

PRESS RELEASE

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**Peter A. Mahler Joins Farrell Fritz, P. C.
as Partner in Newly Opened Manhattan Office**

Farrell Fritz is pleased to announce that Peter A. Mahler has joined the firm as a partner, effective February 1, 2004. Mr. Mahler practices in the area of complex business litigation, with a concentration in shareholder disputes, dissolution of closely-held entities and valuation proceedings. He is opening Farrell Fritz's newest office, located in the Chrysler Building at 405 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10174. Mr. Mahler can be reached at 212-907-6455, via efax at 516-336-2254, and at email address pmahler@farrellfritz.com.

"I am delighted to welcome Peter Mahler to our firm", said Charles M. Strain, Managing Partner. "The depth and breadth of his experience further enhances our commercial litigation practice group, which has a strong presence on Long Island. The establishment of our New York City office is a natural progression, as a substantial amount of the firm's activities, including litigated matters, would benefit from a Manhattan presence".

Prior to joining Farrell Fritz, Mr. Mahler was a partner with Derfner & Mahler, LLP, a Manhattan law firm he co-founded in 1992.

Mr. Mahler began his career in 1982, clerking for United States District Judge John R. Bartels in the Eastern District of New York. He received his law degree in 1982 from the New York University School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts degree from U. C. Santa Barbara in 1979.

Mr. Mahler has authored numerous articles for legal publications and lectured on corporate dissolution, limited liability companies and related topics.

About Farrell Fritz

Farrell Fritz is one of the region's largest full service law firms and has earned a strong reputation in the Long Island business community by providing expertise in several areas of practice. Highly respected for its experience in many areas of law, Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of banking, commercial litigation, corporate, creditor's rights and bankruptcy, employment, environmental, franchise and distribution, health care, municipal, land use and zoning, real estate, tax, tax certiorari, and trust and estates matters for a variety of corporations, institutions and individuals. The firm's managing partner is Charles M. Strain.