



THE LAW FIRM OF WILLIAM G. SAYEGH, P.C.

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Robert A. Weis
Michael B. Karlsson II
Brian M. Rudner
Amy L. Covais
Zena M. Dubas
Mary E. Tokarz
Naim Bajraktari, *Of Counsel*
Joseph S. Sayegh *Of Counsel*

S. Barrett Hickman, *In Memoriam*
retired Justice of the Supreme
Court of the State of New York

Mona J. Sayegh,
Executive Administrator

FIRM RESUME

The Law Firm of William G. Sayegh, P.C. has its main office located in downtown Carmel, New York, one block north of the Courthouse in Putnam County, as well as a branch office in Dutchess County. We are a general practice firm with concentrations in Personal Injury, Complex Commercial Litigation, Medical Malpractice, Residential and Commercial Real Estate Transactions, Matrimonial Law, Family Law, Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation, Estate Planning, Elder Law, Estate Administration and Appeals. The Sayegh Firm provides comprehensive legal services for small and large businesses as well as individuals. We have appeared in all New York courts including J.A.G., the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals, Federal District Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as other jurisdictions in the United States.

As professionals in personal injury litigation, our attorneys are skilled in negligence, premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, products liability and are authorities in all law relevant to the New York State and Federal statutes controlling these issues. Our family law department is skillful at combining practiced complex litigation with sensitivity. Our attorneys are proficient in divorce matters, equitable distribution, custody, maintenance, support and relocation. If you need a Will, our firm has attorneys experienced in the preparation of Wills, Trusts and Estates as well as Estate Litigation. If you are purchasing, selling or refinancing real estate, the staff in our real estate department has extensive experience in all real estate and business transactions including residential closings and complex commercial real estate litigation. We offer expert legal consultation for new businesses including their purchase or sale.

The Law Firm of William G. Sayegh, P.C. is large enough to provide you with excellent legal counsel, yet small enough to remain service oriented and dedicated to meeting the legal needs of our clients in a courteous and efficient manner. We are tireless problem solvers and are energetically seeking solutions to make your legal goals attainable and finding the solution that best fits your needs. If you have any questions about our firm, please feel free to contact our office, or call to make an appointment with an attorney who can address your needs. We are committed to client service and look forward to working with you.

Attorney Directory

William G. Sayegh, the founder of the firm, is a former Bronx County Prosecutor and an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully prosecuted and defended criminal cases involving Murder, Arson, Rape, Sale of Controlled Substances, RICO and is a specialist in direct and cross-examination of FBI agents, Forensics experts, Pathologists, Doctors, Lawyers, Police, Military Officers and Servicemen, Murderers and other Felons, Victims, and experts in Blood Spattering, fingerprinting and DNA. In cases involving Juveniles, strict confidences are upheld to protect the child's future stability, and all steps are taken to promote the child's successful rehabilitation regardless of the underlying problems. Mr. Sayegh has practiced in all Local Courts, County Courts, Supreme Courts, J.A.G., Appellate Courts and Federal Courts. Serving as the Sheriff's Attorney for the Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Mr. Sayegh has strong ties in the surrounding community, and serves as the President of the Putnam County Bar Association as well as on the Boards of local and national organizations.

Robert A. Weis has concentrated in the practice of negligence and insurance law, both at the trial and appellate levels, in State and Federal Courts for over twenty years. In addition to commercial claims, he has extensive experience in the litigation of personal injury claims, professional malpractice claims, medical malpractice claims and related common law and statutory claims. He has served many of the largest casualty insurance companies, in addition to many of the larger self-insurers, as trial and appellate counsel. This representation has included all phases of personal injury litigation, including products liability, construction accident cases, homeowner and automobile liability, traumatic brain injury, municipal liability, construction litigation and all phases of professional liability, including medical malpractice defense on behalf of hospitals and physicians and the defense of legal malpractice matters as well as errors and omissions matters. Mr. Weis has served as a mediator in a Court sponsored program and has also represented individuals and businesses in connection with commercial disputes and commercial litigation. Mr. Weis currently serves as the managing attorney of the firm. He is a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association, former President of the Putnam County Bar Association and in addition to his admission to practice in the New York State Courts is admitted to practice in the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

