press International (UPI) in New York, and was Sports Information Director at St. John's University. He also spent several years in New York State government and politics, having served as Executive Assistant to State Senator John R. Dunne; Director of Communications to Chief Judge Charles D. Breitler; and Director of Communications to Governor Malcolm Wilson.

Mr. Stafford earned his Juris Doctor degree from St. John's University School of Law. He received his B.A. in English from St. John's University School of Education. In 2007, Mr. Stafford was presented with the University's "Outstanding Alumni Achievement" award. He has an AV Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review

Rating.

Most recently, **Ms. Burke** was an associate at Putney, Twombly, Hall & Hirson, LLP (New York, NY). From 2001-2006, she was a trusts & estates associate at Rivkin Radler, LLP (Uniondale, NY). Her responsibilities included conducting client meetings; drafting agreements, wills, revocable trusts, special needs trusts and Qualified Personal Residence Trusts, and preparing federal and state estate tax returns, tax projections and tax audits.

Ms. Burke earned her Juris Doctor degree in 2001 from St. John's University School of Law, where she was the Articles and Notes Editor of the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*. While in law school, Ms. Burke spent a summer interning with the Honorable Arlene R. Lindsay. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree in 1998 from the University of Scranton. Ms. Burke studied at the Universite de Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France) during the Fall of 1996.

Ms. Burke is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey and Florida. She is a member of the Nassau County Estate Planning Council, the Nassau County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association and the Palm Beach County Bar Association.

About Farrell Fritz

Farrell Fritz is a full service law firm that has earned a strong reputation in the New York business community. Highly respected for its experience in many areas of law, Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of corporate and banking; environmental law; franchise and distribution; health care; labor and employment; land use, municipal and zoning litigation; real estate; tax; trusts and estates; and creditors' rights and bankruptcy matters for a variety of corporations, institutions and individuals. For more information, please visit our website at www.farrellfritz.com.