

2009 NYSA Lobby Day Background Briefing



April 27, 2009

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To: NYSA Membership

From: Jason M. Hill, MBA, PMP
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Re: 2009 Lobby Day - May 4-5

Dear Members,

In keeping with our goal of providing you more value for your membership, enclosed please find a background briefing of all the legislative members we are scheduled to meet with next Tuesday May 5th in Albany for our Annual Lobby Day.

This year's Lobby Day is critically important as the new administration may try to pass legislation that could adversely affect the staffing community.

I have created this background summary to help brief you on each of the elected officials with whom we will be meeting, their political ideologies, political affiliations, and which agendas they champion.

By reading this information prior to Lobby Day, I think you will find yourselves better equipped to have meaningful conversations with these elected officials on behalf of the New York Staffing Association, our industry, and our cause.

Please feel free to email or call me if you have any additional questions. Thanks and I look forward to seeing you next week in Albany at Lobby Day.

Best regards,



Jason M. Hill, MBA, PMP
President - Metro Chapter
New York Staffing Association

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New York State Senate Background

The New York State Senate is one of two houses in the New York State Legislature and has members each elected to two-year terms. There are no limits on the number of terms one may serve. The New York Constitution provides for a varying number of members in the Senate; the current membership is 62, elected from single-member constituencies equal in population.

The Senate is headed by its so-called President, a post held ex officio by the State Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor also casts the deciding vote in the event of a tie. The Senate President has only a casting vote. More often, the Senate is presided over by the Temporary President, who is also the Majority Leader. After the 2008 elections, the Senate has a Democratic majority for the first time since 1965. The current Majority Leader is Democrat Malcolm Smith, who is also acting Lieutenant Governor since David Paterson was elevated to Governor of New York State upon the resignation of the now former governor Eliot Spitzer. Despite being both Majority Leader and acting Lt. Governor, he gets only one vote in the state senate.

2008 elections and power struggle

Democrats won 32 of 62 seats in New York's upper chamber in the 2008 General Election on November 4, capturing the majority for the first time in more than four decades.[2][3] Although New York has turned almost solidly Democratic at most levels, Republicans were able to hold onto the State Senate for all but one year from 1939 to 2008 because its apportionment traditionally favors the Upstate, where Republicans dominated until very recently. While the Democrats hold all but two seats in New York City, they hold only five seats in the Upstate and two seats on Long Island.

However, a power struggle emerged before the new term began. Four Democratic senators—Rubén Díaz (Bronx), Kruger (Brooklyn), and Senators-elect Pedro Espada (Bronx) and Hiram Monserrate (Queens)—immediately refused to caucus with their party.[4] The self-named "Gang of Four" refused to back Malcolm Smith as the chamber's majority leader and sought concessions.[5] Monserrate soon reached an agreement with Smith that reportedly included the chairmanship of the Consumer Affairs Committee.[6] The remaining "Gang of Three" reached an initial compromise in early December that collapsed within a week,[7] but was ultimately resolved[8] with Smith becoming majority leader.

Current Leadership

Position	Name	Party	Residence	District
President/Lieutenant Governor (acting)	Malcolm Smith	Democratic	St. Albans	14
President Pro Tem/Majority Leader	Malcolm Smith	Democratic	St. Albans	14
Vice President Pro Tempore	David Valesky	Democratic	Oneida	49
Vice President Pro Tempore for Urban Policy	Pedro Espada	Democratic	Bronx	33
Deputy Majority Leader	Jeffrey Klein	Democratic	Bronx	34
Minority Leader	Dean Skelos	Republican	Rockville Centre	9
Deputy Minority Leader	Thomas Libous	Republican	Binghamton	52

Current Party Breakdown

	Democratic	Republican	Total	Vacant
End of previous legislature	29	31	60	2
Begin	32	30	62	0
Latest voting share	51.6%	48.4%		

New York State Assembly Background

The New York State Assembly is the lower house of the New York Legislature, the state legislature of the U.S. state of New York. The Assembly is composed of 150 members representing an equal amount of districts, with each district having an average population of 128,652. Assembly members serve two-year terms without term limits.

The Assembly convenes at the State Capitol in Albany.

Leadership of the Assembly

The [Speaker of the Assembly](#) presides over the Assembly. The Speaker is elected by the majority party caucus followed by confirmation of the full Assembly through the passage of an Assembly Resolution. In addition to presiding over the body, the Speaker is also the chief leadership position, and controls the flow of legislation and committee assignments. The minority leader is elected by party caucus. The majority leader of the Assembly is selected by, and serves at the pleasure of, the Speaker.

The current Speaker is [Democrat Sheldon Silver](#) of the 64th Assembly District ([New York City-Lower Manhattan](#)). The [Majority Leader](#) is [Ronald Canestrari](#) of the 106th Assembly District (parts of [Albany](#), [Rensselaer](#) and [Saratoga](#) counties). The [Minority Leader](#) is [Republican Brian Kolb](#) of the 129th Assembly District (parts of [Cayuga](#), [Cortland](#), [Onondaga](#) and [Ontario](#) counties and all of [Seneca](#) County).

Position	Name	Party	Residence	District
Speaker	Sheldon Silver	Democratic	New York	64
Majority Leader	Ronald Canestrari	Democratic	Cohoes	106
Minority Leader	Brian Kolb	Republican	Canandaigua	129

Current Party Breakdown

Affiliation	Party (Shading indicates majority caucus)				Total	Vacant
	Democratic	Working Families	Independence	Republican		
End of previous legislature	103	1	1	41	146	4
Begin	107	1	1	41	150	0
Latest voting share	72.7%			27.3%		

Assemblywoman Susan John



Political Affiliation: Democrat

District: 131st District

Area: Chili, Churchville, Mumford, Riga, Rochester, Rush, Scottsville & Wheatland.

Standing Committee Assignments 2008: Education; Energy; Judiciary; Labor, Chair; Libraries and Education Technology.

Susan currently chairs the Labor Committee and serves on the Judiciary, Education, Energy, and Libraries and Education Technology.

Background:

Susan holds a law degree from Syracuse University Law School. Prior to her tenure in the Assembly, Susan worked as an Associate for the Rochester-based law firm of Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine, and Huber where she practiced business and commercial law.

Political Accomplishments

She is a member of the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Advisory Council and the Visiting Committee for the State Archives.