Joseph S. Sayegh practices primarily in the areas of transactional Real Estate Law, including residential and commercial real estate closings; residential and commercial mortgage loan closings for various mortgage bankers, mortgage brokers and private lenders; business formation, business purchase and sale transactions, including creditor negotiation and settlement in connection with real estate transactions. A graduate of Brooklyn Law School, Cum Laude, he has been practicing law in New York State since 1989. Representing sellers and purchasers of residential and commercial real estate, his practice involves a full range of diverse transactions (simple to complex) with various types of financing, as well as title examination, financing issues, contract negotiation, document preparation, client consultation and the attendance/supervision at the closing table. He currently teaches at the New York Real Estate Learning Center, Inc., regularly lectures on real estate topics for real estate professionals and is admitted to practice before New York State Courts and the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. Mr. Sayegh is "of counsel" to the firm.

Kenneth S. Rones is a former Judge, former Sr. Assistant District Attorney and has been practicing law for over 31 years. He is an accomplished trial lawyer with emphasis on matrimonial, family law, criminal cases and residential real estate. He has prosecuted and defended complicated divorce cases as well as all criminal matters from homicides to driving while intoxicated and traffic offenses and has represented hundreds of sellers and buyers in the sale/purchase of their homes. Mr. Rones is admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, United States Court of Appeals, 2d Cir., the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and all trial Courts of the State of New York. After many years working as an Associate Attorney with the firm, Mr. Rones became “of counsel” in 2017.

Michael B. Karlsson II is admitted to practice in the State of New York and the State of Connecticut, as well as the United States District Court in the Southern District of New York. His practice is concentrated in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, business law, litigation, bankruptcy, immigration, and real estate. Michael develops individual and family estate plans for a wide range of clients including those with modest to affluent estates in New York and Connecticut. Michael enjoys devoting the care and attention each client deserves so that whether the plan involves a large estate, a modest estate, or somewhere in between, the firm's clients are in the best position to feel confident and comforted by the thought that their loved ones will be provided for through a comprehensive estate plan. Michael also regularly represents fiduciaries in the administration of trusts and estates in New York and Connecticut and has represented fiduciaries and beneficiaries in contested proceedings in the Surrogate's Court involving contested probate, accounting litigation, and turnover proceedings. Michael also counsels clients on business entity formation, operation, and litigation involving partnerships, corporations, and limited liability companies. Michael represents individual clients in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13 federal bankruptcy proceedings involving consumer debt, including loss mitigation programs. Michael's real estate practice includes counselling commercial and residential landlords and tenants in lease negotiations, representation in the local justice courts, and residential and commercial real estate transactions. Michael's practice includes the representation of clients in immigration matters, including preparation of naturalization applications and representation in removal proceedings. Michael is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law and is a member of the Trusts and Estates Section and Corporate Counsel Section of the New York State Bar Association, the Probate Section of the Connecticut Bar Association, and is a multi-year attendee of the renowned University of Miami Law School's Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning. Michael is a Putnam County resident who is actively engaged in his community including service as a member of the Board of Managers of a Condominium Association, a member of the Board of Directors of Brewster Little League and a coach in the Patterson Recreation youth flag football program.

Brian M. Rudner is admitted to practice law in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, as well as the United States District Court for the Southern and Western Districts of New York. He received his Juris Doctor degree from St. Johns University School of Law and was subsequently appointed as an Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County. Mr. Rudner was a partner in his own law firm prior to practicing law at this office. His practice areas include Family Law, Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation, Employment Law, and Liquor Licensing. In addition to his position at the firm, Mr. Rudner is also an elected Town Justice in the Town of East Fishkill in Dutchess County.

