

## FRIEDMAN RANZENHOFER ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Robert Friedman

### FREE MEDICAID/ELDER LAW SEMINARS

“FOURTEEN WAYS TO PRESERVE YOUR ASSETS WITH THE MEDICAID LAWS” will be presented at the Akron-Newstead Senior Center, 5691 Cummings Road on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 6 PM and the Clarence Senior Center, 4600 Thompson Rd on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at 10:45 AM. Speakers are Robert Friedman, Attorney and Jeff Vastola, CLU of M&T Securities. Learn how to preserve your assets and plan for incapacity with powers of attorney, health care proxies, living wills, wills, trusts, transferring your home to family members, long term care insurance, prepaid funeral accounts, IRAs, pensions, properly documented gifts, spousal allowances and transfers, caregiver agreements and promissory notes. To register for the free seminars, call 716.542.5444. ■

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE ISSUES OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

Is this your first issue of the newsletter? To receive future issues by mail or email, call us at 716.542.5444; email april@legalsurvival.com; or sign-up for the email version at Legalsurvival.com. This issue marks the 20th Anniversary of the LegalSurvival.com Newsletter.

### CONTACT MIKE RANZENHOFER IF YOU ARE INJURED

Consult anytime with a local, compassionate and experienced personal injury attorney that you know and trust: Mike Ranzenhofer.

- **Experience:** Mike has 35 years trial experience representing the victims of automobile accidents, slip and fall accidents and defective products. *See Mike’s personal injury recoveries on page 4.*
- **Availability:** Mike is available seven days a week by telephone at 716.542.5444 or 585.343.0746; text at 716.983.6370 or by email: mranz@legalsurvival.com . He will meet personally with you at your home, the hospital or at one of his seven local offices.
- **Free Consultation:** Mike will advise you of your rights at a free consultation.
- **No Fee Guarantee:** You pay no fee unless you win your case.

#### Mike Ranzenhofer promises to:

- ✓ Communicate with you in plain language that is easy to understand.
- ✓ Promptly return your telephone calls.
- ✓ Quickly and thoroughly investigate and analyze your case.
- ✓ Personally handle your case.
- ✓ Keep you informed of the progress of your case at all times.
- ✓ Show you the personal care, concern and attention which have been the hallmark of our law firm since 1955.
- ✓ Not handle your case in an “assembly line” fashion.
- ✓ Accommodate the needs of you and your family during the handling of your case.
- ✓ Vigorously protect your legal rights. ■



Michael Ranzenhofer

## NEW NIAGARA FALLS OFFICE

Our Niagara Falls office is now located in the Hutch Enterprises Office Building at 7510 Porter Road, Niagara Falls, New York 14304.

For directions, call 716.631.999 or see [wny-lawyers.com/offices](http://wny-lawyers.com/offices) ■

## SURROGATE ORDERS JOINT ACCOUNT TURNED OVER TO ESTATE

Friedman & Ranzenhofer, P.C. successfully obtained summary judgment for a large estate involving the misuse of a power of attorney form. Our client, the executor of the estate, presented evidence that her siblings had wrongfully used their father's power of attorney to add rights of survivorship on two (2) bank accounts totaling over \$200,000. Through extensive document discovery and depositions, Mike Ranzenhofer was able to uncover enough evidence so that the Erie County Surrogate ruled that the bank accounts must be turned over to the estate within ten (10) days. This decision represents an excellent victory for our client. It is also further demonstrates that all of the time that we spend sifting through documents and conducting depositions is well worth the effort. ■

## FUNDRAISING PROFESSIONALS HONOR FRIEDMAN

The Association of Fundraising Professionals WNY Chapter honored Robert Friedman of the Clarence Rotary as an outstanding volunteer at its Distinguished Honoree Program National Philanthropy Day luncheon on Thursday, November 12, 2015. Nearly 500 people, including professional fundraisers from numerous Western New York not-for-profit organizations, as well as community leaders and business people from the for-profit sector, gathered at Salvatore's Italian Gardens to share stories of amazing philanthropic gifts and volunteer efforts that change the world with a giving heart. Mr. Friedman has served on the boards of the Akron Chamber of Commerce, Brothers of Mercy Campus Foundation, the Clarence Chamber of Commerce, the Western New York Prosecutor's Association, the Clarence Senior Center, Clarence Rotary Foundation and Clarence Rotary Club. He has been legal counsel for a wide variety of WNY non-profits. He is also on the board of Hearts and Hands, a neighbor-helping-neighbor organization which pairs volunteers with care receivers for basic transportation and in-home supports. Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC sponsored their Board to Death! fundraiser last summer. The Clarence Rotary Foundation also supported Hearts and Hands with its 5th Annual Porsche Raffle, chaired by Mr. Friedman. ■