Susan chaired the Majority Steering Committee (2001-2002), the Governmental Operations Committee (1999-2000) and the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee (1997-1999).

In 1998 she served on the first Legislative Joint Budget Conference Committee on Mental Health. In 1999 and 2000 she served on the Joint Budget Conference Committee on Education.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Labor, Susan authored The Empire State Wage Act of 2004, (Chapter 747 of 2004). This bill was passed in a bipartisan fashion and raises the state's minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.15 an hour. The minimum wage bill is part of Assembly member John's continuing efforts to help make New York more affordable for working families and reinforces her dedication to hardworking men and women.

Susan worked with her colleagues to pass the Home Inspectors Licensing Act, (Chapter 461 of 2004). This law protects a family's largest purchase, their home, by requiring that home inspectors are qualified to make an inspection when homebuyers turn to them to ensure the safety of the house.

Susan has successfully advocated for funding for domestic violence shelters, breast cancer outreach and education, rape crisis centers, family support services, early direction childhood programs and teen pregnancy prevention. She currently sponsors legislation that would provide domestic violence victims with up to 90 days of unpaid leave of absence from work to address ongoing domestic violence. Also, she sponsored legislation that would require that all hospitals make emergency contraception available for rape survivors to prevent pregnancy and provide counseling to address the survivor's long-term mental and physical recovery. With the help of women's health care advocates, the emergency contraception bill is now law (Chapter 625 of the Laws of 2003).

As a strong supporter of quality and affordable health care, Susan has worked with her colleagues to improve access to health care for residents in Monroe County and across the state. When Genesee Hospital closed, Susan took a leading role in working with the state Department of Health to ensure that quality care would still be available to former Genesee Hospital patients.

Susan is a staunch advocate of the long awaited Women's Health and Wellness Law which will improve access to vital health services for New York State women. This legislation, which was signed into law in 2002, includes many initiatives that Susan advocated for during the past several years that will bring affordable health coverage and expanded access to preventive screenings for countless women. Further, her emphasis on programs for pregnant and parenting women resulted in more support for community-based outreach services. She was, and remains, an advocate for treatment on demand.

To assure hospitals and nursing homes in Monroe County can recruit and retain qualified and dedicated health care professionals to tend to our loved ones, Susan fought in 2003 for upstate to get its fair share of state funding for staff investment. She secured \$3 million to renovate the Rochester General Hospital Emergency Room and in 2005 she obtained \$1.5 million for Highland Hospital's emergency room renovations – helping to avoid “code red” situations that forced ambulances to take patients elsewhere due to overcrowding. In 2003, she also secured \$75,000 for the Chili Fire Department's Apparatus Exhaust Project to ensure a healthy work environment for firefighters. This year, Susan secured \$50,000 for the Clifton Fire Department to purchase life saving rescue equipment to better protect the citizens of Chili.

In an effort to fight crime and take sex offenders off the street, Susan helped create the statewide Amber Alert, linking police with broadcasters to quickly spread the word about missing or abducted children. In 2006, she supported legislation that requires convicted sex offenders of all levels to register with the state and that the most dangerous sex offenders will remain registered for life (signed chap.1 2006). She sponsored legislation that will expand NY's DNA database to include all persons convicted of felonies and serious misdemeanors (signed chap.2 2006). Convictions to be added to the database include petit larceny and those that involve violence, threats of violence, menacing of stalking behavior, or offenses against children. She also sponsored legislation to eliminate both the criminal and civil statute of limitations on Class B felony sex crimes. The bill would provide rape victims with an important opportunity to seek justice in rape cases. (A.11283 passed in the Assembly 2006).

Susan has been a longstanding advocate of protecting our most vulnerable citizens – the elderly and disabled. In 2006, she fought to ensure seniors and the disabled receive needed prescription drug coverage, in spite of the president's Medicare Part D fiasco, which prompted the state to cover millions in emergency funding for medicine Medicare Part D was supposed to cover. This year, Susan sponsored legislation establishing the Prescription Drug Assistance Program to secure the lowest possible drug prices for New Yorkers. The comprehensive legislation creates a buying pool managed by the state to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. She also voted to restore over \$26 million in funding the governor vetoed for Rochester hospitals and nursing homes during the next year.

At this time when our returning service men and women need the support of our community, Susan was able to secure \$50,000 for the Veteran's Outreach Center in 2004. Rochester's Veterans Outreach Center is the oldest community based veteran's center in the nation. The Veteran's Outreach Center improves servicemen and women's lives by offering free veteran specific services through a seamless continuum of care designed to nurture individual potential and provide support in building a better future.

Her accomplishments while chair of the Legislative Commission on Solid Waste Management (1995-1997) included increased penalties for those who dump waste illegally. The Assembly passed her legislation to ban backyard burning, improve local control over land use decisions and establish a comprehensive waste tire management program. Susan demonstrated her ability to reach across the aisle to get things done, as she was the only Democrat who worked with Republicans to address this issue. She stood with the solid waste districts threatened with financial chaos and went to Congress to get them help.

Susan authored New York State's Anti-Stalking Law, the Clinic Access/Anti-Stalking Law, and amendments to the Clinic Access/Anti-Stalking Law, which amends the definition of stalking in the first degree. She fought for over seven years to enact “Project SAVE,” which is dedicated to making schools, their students and staff free from violence. She sponsored the Sexual Assault Reform Act, a law that increased penalties for sex offenders, provided services for victims, and instituted necessary preventative initiatives. She fought to pass a law that created an additional city court judgeship in Rochester. Susan also sponsored legislation to govern state procurement of goods and services, protect a women's civil right to breast feed her child in public, require health insurance companies to cover pap smears, reform the BOCES system, require disclosure of the potential hazards of breast implants, increase the criminal penalty for violating a court order of protection, and increase penalties for assault. All of these bills are now state law.

Susan is a longstanding advocate for quality and affordable day care. She has fought for adequate funding and safety, and has held the state Office of Children and Family Services responsible for following proper regulatory procedures. One instance of this was when, in 1997, the governor proposed changing the day care regulations without public input. Susan co-hosted public hearings across the state to obtain input from those who would be most affected by any changes. More recently, when Monroe County exhausted its childcare funds, Susan fought for

state funding to allow Monroe County to restore planned cuts to childcare subsidies for families at or below the 200% poverty level. During the 2002-2003 State Fiscal Year, Susan fought for a final budget that made it easier for counties to get all the child care funding to which they are entitled. In 2004, Susan was able to secure \$2.5 million for a child-care facilitated enrollment program. The program will allow hard working men and women in Monroe County to provide quality child-care for their families.

