

**PRESS RELEASE**

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***For immediate release***

*May 10, 2004 ... Uniondale, New York*

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**Hazing, Gang Affiliations, Harassment  
and the Social/Legal Implications for Our Children and Institutions:  
Notable Experts to Speak at the Suffolk Academy of Law**

In response to an increase in gang violence and hazing in Long Island communities and schools, on May 25, 2004, political leaders, community leaders, legal experts, law enforcement officials, and school district administrators will gather to discuss hazing, gang affiliations, harassment and the legal implications for our children and institutions. The program, entitled "Bullying, Bad-Mouthing and the Culture of Youth Violence from the Neighborhood to the Classroom: Where Do We Go From Here?" will be held at the Suffolk Academy of Law from 5:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Coordinated by Ilene S. Cooper and A. Kathleen Tomlinson, both Partners at Farrell Fritz, P.C., and sponsored by the Suffolk Academy of Law, the program will examine methods for creating a healthy school culture and transforming behavior to promote character, conduct, roles and rules. In addition, the program will explore the strategies and skills that are effective in addressing bullying, bias and peer pressure and in promoting non-violent norms. The panel will also discuss the obligations of students, parents, school district administrators and judges when violent schoolyard conduct ends up in the judicial system.

Speakers in the program include **Congressman Steve Israel**; **Roberta Richin**, Author/Educator and Co-founder, "Connecting Character to Conduct: a Systemic Approach to Achieving School, Community and Family Goals for Learning Safety and Graduation"; **Alane Fagin**, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS); **Dr. Rosemary Jones**, Superintendent, Sayville School District; Detective **Sergeant Robert Reecks**, Commanding Officer, Bias Crimes Unit, Suffolk County Police Department; **A Consultant to the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Task Force Against Hate**; **Hector LaSalle**, Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Bureau Chief, Special Investigations Bureau; **Jill Porter**, Probation Officer, Suffolk County Department of Probation; **Hon. David R. Freundlich**, Supervising Judge, Suffolk County Family Court; and **A. Kathleen Tomlinson**, Partner, Farrell Fritz, P.C.

Registration fee, which includes dinner and the presentation, is \$65. To register, or for additional information, contact Dorothy Ceparano, Suffolk Academy of Law, (631) 234-5588.

### **About the Suffolk Academy of Law**

The Suffolk Academy of Law is the educational branch of the Suffolk County Bar Association. The Academy is responsible for bringing programs of cultural and social interest to the members of the Bar and the Long Island community at large.

### **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](http://www.farrellfritz.com).