Amy L. Covais earned her Juris Doctor degree at Pace Law School and was admitted to practice law in New York State in 2012. She is a member of the Putnam County Bar Association and New York State Bar Association. Ms. Covais' practice areas include civil litigation, personal injury, medical malpractice, immigration law, criminal defense and real estate transactions. At Pace Law School, Ms. Covais worked in the John Jay Legal Services Investor Rights Clinic which involved preparation for securities arbitrations and mediations before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Ms. Covais is a Putnam County resident who owned and operated a family business for over 20 years before devoting her professional life to the practice of law. Amy is also devoted to community service. She currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Putnam County and is a member and past President of the Rotary Club of Carmel, NY. Amy has also served as President of the Kentwood Lakes Homeowners Association, member of the Board of Directors of the Putnam Family and Community Service, Girl Scout Leader, member of the Auxiliary Club of Putnam Hospital Center, and as Associate District Governor of Rotary District 7210.

Zena M. Dubas earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the Pace University School of Law. She is admitted to practice in the State of New York and the State of Connecticut. Zena's practice areas include civil litigation, real estate transactions including institutional lender representation and the representation of individual clients in the purchase and sale of residential real estate, matrimonial litigation, Family Court proceedings and criminal defense. As an associate of the firm, Zena is prepared to render services throughout the firm's practice areas. Zena is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Connecticut State Bar Association and the Women's Westchester Bar Association.

Mary E. Tokarz received her Juris Doctorate degree from the Pace University School of Law and has been admitted to practice law in the State of New York since 1991. Mary regularly represents a number of well respected institutional lenders and individuals in residential real estate transactions having devoted her career to real estate transactions including institutional lender representation and the representation of individual clients in the purchase and sale of residential real estate in conventional and complex scenarios. Mary is a member of the New York State Bar Association. Mary and her husband raised their family in the Town of Poughkeepsie where she was active as a school volunteer, Cub Scout Leader, Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor and Committee Member, and Board Member of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center Auxiliary.

Naim Bajraktari, has developed an "of counsel" relationship with the firm. While he is available to service the legal needs of the firm's clients throughout the 5 boroughs of the City of New York, where he maintains a fully staffed office, he is also available to serve the firm's Hudson Valley clients. He is a graduate of New York Law School and has been admitted to practice law in the Courts of the State of New York since 2008. In addition to his legal credentials, Naim possesses a Masters Degree in Finance from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College. He has a strong interest in tax law issues and prior to his admission to the bar gained extensive experience in the New York real estate industry. His practice areas include all aspects of Real Estate Law, Contract Law and Civil and Criminal litigation, having clerked for one of New York's best known and respected trial attorneys. His professional associations include membership in the New York State Bar Association, American Bar Association, and the New York County Lawyers Association.

S. Barrett Hickman (*In Memorium*) was a former Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and at the time of his death was of counsel to this firm. He possessed a substantial and distinguished record of service to the community. A graduate of Hamilton College, he served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and thereafter graduated from Cornell University Law School. He had been admitted to practice law in all Courts of the State of New York since 1959. From 1965-1976 he served as a Town Justice in the Town of Carmel, and thereafter was elected Putnam County District Attorney. In 1979 he was elected to a Putnam County Court judgeship which included Surrogate's Court and Family Court duties, followed in 1985 by his election to the New York State Supreme Court where he served until 2003. Judge Hickman gained national attention for presiding over the 1999 defamation suit brought by Stephen Pagones in Poughkeepsie, New York, against the attorneys for Tawana Brawley. He was a member of the Putnam County, Westchester County, New York State and American Bar Associations, New York State County Judge's Association, Surrogate's Association and Family Court Judges, American Judiciary and New York State Judiciary Sections. He was also a former Secretary of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Unified Bar and former Member of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Professional Ethics. He had served as a Director of Putnam Community Hospital, a member of the Executive Board of Westchester-Putnam Council, Inc., B.S.A, a President of the American Lung Association, Hudson Valley, Inc.; and member of the Mahopac Rotary Club, Red Cross and Girl Scout Fund Drives and Mahopac Chamber of Commerce.