Working with Rochester Mayor Robert Duffy, community business and labor leaders, as well as New York State Legislators, Susan fought to increase aid in 2006 to Rochester by \$17.9 million. This was a historic aid increase, jumping 33 percent over last year's funding in the legislative budget. She also helped secure \$61 million more for Rochester schools in the legislative budget. Funding includes: \$26.5 million for capital improvements for aging school buildings, \$25 million for school operations, \$6.29 million to meet the district's school nurse crisis, \$4 million for Magnet Schools and \$732,000 to expand the city's pre-kindergarten programs.

Susan has fought to create jobs in the Rochester area. She helped create and expand Rochester's tax-free Empire Zones, creates up to 4,200 new jobs while retaining another 3,200. She also helped establish and extend the Power for Jobs program to reduce energy costs for job-creating businesses, protecting 900 local jobs. And, as Chair of the Labor Committee, Susan will continue to work for the economic health of Monroe County.

As a New York State legislator, Susan has worked tirelessly with her Rochester colleagues to improve the economic and regulatory climate for businesses, both large and small. Whether responding to a call for help from a business owner unable to obtain an ABC license, lottery machine, food stamp certification or other necessary state approvals, or advocating legislation, Susan has been dedicated to addressing business concerns about New York State laws and regulations.

Susan has gone to bat for local companies such as Eastman Kodak Company, Hickey-Freeman, Bausch & Lomb, Wegmans' Food, and the Genesee Brewing Company (now High Falls Brewing). Susan fought to secure funding vital to the continuation of the High Technology of Rochester Incubator Project, a center to help high-tech firms with technical and other support. In 2000 Susan helped secure \$4 million in funding for the University of Rochester's Biomedical Research Center. In 2002, Susan helped secure \$4 million for the RIT Center for Biotechnology Education and Training, a proposed facility that would provide academic and career training in biotechnology. She is currently pushing to secure funding for the University of Rochester Biomedical Research Center.

Susan serves as an honorary Board member of the Girl Scouts of the Genesee Valley, the Advisory Board of the Pirate Toy Fund, is a member of the Greater Rochester Association of Women Attorneys and an honorary member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honorary member of the Federation of Social Workers, honorary member of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, as well as a member of the Center for Women Policy Studies Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators. She is the first Assembly member to receive the New York State State Troopers PBA William Van Duzer Legislative Courage Award. Susan is a nationally recognized legislator; serving on the Women's Network of the National Conference of State Legislators, The Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence, and has received many awards and recognition for her leadership on a broad spectrum of issues from law enforcement to social justice.

Senator Carl Louis Marcellino



Political Affiliation: Republican – Syosset and Long Island

District: 5th Senate (Parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

Standing Committee Assignments 2008: Chairman of the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee and served in that capacity through 2008.

Background:

Senator Marcellino was born on December 23, 1942 in Brooklyn, New York and attended public schools in Queens. He earned both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science degrees from New York University and a Professional Diploma in Administration and Supervision from St. John's University. After a 20 year career as a science teacher and administrator in the New York City School system, Senator Marcellino was elected as the Oyster Bay Town Clerk, a position he held until his Senate election.

Senator Marcellino and his wife, Patricia Marcellino, Ed.D, an Assistant Professor in the Adelphi University School of Education, are long time Syosset residents and have two children, Jean and Carl.

Political Accomplishments

Senator Carl Louis Marcellino was elected to represent the Fifth Senate District on March 14, 1995. In December of that year he was named Chairman of the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee and served in that capacity through 2008.

Senator Marcellino has built a reputation as the champion of significant environmental legislation and has written over 100 environmental laws. His efforts have been recognized by the League of Conservation Voters and the Sierra Club, he has received numerous environmental awards including being named "Conservationist of the Year," by the Adirondack Council. He was the recipient of the "Honorary Sol Feinstone Environmental Award" from The State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and was named "Legislator of the Year" by both the Environmental Advocates and the Neighborhood Network. Senator Marcellino was honored by the New York State Bar Association and granted a legislative leadership award by the National Brownfield Association.

Senator Marcellino's environmental accomplishments include being the prime sponsor of the landmark Brownfield/Superfund Reform Law, the Pesticide Notification Law and the Nation's first law phasing out the groundwater contaminate MTBE from gasoline. He was the sponsor of the Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act, laws enacting tax credits for alternative fuel vehicles, net electric metering to encourage solar power usage, emissions testing for heavy duty diesel vehicles, the ban on lead sinkers, and the Acid Rain Prevention Act. Outside the environmental arena, Senator Marcellino has also sponsored numerous laws that have protected the health and safety of all New Yorkers.

He worked tirelessly to see that his legislation banning the use of hand held cell phones while driving in New York State became the first law of its kind in the United States. He was the prime sponsor of the "Stephanie's Law" which made it a felony to engage in video voyeurism, the Unpaid Wages Prohibition Act, the disability registry that provides vital information to aid in rescues and evacuations, and the permanent COLA bill, granting retirees from state service annual cost-of-living adjustments. Senator Marcellino also established the Breast Cancer Science Board and Breast Cancer Registry.

In addition to his legislative agenda, Senator Marcellino has been instrumental in implementing important environmental benefits for his Senate District. He obtained state funding to purchase and make accessible five acres of waterfront property in the Town of Oyster Bay, preserved for open space 300 acres of land at SUNY Old Westbury and 51 acres of the Underhill Property in Nassau County. Senator Marcellino is Chairman of the Oyster Bay Western Waterfront Committee, founding member of the State Advisory Board of the National Environmental Policy Institute, former President of the New York Conference of Italian American State Legislators and former Co-Chairman of the Council of State Governments/Eastern Regional Conference.

Senator Joseph Robach



Political Affiliation: Republican – Rochester

District: 56th Senate (Parts of Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

Standing Committee Assignments 2008: Chairman of the New York State Senate Environmental Conservation Committee and served in that capacity through 2008.

Is the New York State Senate representative for the 56th Senatorial District which encompasses the Towns of Greece, Brighton, Parma and most of the City of Rochester.

Before his election to the Senate, Robach served as an Assemblyman for 11 years filling the seat vacated by the unfortunate passing of his father, Roger Robach.

