



BLUSTEIN, SHAPIRO, RICH & BARONE, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MID-HUDSONLAW.COM

10 Matthews Street | Goshen, New York 10924 | 845-291-0011 | Toll Free (866) 692-0011

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is a pre-eminent law firm in the Hudson Valley. Backed by an experienced support staff and the latest in legal tools and technology, our attorneys provide “one-stop” diversified legal services of uncompromising quality and sophistication, featuring the personal service our clients expect. Each of our partners has practiced law for more than 15 years, and we use our extensive experience to deliver the advice and results our clients deserve.



Burt J. Blustein

bblustein@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1940, Burt Blustein was educated at SUNY Binghamton and Brooklyn Law School. Recognized as one of the leading commercial litigators in the Hudson Valley, Mr. Blustein's practice is focused in the areas of litigation and business/corporate representation. As the senior member of the firm, Mr. Blustein serves as a counselor and mentor to the younger attorneys. In addition to his vast trial level experience, Mr. Blustein, has been admitted to practice before U.S. district courts for both the Southern and Northern districts, and has argued appeals at all levels, including the New York Court of Appeals. He is a member and past president of the Middletown Bar Association, as well as a member of the American, New York State and Orange County bar associations. Mr. Blustein served for fifteen years on the Orange County Bar Association Grievance Committee, five years as its chairman.



Michael S. Blustein

mblustein@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Raised in Middletown, N.Y., Michael Blustein attended Cornell University (BS in Labor Relations) and earned his law degree from the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. He is admitted to the New York and New Jersey bar associations, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Mr. Blustein started his career in the Orange County District Attorney's Office in 1992, where he advanced and was assigned to the Felony Narcotics and White Collar Crime Investigations units. Mr. Blustein entered private practice in 1997, and serves as the firm's managing partner. In addition to heading the firm's real estate department, he focuses his practice in commercial transactions, representation of national and local lenders, zoning and land use matters for residential and commercial development, collections and foreclosures. He is a past president of the Middletown Bar Association and formerly served as the Town of Greenville Planning Board attorney.

AREAS OF PRACTICE



❖ Real Estate Services

The firm practices extensively in all areas of commercial and residential real estate law, including real estate acquisitions and sales, commercial leasing, real estate finance, and land use and zoning. The firm represents many area builders and developers, both large and small. Our attorneys regularly appear before planning boards and zoning boards of appeals on behalf of both residential and commercial land developers throughout the Hudson Valley region, and particularly in Orange and Sullivan counties. The firm has an impressive track record securing victories in both Article 78 proceedings in Supreme Court and at the Appellate level to overturn municipal subdivision and/or special use permit/site plan denials. As a result of our litigation skill and expertise, our clients have been able to complete their development projects.

❖ Banking & Settlement

Our firm's closing department handles all facets of the closing process for numerous national and local lenders in commercial and residential purchase and refinance closings, as well as construction financing. We assist with 1031 forward and reverse tax-deferred exchanges so that our clients can maximize their investments.

❖ Landlord/Tenant

Our attorneys are skilled in representing both landlords and tenants in commercial lease disputes. We assist apartment complex landlords in quickly and efficiently reclaiming premises and in obtaining monetary damages from tenants who are in default under their lease obligations. We also vigorously represent the interests of commercial tenants whose landlords have failed to comply with their obligations under the lease terms.

❖ Business Succession Planning

We help business clients assure that there is an orderly and affordable transfer of the business to the next generation or a key employee. Our expertise will help to minimize tax liabilities passed down to heirs, preserve the strength of a company, provide security for heirs, and leave a legacy for the company founder. Our attorneys work to ensure liquidity and privacy for family members after a principal owner's death as well as to avoid the delay associated with the probate process.

❖ Commercial Litigation & Appeals

We represent and counsel clients in all types of complex commercial matters such as contract disputes, corporate partnership disputes, collections, and real estate and land use disputes in state and federal courts. Our litigation department has a longstanding and well-deserved reputation in the Hudson Valley as one of the premier commercial litigation firms. We are proud of the numerous commercial litigation referrals from other attorneys who know that with our experience, hard work and knowledge of a multitude of practice areas we will assist their clients when they need it most.

❖ Estate & Wealth Strategies Planning

The firm offers comprehensive estate planning services for individuals, business owners, and their families. Our practice features a counseling-oriented model that focuses on helping clients develop a comprehensive estate plan that satisfies goals and expectations such as creditor protection, bloodline protection, planning for a loved one with special needs, as well as estate tax and income tax reduction. We also offer a formal maintenance program to ensure that the client's estate plan remains current with changes in the client's life events, as well as changes in the law.



❖ **Probate & Trust Administration**

Our firm maintains an active practice in probate and trust administration. Probate is the legal process by which a person's individually owned assets are distributed upon her or his death. Trust administration involves the distribution of non-probate assets pursuant to the terms of the trust instrument. State laws and procedures vary greatly, but Blustein, Shapiro, Rich & Barone, LLP can ensure that the deceased's assets are distributed correctly and as quickly as possible for those struggling through an often emotional period. Estate administration frequently spawns controversy among heirs resulting in litigation. Our litigation department will aggressively litigate estate matters to ensure that our clients' interests are fully protected should an estate dispute arise.

