

PRESS RELEASE

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**Miriam E. Villani, Chair of Environmental Law Section
of NYS Bar Association, To Be Honored at St. John's Law School**

Miriam E. Villani, counsel in the Environmental Practice Group of Farrell Fritz, P.C., will be honored for her achievements in her field at the St. John's University School of Law on February 15.

The school and its Environmental Law Society recognize a distinguished individual in the field at an annual reception for current students and alumni who practice or have interest in environmental law. While the honoree is not always an alumnus, Ms. Villani received her Juris Doctor Degree from St. John's in 1984 and is currently co-chairperson of the Environmental Law Alumni Committee of the school's Alumni Association. Past honorees include Judges James Oakes of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and Jack Weinstein of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, as well as Walter Mugdan, Director, Division of Environmental Planning and Protection, Region 2, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Earlier this year, Ms. Villani was appointed to serve as chair of the Environmental Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. The Section brings together members of the Association who seek to further an effective and fair legal framework for protecting the human and natural environment. It also educates the bar and the public about environmental law, policy and administration, initiates and promotes environmental law reform, and opposes changes in environmental laws and administration deemed not in the public interest.

According to Charles M. Strain, managing partner of Farrell Fritz, Ms. Villani offers an exceptional level of expertise in environmental issues to benefit the firm’s clients. “Our clients face an increasingly broad and complex range of compliance issues with regard to the New York State Environmental Conservation Law and various federal environmental laws,” he said. “These include hazardous and solid waste treatment, storage and disposal, issues that arise under the state Brownfields Cleanup program, soil vapor intrusion, clean air and global warming, underground storage tanks, petroleum spills, hospital and medical waste, wetlands and numerous others.”

Ms. Villani commented that “I am very honored to be recognized by my alma mater for my achievements. I look forward to sharing my views and experiences in environmental law with St. John’s law students and others in the field, as I continue to do on a more formal basis as chair of the NYS Bar Association Environmental Law Section.”

About Farrell Fritz

Farrell Fritz is a full service law firm and has earned a strong reputation in the New York business community by providing expertise in numerous areas of practice. Highly respected for its experience in many areas of law, Farrell Fritz handles legal matters in the areas of corporate and banking, environmental, franchise and distribution, labor and employment, land use and municipal litigation, real estate, tax, and trusts and estates matters for a variety of corporations, institutions and individuals. The firm’s managing partner is Charles M. Strain. For further information, please visit our website, www.farrellfritz.com.