Background:

A graduate of Aquinas Institute and the State University of New York College at Brockport, where he received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration degrees, Senator Robach has been a lifelong resident of the Rochester area. Throughout his tenure, he has earned a reputation for being an accessible, community-oriented legislator and an outspoken advocate for a more timely budget process. In 2005, he led the way in overhauling New York's budget when the Legislature passed legislation which would amend our State's constitution and permanently change the budget process in New York State. As a result, the Legislature passed the first on-time budget in over 2 decades.

Political Accomplishments

Senator Robach has an exceptional record of community and civic involvement. He has been recognized by many organizations, police departments, healthcare facilities, businesses and not-for-profits both locally and statewide for his outstanding record in the Legislature. Senator Robach has worked diligently to expand economic development in Rochester, increase funding for education, cut taxes and improve and protect our healthcare system. During his brief tenure in the Senate, he has secured an unprecedented amount of resources for the Rochester area which has funded the expansion of the emergency departments for Highland and Park Ridge Hospitals and provided funding for hundreds of local charities and all the school districts in the 56th District. In addition, Senator Robach has secured funding to sponsor Greater Rochester Enterprise's mission to Israel to recruit Israeli businesses to relocate to the Rochester area which has resulted in the creation of jobs and business opportunities in our region.

In the Senate, he serves as Chairperson of the Labor Committee and also as a member of the standing committees on Transportation; Higher Education; Labor; Commerce, Economic Development & Small Business; Elections; Tourism, Recreation & Sports Development; and Banks.

Senator Jeff Klein - Deputy Majority Leader



Political Affiliation: Democrat – Bronx and Westchester

District: 34th Senate (of northern Bronx County and southern Westchester County)

Background:

Jeffrey David Klein was born in the Morris Park section of the Bronx on July 10, 1960. A lifelong resident of the northeast Bronx, he was educated in Bronx public schools. Klein received a B.A. with honors from Queens College, an M.P.A. from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, and a J.D. from the City University of New York Law School where he was a member of the law review.

A former chief of staff to Congressman James Scheuer, Klein served as a Democratic State Committeeman and District Leader before being elected to the New York State Assembly in 1994. During his ten years representing the 80th Assembly District in the state legislature, Jeff Klein served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime and the Elderly, the Committee on State-Federal Relations, and the Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigations. First elected to represent the 34th Senatorial District covering parts of northern Bronx County and southern Westchester County in 2004, Senator Klein was appointed Deputy Minority Leader in January 2007. In 2008, Democrats clinched control of the NY State Senate for the first time in 40 years and Klein ascended to the role of Deputy Majority Leader.

Active in many community organizations, Jeff Klein is a member of the New York regional board of the Anti-Defamation League. Klein is also a partner in the law firm of Klein Calderoni & Santucci,

Political Accomplishments

Called "smart and hard-working" by the New York Times, "an active, independent voice" by the Journal News, and "an energetic legislator" by the New York Sun, Jeff Klein has authored numerous laws that directly impact the citizens of New York. He passed legislation protecting homeowners against blockbusting real estate solicitations and creating New York's Do Not Call telemarketing registry, which enrolled more than two million residential telephone customers before merging with the federal Do Not Call registry in 2003. In 2007, he helped spearhead New York's efforts to curb subprime lending abuses and mitigate the foreclosure crisis in residential mortgages, holding hearings around the state and creating a program with the nation's largest mortgage lender to help homeowners restructure at-risk home loans.

Klein's efforts on behalf of consumers have included annual monitoring of unsanitary conditions in New York City and Westchester County supermarkets and restaurants (the Enough to Make You Sick series) and authoring legislation requiring supermarkets to post their state inspection results. He also uncovered the wide disparities in prescription drug prices between different branches of chain drug stores in New York City (Filled Prescriptions, Empty Pockets) and helped enact laws requiring computerized retail drug price lists and an internet database of prescription drug prices.

Senator Klein has been a leader in the effort to reform New York's sexual assault laws and helped mobilize national support to break a legislative stalemate and eliminate New York's five-year statute of limitations on rape. A leading proponent of civil confinement for the most dangerous sex offenders, Klein also served on the conference committee to strengthen and extend the protections of the state sex offender registry.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation, Jeff Klein focused national attention on security conditions at New York City water facilities and passed tough legislation requiring water supply facilities to update their emergency plans to address the threat of terrorism. He has also worked to reduce government waste by demanding a detailed accounting of state computer systems and information technology spending.

Jeff Klein has passed important legislation reducing children's access to cigarettes and saved New York taxpayers millions of dollars by targeting cigarette smugglers and online smoke shops that, as detailed in his Up In Smoke report, evade lawful city and state cigarette taxes and fail to take the necessary precautions to prevent sales to minors. In 2000, he authored the first law in the nation banning the direct shipment of cigarettes to New York consumers, starting what has become a national movement with credit card issuers refusing to process charges for online cigarette sales and commercial shippers pledging to stop consumer cigarette deliveries nationwide.

Senator Klein has led the fight against childhood asthma, which afflicts one out of every six Bronx children. To help reduce skyrocketing hospitalization rates, he started a mobile asthma screening and testing program, the first of its kind in New York State, which travels to school and community events with a fully-equipped medical van bringing desperately needed on-site asthma screening and education directly to children and their families. Klein also helped launch an innovative child abuse treatment program at St. Barnabas Hospital that uses state-of-the-art equipment and coordinated case management among health care professionals, social services agencies and law enforcement to deliver comprehensive care while minimizing the trauma caused by multiple examinations and interviews.

Senator Klein sponsors a variety of programs throughout the 34th Senate District, including a graffiti removal program, street cleaning programs, gardening classes and an annual Senior Day at the New York Botanical Gardens.

Senator Ruth Hassell Thompson



Democrat – Bronx and Westchester

District: 34th Senate (Bronx and Westchester Counties)

Standing Committee Assignments 2009: Crime Victims, Crime & Correction (Chairwoman); Commerce, **Economic Development & Small Business; Consumer Protection;** Housing; Judiciary; Rules; Transportation; Chair Senate Majority Taskforce on Domestic Violence

Conference Chairwoman; Chairwoman of the Senate Majority Taskforce on Domestic Violence; Chairwoman of the NY/Cuba Economic Development Taskforce

Political Accomplishments

First elected to the New York State Senate in 2000, Ms. Ruth Hassell-Thompson brings years of public service and community involvement to her post as the Senator of the 36th Senatorial District. She currently represents parts of the Bronx and

Westchester Counties.