❖ **Municipal Law**

Our attorneys have extensive experience representing municipalities. Many firm members have been privileged to serve as town/village attorneys, as well as attorneys to local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. Our attorneys provide public and private sector clients with sophisticated range solutions to issues in the municipal field, and have worked within the frameworks of SEQRA to negotiate complex developers' agreements and avoid costly litigation.

❖ **General Business Advisors**

We provide a wide variety of services to our business clients, including assistance in selecting the type of organizational entity under which to operate, preparation of agreements, sale and purchase of businesses, obtaining financing and funding for business operations, collections, employee relations, and dissolution. Our clients, who range from small family-owned businesses to some of the larger companies based in the Hudson Valley, rely on our expertise, keen insight and guidance to assist them in becoming and remaining profitable and to enable them to achieve their objectives.

❖ **Construction Law**

Our firm represents owners, contractors, construction managers, developers, engineers, design professionals and building material suppliers in all aspects of the construction process, including bidding and document preparation, contract negotiation and formation, contract performance, financing and warranty issues, mechanics and materialmen liens, and claims and dispute resolution. Our attorneys assist clients in attempting to avoid litigation through pre-contract review, risk shifting, effective and efficient claim analysis and creative dispute resolution. Our litigation department is experienced in all types of construction-related litigation and has recovered millions of dollars for clients in all types of collection matters.

❖ **Elder Law**

Our attorneys are highly skilled in the legal issues facing seniors, not just in health care, but in special needs planning and qualifying for Medicaid and Veteran's benefits. We also pride ourselves on our ability to fight for seniors who have been taken advantage of by the unscrupulous.

❖ **Special Needs Planning**

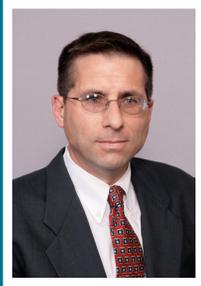
Millions of Americans have "special needs" that may make them eligible for governmental services and benefits. Our attorneys utilize creative planning techniques, often featuring the use of "special needs" trusts, to ensure that special needs individuals receive all the public assistance benefits to which they are entitled.

❖ **Guardianships**

Incapacitated persons often need assistance managing their property and personal affairs. It is sometimes necessary for a family member or other interested person to file a petition in New York State Supreme Court for an "Article 81" guardianship proceeding, seeking appointment as guardian of the incapacitated person. Our attorneys are experienced in handling all aspects of guardianship proceedings, both contested and uncontested.

PARTNERS

(continued)



Gardiner S. Barone

gbarone@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Gardiner S. "Tad" Barone has two decades of litigation and trial experience. Mr. Barone effectively handles a wide assortment of legal matters for his clients, and he prides himself in doing so efficiently and economically. He has tried many jury and bench trials to victory, and has successfully argued appeals in both federal and state courts. For the past 10 years he has devoted his time to the trial of complex commercial, corporate and municipal litigation cases before the trial courts of the State of New York, and in advising clients with respect to zoning and land use issues. Mr. Barone was previously the attorney for the Town of Wallkill Planning Board, and he is presently the attorney for the Town of Minisink Planning Board. Born in Jamestown, N.Y., Mr. Barone is a graduate of Thiel College and Albany Law School. He is admitted to the New York Bar and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims Bar, and is a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.



Richard J. Shapiro

rshapiro@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Born in Middletown, N.Y., Richard Shapiro heads the firm's estate planning, probate and elder law department. Mr. Shapiro counsels clients in creating tax efficient "legacy" plans designed to ensure that the client's values are passed to future generations. He also utilizes creative planning techniques that help clients protect their assets from the high costs of long-term care. A graduate of Cornell University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, he is a member of the New York and Pennsylvania bar associations, the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the Hudson Valley Estate Planning Council. Mr. Shapiro frequently writes on estate planning topics for local and national publications, and teaches continuing education courses to other professionals. In addition to serving as attorney for the Town of Minisink, he is actively involved in community affairs, including serving two terms as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Orange Regional Medical Center from 2006 through 2008.



Jay R. Myrow

jmyrow@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Born and raised in Warwick, N.Y., Jay Myrow received his BA degree from Wilmington College, Ohio and his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1980. After four years of private practice in Tucson, AZ, Mr. Myrow has practiced law in Orange County since 1984. Mr. Myrow joined the firm in 2006 and was made a partner in 2008. His practice is concentrated in the areas of Land Use, Zoning & Planning, Municipal law, Real Estate law, Business and Corporate law, and Civil and Municipal litigation. Mr. Myrow has extensive experience representing clients on land use matters before municipal boards and courts throughout Orange County. Mr. Myrow is admitted to the U.S. District Courts of the Southern and Northern districts of New York.



Rita G. Rich

rrich@mid-hudsonlaw.com

Rita Rich was born and raised in Florida, N.Y. After a career in taxation, Mrs. Rich received her law degree from Pace University School of Law. She joined the firm in 1999 and became a partner in 2003. Her areas of practice include municipal law, commercial finance, estate planning and probate, and real estate. Ms. Rich currently assists the firm in representing the Town of Minisink, and has represented the zoning boards of appeals for the towns of Mount Hope and Greenville. Ms. Rich is admitted to the New York and New Jersey bars, and is admitted to the U.S. district courts for the Eastern, Northern and Southern districts of New York, as well as the U.S. Tax Court Bar. Ms. Rich is a member of the Middletown, Orange County and New York State bar associations, the Middletown Rotary Club and the Orange Regional Medical Center Foundation.



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