In 1993, Ms. Hassell-Thompson was elected to the Mount Vernon City Council, serving as Council President and Acting Mayor. In this position, she was Vice chairperson of the Urban Renewal Board; a voting member of the Board of Estimate; Vice chairperson of the Real Estate Board and Chairperson of the Capital Projects Board. Among her other committee responsibilities was oversight of all Council committees, which included Legislation and Public Works; Human Resources; Finance and Planning; Public Safety and Codes.

Ms. Hassell-Thompson continues to balance her public responsibilities with other important community and business-related endeavors in the district. A retired nurse/counselor for Mount Vernon Hospital (1963-1998) specializing in pediatrics and helping women with substance abuse issues, she is the Founding-President/CEO of "The Gathering," a volunteer-staffed women's center in Mt. Vernon that provides counseling and support services. In addition, Ms. Hassell-Thompson was a health educator for the Mt. Vernon Neighborhood Health Center's initiative, which entailed working with persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. She was honored with the "Unsung Heroes" award, presented by the AIDS Related Community Services (ARCS) organization.

Ms. Hassell-Thompson served as a consultant to the Automotive Consultant, Inc. (ACI), an automobile dealership/industry organization responsible for promoting the interests of minority automobile dealers.

Background:

Prior to holding an elected office, she was President/CEO of Whart Development Company, Inc., a real estate development company that also provided consultant services to small and developing businesses. Senator Thompson's firm researched and published "The African American in Westchester" in 1990. She is well known for her expertise on minority business needs and has initiated numerous workshops and seminars on business development.

From January 1980 to June 1987, Ms. Hassell-Thompson was the Executive Director of the Westchester Minority Contractors Association (WMCA). In this position, she became well-versed in economic development issues which impact women and people of color. She became one of their most ardent advocates and successfully persuaded members of both the public and private sectors to increase economic participation with minority and women-owned businesses. She served on numerous boards and committees that focused on issues related to minority and women business ownership. Among her many achievements was her ability to spearhead bank loans for financing minority and women-owned business activities. She continues to serve as an advocate for these concerns.

Prior to leading the WMCA, Ms. Hassell-Thompson worked for the Westchester Community Opportunity Program (Westchester Co-Op) for 10 years in a number of management positions, ranging from director of an infant day care center to executive assistant to the executive director of the Co-Op and coordinator of community based programs in

Westchester and Putnam counties. During her tenure there, she was awarded the Joseph P. Gavrin Memorial Award for Personal Achievement and Contributions to the community by the Westchester Co-Op.

As a testament to Ms. Hassell-Thompson's achievements in helping women and minorities excel in business ventures and in life, she has received several awards. Chief among them are: the "Sojourner Truth Racial Justice Award", the "Harriet Tubman Humanitarian Achievement Award", the "Minority and Women Business Development Award" from the state of New York Department of Commerce; the Professional Women in Construction Award for "Dedicated Services and Action on Behalf of Equal Opportunity for Women and Minorities"; Westchester Black Women's Health Project for "Outstanding Contributions to Business; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Scroll of Honor in recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Outreach; African-American Civic and Legal Hall of Fame, Inc., Dr. Martin Luther King, Keeping the Dream Alive Award "In Recognition and Appreciation of Service in the Dr. King Tradition" and the Mount Vernon Hospital Community Service Award.

Senator Hassell-Thompson was enstooled by the Akwamu Traditional Council in the Eastern Region of Ghana, as their Mpuntuhemaa (Queenmother for Development). Her enstoolment as Mpuntuhemaa was to bring about development for the people of Akwamu, taking into high consideration. Education and the needs of the area at large. Ms Hassell-Thompson was given the stool name Nana Addobea I of the the 17 provinces & villages that make up the Eastern Region.

Ms. Hassell-Thompson is the recipient of two Honorary Doctorate degrees; Mercy College, Doctor of Humane Letters; and Eastern Theological Consortium, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Christ Theological Seminary, Doctor of Humanities. She is an alumni of Bronx Community College.

Ms. Hassell-Thompson is widowed with two daughters and is an adoring grandmother of two.

Senator George Maziarz



Republican – Newfane

District: 62nd Senate (which encompasses all of Niagara County outside the City of Niagara Falls, all of Orleans County, and the western portion of Monroe County).

Standing Committee Assignments 2009: Judiciary (Ranking Member), Crime Victims, Crime & Corrections, Energy and Telecommunications, Finance, and Higher Education.

Political Accomplishments

Senator George D. Maziarz proudly represents the 62nd District in the New York State Senate, which encompasses all of Niagara County outside the City of Niagara Falls, all of Orleans County, and the western portion of Monroe County.

Maziarz has spent a career in government service. He was appointed City Clerk in his hometown of North Tonawanda in 1978 at the young age of 25, and he eventually became Niagara County Clerk in 1989. Six years later, esteemed Senator John Daly resigned his seat to become Commissioner of the NYS Department of Transportation, and Maziarz entered the Senate after winning a hotly-contested special election. **Since 1995, the voters of his district have consistently returned him to office for his tireless work ethic on behalf of the public good.**

During his Senate career, Senator Maziarz has been associated with many landmark pieces of legislation. **He helped develop “Megan’s Law,” the registry which helps law enforcement officers and communities track the whereabouts of convicted sex offenders.** He authored the Assisted Living Reform Act, which created a host of long-desired reforms in the assisted living industry to better protect seniors and consumers. **He sponsored an historic workers’ compensation reform law which is now saving New York businesses more than \$1 billion per year while providing greater benefits to injured workers.** And he successfully championed the effort to have New York State sign the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact to help manage the Great Lakes for generations to come.

While helping enact these bills and many others into law, Senator Maziarz has held several leadership positions in the Senate. **He has previously served as Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee; the Senate Tourism, Recreation, and Sports Development Committee; and the Senate Labor Committee.** In early 2008, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno appointed Senator Maziarz to serve as Chairman of the Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee. For the current legislative session of 2009-2010, Senator Maziarz has been assigned to five different committees. He is the Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, while also serving on the Crime Victims, Crime & Corrections, Energy & Telecommunications, Finance, and Higher Education committees.

Although these committee assignments have allowed Senator Maziarz the chance to specialize in many areas of policy, he believes there are four broader goals his constituents expect him to work towards: relief from taxes, the restoration of Western New York’s economic health and job base, greater crime prevention and victims’ assistance, and increased attention to senior citizens’ needs.

Background:

Senator Maziarz was educated in parochial and public schools in North Tonawanda, and graduated from Niagara County Community College and Niagara University. He has always been active in community life, despite his demanding schedule. He has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas, member of the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Tonawandas, member of the Corporate Advisory Board of DeGraff Memorial Hospital, and Chairman of the popular Canal Festival of the Tonawandas. He is also a past officer and long-time member of Live Hose Co. #4, member of the Niagara County Volunteer Firemen’s Association, Knights of Columbus Council 2535, S.C.O.P.E., and the Niagara University Booster Club. He attends All Saints R. C. Church in Lockport.

Senator Maziarz resides in Newfane with his wife, Beverly.

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky



Democrat – Westchester

District: 92nd Assembly District (Towns of Greenburgh and Mount Pleasant, the Villages of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, a portion of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, and part of the City of Yonkers).

Standing Committee Assignments 2003: Corporations, Authorities and Commissions (Chair); Banks; Tourism, Arts and Sports Development.

Political Accomplishments

He serves as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions, which oversees the state's public and private corporations. This includes jurisdiction over business corporation law and telecommunications, as well as all public authorities, such as the MTA, the Thruway Authority, the Public Service Commission, the Port Authority, and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation.

From 1993 to 2002, Assemblyman Brodsky served as Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation, where he structured the most dramatic legislative advances in environmental conservation in over two decades. His accomplishments include authoring the legislation that created the Environmental Protection Fund, the first dedicated fund for environmental protection in the history of New York State, and the Clean Air/Clean Water Bond Act, a \$1.75 billion bond act passed by voters across New York to provide a funding mechanism for unfunded clean air and clean water projects throughout the State. Prior to that, Assemblyman Brodsky served as Chairman of the Committee on Oversight, Analysis and Investigation. In that capacity Assemblyman Brodsky successfully engineered improved legislative oversight of the Executive Branch of government, passed laws to reform proprietary business schools, and took on the daunting task of investigating and exposing the involvement of organized crime in the waste hauling and management business communities. He also met with representatives of legislative bodies in emerging democracies in the former Soviet Union, China, and with the new democratic government of Chile to help them develop independent oversight and investigative capacities as a check on executive power.

Assemblyman Brodsky has led efforts to investigate the Indian Point nuclear power plants, undertook the first independent analysis of the Evacuation Plans for Indian Point, and in February 2002, he released the Interim Report on the Evacuation Plans for the Indian Point Nuclear Generating Facility, which detailed the serious and systematic deficiencies which make it unable to "adequately protect the public health and safety," as required by law. These findings were confirmed by the James Lee Witt Report released eleven months later. On June 13, 2002, Chairman Brodsky, along with numerous local, State, and federal elected officials, submitted a formal Petition to the Federal Emergency Management Agency requesting that they withdraw their approval of the Indian Point Evacuation Plans, marking the first formal challenge to a nuclear plant's evacuation plans. He is also the lead Petitioner and Counsel, along with the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Pete and Toshi Seeger and others, in litigation seeking to compel the State Department of Environmental Conservation to effectively regulate the ongoing pollution of the Hudson River caused by Indian Point's intake of over two billion gallons of water daily.

In addition to his Committee Chairmanship, Assemblyman Brodsky has also been a leader in the successful efforts to increase funding for education, and to create alternatives to the Regents high-stakes standardized testing regime while maintaining high standards. Assemblyman Brodsky was a co-creator of the STAR (School Tax Relief) Program, enacted in 1996, which has saved homeowners and senior citizens thousands of dollars each year. He was a co-sponsor of the legislation to eliminate the sales tax on clothing, and has long fought to ensure that the tax system is fair and progressive. He has also worked to make sporting events more family-friendly by authoring legislation which created alcohol-free zones at stadiums.

As part of his work on the environment, Assemblyman Brodsky has been active on a national level. He serves as a Co-Chair of CLEAN (Coalition of Legislators for Environmental Action Now) and NCEL (National Coalition of Environmental Legislators). He has led a broad coalition of state legislators, environmental organizations and

private citizens in an effort to enact a U.S. Constitutional Amendment for Environmental Rights. This Amendment would guarantee the right of each citizen to clean and healthful air and water and to the protection of the other natural resources of the nation. To date, legislative bodies in Alabama, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island have passed resolutions calling on Congress to enact the amendment, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Brodsky and his ability to create coalitions and organize grassroots efforts.

Assemblyman Brodsky has received numerous awards from local groups for his achievements and dedication over the years, including the Congress of Italian-American Organizations Award, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the United Federation of Teachers Friend of Education Award, the Westchester Distinguished Service Medal, the Jewish Council of Yonkers Appreciation Award, the American Arab Council Distinguished Service Award, the New York State Federation of Police Legislative Excellence Award, the International Association of Firefighters Achievement Award, and the New York State Audubon Society William B. Hoyt Environmental Award.

Background:

He formerly served as Adjunct Professor at St. John's University School of Law, where he taught entertainment and municipal law, and Adjunct Professor at Pace University Law School, where he taught advanced constitutional law. He is married to the former Paige Massman, and they have two daughters, Emily and Julianne Willie.

VOTE IN 2002 GENERAL ELECTION

Senator Neil Breslin



Democrat – Albany

District: 46th District (which consists entirely of Albany County).

Standing Committee Assignments 2009: Insurance Chairman; Agriculture; Banks; Codes; Education; Finance; Judiciary; Labor.

Political Accomplishments

Neil David Breslin, Democrat, is currently serving his seventh term as New York State Senator. He represents the 46th District, which consists entirely of Albany County.

Neil has been a community leader for many years. His involvement in civic and social areas in Albany includes 15 years as a board member of Arbor House, a residence facility for women in need. He also served as president of Arbor House for a period of seven years. Neil has been the attorney for St. Anne's Institute in Albany and has done work for Hospitality House, the International Center and Hope House, a drug treatment facility. Further, Neil was Vice President of the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless from 1994 to 1998.

An active member of the New York State Bar Association, Neil has served as a lecturer on real estate law; editor of the newsletter of the New York State Bar Association General Practice of Law Section from 1980-1984; member of the Executive Committee of the General Practice of Law Section from 1980-1985 and from 1989-1998; chairperson of the General Practice of Law Section from 1993-1994; and member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association from 1992-1994. Additionally, he has been a member of the Character and Fitness Committee of the Appellate Division, Third Department since 1987 and was chairman of the Grievance Committee for the Albany County Bar Association from 1985-1993.

Neil serves as a member of the Executive Committee and is the former Chair of the State/Federal Relations Committee of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). In recognition of his dedication and commitment, Senator Breslin has received awards from numerous organizations including Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood, Caregivers Respite Services of Catholic Charities, University at Albany's Presidential Honors Society, New York State Bar Association, American Civil Liberties Union, KidsPeace National Centers, Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy ("Distinguished Public Service Award") and Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Club ("Profiles in Courage Award").

Background:

Born as one of six children on June 9, 1942, Neil is a lifelong resident of Albany. On academic scholarship, Neil attended Fordham College from which he graduated in 1964 with a BS degree in Political Science. While in law school at the University of Toledo, he was named the editor-in-chief of the Law Review and was also selected as outstanding student in his class. Upon graduation from law school, Neil became an associate in the firm of Garry Cahill & Edmunds and two years later became a partner in a new firm entitled Garry, Cahill, Edmunds & Breslin. In 1981, Neil formed a partnership with his two brothers, Michael (currently Albany County Executive) and Thomas (currently Albany County Court Judge). Currently, Neil practices law as "of counsel" to the firm of Hiscock & Barclay.

Senator Bill Larkin



District: 39th District

Area: Parts of Orange and Ulster Counties (Orange County, the city of Newburgh and the Towns of Blooming Grove, Chester, Cornwall, Crawford, Goshen, Hamptonburgh, Highlands, Monroe, Montgomery, New Windsor, Newburgh, Wallkill and Woodbury; in Ulster County, the city of Kingston and the Towns of Plattekill, Marlborough, Lloyd and Esopus)

Ranking Minority Member on the Corporations, Authorities, and Commissions Committee

William J. Larkin, Jr., R-C, is now in his 30th year in the New York State Legislature, having served in the Assembly from 1979-1990. He was first elected to the New York State Senate in November 1990, defeating the incumbent by a wide margin. In 1995, Senator Larkin was appointed to the Senate leadership position of Chairman of the Senate Majority Steering

Committee, and in 2007, he was appointed Secretary of the Majority Conference. He also served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Racing, Gaming, and Wagering.

Previously, Senator Larkin served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Governments, a post he held from 1993 to 1995. As Chairman, Senator Larkin authored a new law to change the operations and procedures of local Industrial Development Agencies (IDAs). The law increased the public accountability of IDAs while giving IDAs more flexibility to create jobs. During his first term in the Senate, Senator Larkin chaired the Senate Veterans Committee. As chairman, he sponsored the most sweeping changes in veterans' benefits laws in 30 years. The new laws increased the financial protections for families of U.S. servicemen fighting in the Persian Gulf War, as well as conflicts in Lebanon, Panama and Grenada.

While in the Assembly, Senator Larkin served as Assistant Minority Leader Pro Tempore and was a member of the Banks, Health, and Insurance Committees. He also served on the Joint Legislative Tax Study Commission, the Subcommittee on Airport Development and the Subcommittee on Health and Medical Malpractice Insurance.

Widely recognized among his colleagues both in New York State and nationally for his vast knowledge and expertise about the insurance industry, Senator Larkin was elected in November, 2001, as President of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators and headed this group for one year. NCOIL is a bipartisan organization of state legislators from the fifty states whose primary area of public policy is insurance. In December, 2002, Senator Larkin was named one of the "100 Most Powerful People in the Insurance Industry--North America" in a special report by Insurance-Portal, a division of ACINA Technologies, Ltd. Insurance-Portal publishes "Insurance-Letter," a newsletter read by over 43,000 subscribers in over 30 countries who work in the insurance industry.

A veteran of 23 years of active military service, Senator Larkin retired from the United States Army in 1967 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He served in many key positions, both in the United States and overseas, and saw combat during World War II in the Philippines operation, and during the Korean War. During his military service, Senator Larkin was the recipient of the Legion of Merit and six Army Commendation Medals, and was also awarded one Battle Star for the Philippines and six Battle Stars for the Korean War. He is the author of a publication entitled "Army's Human Reliability Program" which was published in the Military Police Journal in 1966.

After his military service, Senator Larkin served as an Executive Assistant in the New York State Senate, and from 1976-1977 was Supervisor of the Town of New Windsor in Orange County, New York.

Background

He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and an honorary member of the West Point Society of New York. Senator Larkin is married to Patricia Kurucz McGuirk Larkin and between them, they have eight children.

A native of Troy, New York, Senator Larkin graduated from LaSalle Institute in Troy and also attended the University of Maryland and the University of Denver. Standing Committee Assignments 2009: Corporations, Authorities and Commissions (Ranking Minority Member); Finance; Health; Rules; Transportation; and Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs.

Assemblyman Joe Morelle



Democrat-Irondequoit

District: Assembly's 132nd District

Area: Charlotte, Maplewood and North Winton Village sections of the City of Rochester and the towns of Irondequoit and Brighton.

Joe's career in the Assembly is the latest phase in a long history of public service. In 1983, he was elected to the Monroe County Legislature, where he eventually served as vice president and assistant majority leader. He served there until his successful bid for the Assembly's 132nd District seat in 1990.

Since his election to the New York State Assembly in 1990, Joseph D. Morelle has authored more than 100 laws and established himself as a leader on the issues that matter most to New Yorkers: economic growth and job creation, crime prevention, and ensuring the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens.

Joe is particularly recognized for his efforts to improve New York's business climate. That is especially true in Upstate New York, which has experienced severe job and population losses since the early 1990s.

One of the Assembly's most senior members, Joe chairs the standing Committee on Insurance and is a member of the powerful Rules and Ways and Means committees. He also holds assignments on the standing committees for Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry, and Higher Education.

Leading in Economic Development

In 2005, Joe addressed those challenges in a report entitled *Creating A State of Innovation: Unleashing the Power of New York's Entrepreneurial Economy* that detailed the decline of New York as an economic power and offered numerous policy prescriptions for reversing that decades-long trend. *Creating A State of Innovation* has been widely praised by business and academic leaders, other elected officials and editorial boards across the state.

Joe's report is the culmination of years of advocacy for new economic and tax policies. His passion for job creation and making New York more competitive stems in part from his own experience as founder and president of *MMI Technologies Inc.*, a software development firm. He knows first-hand the difficulties small businesses face when attempting to make a profit while meeting the demands of the state's high tax burden.

At Joe's request, the Speaker of the Assembly created the Subcommittee on Manufacturing, with Joe as chairman, as a means of providing New York's manufacturing community a greater voice in state government. He also served on the Speaker's Task Force on Budget Reform and the Workers' Compensation Reform Task Force, and co-chaired the Assembly's Welfare Reform Task Force.

In June 2006, Joe also announced major legislation aimed at reforming New York's debt practices in order to reduce the annual cost of the state's \$49 billion public debt and spare future generations those costs as well.

Insurance

Few sectors regulated by government have a degree of impact on individuals and the economy as great as insurance. Families need and deserve adequate health care; parents and spouses naturally wish to protect their loved ones and property in the event of personal tragedy or natural disaster; businesses need to insure against the liabilities inherent in their operations while maintaining a strong bottom line.

Hence, the work of the Committee on Insurance is of critical importance to the fiscal and economic well-being of our private and commercial citizens. From the cost of health care premiums to the status of the insurers operating in the troubled bond markets of 2008, Joe is committed to bringing issues of long-term importance before the committee for discussion and resolution.

Tourism as an Economic Engine

Joe's commitment to New York's economic rebirth also defined his chairmanship of the Assembly's Standing Committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development, a position held from 2001 until 2007. Tourism is the state's No. 2 industry, and Joe has consistently worked hard to make sure that the New York's vast cultural and natural resources are promoted and enjoyed by people around the world.

In 2004, Joe created the film production tax credit to encourage the making of motion pictures in New York. This has created thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in added economic activity, and in fact the tax credit has proved so successful that a five-year, \$250 million extension was included in the 2006-2007 state budget.

Additional Legislative Priorities

Aside from economic issues, Joe's recent legislative priorities include a broad range of anti-crime measures, including mandatory background checks for nursing home and home-health care workers, civil confinement for dangerous sexual predators even after release from prison, and the elimination of the statute of limitations in felony rape and sexual assault cases.

Joe is also a strong supporter of military veterans, authoring a bill earlier this year making it easier for former members of the armed forces to receive added exam credits when applying for civil service positions. In the past, Joe has also successfully fought to exempt veterans from certain licensing fees and to protect military gravesites from vandalism.

Background

Born in Utica, raised in the Rochester suburb of Irondequoit and a former small business owner himself, Joe is a lifelong Upstate resident who understands the region's unique challenges.

Joe, 50, is a graduate of Eastridge High School and received his bachelor's degree in political science from SUNY Geneseo. Joe is an inductee of the Eastridge High School Hall of Fame and the State University of New York Alumni Honor Roll.

Joe and his wife, Mary Beth, live in Irondequoit and have three children. Mary Beth teaches in the East Irondequoit School District, which all three Morelle children have attended.

Senator Steve Saland



Republican and Independent - Poughkeepsie
District: 41st Senate District (Poughkeepsie)

Political Accomplishments

He has previously served as a Town Councilman in the Town of Wappinger. Prior to winning election to the New York State Senate in the 1990 General Election, Senator Saland served in the State Assembly from 1980 through 1990. Senator Saland represents the 41st Senate District which includes all of Columbia County and most of Dutchess County.

Senator Saland currently serves as Assistant Minority Whip and Ranking Member of the Senate Consumer Protection Committee. He has served as the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, Chairman of the Senate Children and Families Committee, Chairman of the Majority Steering Committee and Deputy Majority Leader for State/Federal Relations. He was responsible for reforming New York State's domestic violence law by drafting the "Family Protection and Domestic Violence Intervention Act," completely revamping the way in which the state of New York combats domestic violence. In 2000 Senator Saland won a major victory for school children and their families, when he authored legislation to protect children from abusive school employees. This legislation requires employees of public school districts to submit fingerprints allowing for extensive criminal history background checks.

Saland is the author of more than 350 laws affecting a wide variety of areas including criminal justice and victims' rights, domestic violence and child abuse, protecting the rights of those with autism and other disabilities, economic development and environmental protection, including the legislation creating the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

Senator Saland served as President of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) from 2001-2002. He also served as President of the NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors. He was appointed by former United States Attorney General Reno to the Working Group on Principles for the Federalization of Criminal Law. The Senator has been a featured speaker at the Brookings Institution discussing the impact of federalism on our criminal justice system. In April 2004 he was appointed Co-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures Task Force on No Child Left Behind. In May of 2008, he was appointed Co-Chair of the National Conference of State Legislature's Task Force on Federal Education Policy. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Forum on Democracy and Trade.

During his service in the legislature he has received awards from numerous organizations, including the New York State School Boards Association (an unprecedented two-time recipient), the Metropolitan Police Conference, the New York State Corrections Officers, the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Farm Bureau, the Federation on Child Abuse and Neglect, the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB), Friends of Manufacturing Award, the Dutchess County Medical Society, Columbia Memorial Hospital, Columbia County Sportsmen's Federation, the American Lung Association of Northeastern New York, Association of New York State Youth Bureaus, Anderson School Community Service Award, the American Heart Association, the New York State Coalition for Children's Mental Health Services, the Child Abuse Prevention Center of Dutchess County and the St. Cabrini Home Gold Medal Award. He has also received St. Francis Hospital's Franciscan Award, and the Marist College President's Award for his dedication and service to the people of the Mid- Hudson Valley. Senator Saland has also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Marist College and the Gemini Award from Columbia-Greene Community College. Senator Saland, his wife Linda and their family were named "Family of the Year" by Family Services, Inc. Senator Saland and Mrs. Saland have received the Poughkeepsie Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Spirit Award.

Background:

Stephen M. Saland is a graduate of Poughkeepsie High School, the University of Buffalo, and Rutgers Law School. Senator Saland is a member of the Dutchess County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He presently maintains a law practice at 75 Washington Street in Poughkeepsie, where he is of counsel to Gellert & Klein, P.C.

He and his wife reside in the Town of Poughkeepsie and have four sons and four grandchildren.

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