**(l-r): James Bender, Former Executive Director of Hearts and Hands (HH); Kathleen Flynn, Chairman of the HH Board; Robert Friedman; and Peter Wolfe of Clarence Rotary**

### Our Practice Areas:

- Accidents/Personal Injury
- Administrative Proceedings
- Animal Law
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate/Business/LLC
- Criminal/Traffic/DWI
- Divorce/Custody/Support
- Elder Law/Guardianships
- Landlord/Tenant
- Matrimonial/Family Law
- Municipal Law
- Not-for-Profit Corporations
- Probate/Estates
- Real Estate
- Trials/Appeals
- Wills/Trusts

## **ALBA APPOINTED WILLIAMSVILLE PTSA COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Sam Alba, associate at Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC, was appointed President of the Williamsville PTSA Council. He oversees thirteen Williamsville School District PTA units and the Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association (SEPTSA) to provide leadership and help build stronger, more effective units. The Council provides unifying strength and a channel of communication between parents, teachers, students, school and district administrators, the school board, and the community. The primary goal of the PTA is to advocate for children. Sam feels fortunate to be able to utilize his advocacy skills in such a positive setting. ■



**Sam Alba**

## **ALBA APPOINTED AS PEMBROKE MOCK TRIAL COACH**

Sam Alba, associate at Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC, was appointed coach for the Pembroke High School Mock Trial Team. High school students have the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of civil/criminal law and courtroom procedures. Objectives are to: teach students ethics, civility and professionalism; further students' understanding of the law, court procedures and the legal system; improve proficiency in basic life skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and reasoning; promote better communication and cooperation among the school community, teachers and students and members of the legal profession; heighten appreciation for academic studies and stimulate interest in law-related careers. ■

## **AVVO.COM RATES FRIEDMAN "10"**

Avvo.com's lawyer directory provides client reviews and peer endorsements for 97 percent of all lawyers in the United States. Thanks to our clients' positive reviews, Robert Friedman has received Avvo's top rating of "10 Superb." If you have not done so already, we would greatly appreciate you submitting reviews of all Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC attorneys. ■

## **FREE MEDICAID GUIDE**

The 2016 New York Medicaid Guide by Robert Friedman, answers such commonly asked questions as: What are the current asset and income levels that allow eligibility? What resources are not counted when determining eligibility? What are the transfer of asset rules? Can I give my home to my son so the nursing home won't take it? To obtain a free copy, see "Free Legal Resources" at WNY-Lawyers.com or send a stamped (.93), 4" x 9½" self-addressed envelope to POB 31, Akron, NY 14001. ■

## **FREE REAL ESTATE INVESTORS SEMINAR**

"How Landlords Can Protect Themselves from Nightmare Tenants & 2015 Eviction Case Law" will be presented by Robert Friedman and "How to Pay No Tax When Disposing of Investment Property" will be presented by Russell J. Gullo at the Buffalo Investors & Exchangers Group meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7 PM at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga. Drawing on over thirty-six years of experience representing landlords, Mr. Friedman will detail how landlords can protect their rights, expedite evictions and limit liability. The meeting is free and open to the public. Call (716) 675-1500 for reservations. ■

## **WIN A PORSCHE OR \$40,000**

For the Clarence Rotary Club Foundation's Sixth Annual Porsche Raffle, the grand prize is a 2017 Porsche Boxster or Cayenne; or \$40,000 cash. Fifteen \$500 cash prizes will also be awarded. Only 4000 tickets are being sold. The drawing will be held at the Clarence Chamber Taste of Clarence & Cruise Night on Monday, August 1, 2016. Tickets, which are \$50 each or three for \$100, can be purchased after February 15, 2016 at [www.ClarenceRotaryRaffle.com](http://www.ClarenceRotaryRaffle.com) or by calling Robert Friedman at (716)631-9999. The Clarence Rotary benefits many local, national and international programs, including: Polio Plus, the Nicaraguan Relief Fund, scoreboards/ playground equipment for area schools and parks, Clarence Senior Center van, Hearts and Hands, and Honor Flight Transportation for Veterans, living out their motto of "Service above Self." ■



## Ranzenhofer's Personal Injury Recoveries

A testimonial from a personal injury client: "I'd like to express my deepest thank you to Mr. Ranzenhofer and his staff. I retained Mr. Ranzenhofer as a lawyer for a personal injury due to my daughter being on a cheerleading team. Before Mr. Ranzenhofer, no one would even consider the case. All I had heard, was the term- 'You assume the risk'. Mr. Ranzenhofer had listened to what I had to say, and agreed to take my case for my daughter. He was very courteous, and on top of everything. I was very much at ease to have him for a lawyer. Everything was explained to us every step of the way beginning to end. I felt like he gave us the personal attention we needed. His secretary, Kristin, was prompt in returning all calls and relaying messages to Mr. Ranzenhofer. I wish your firm much continuing success. And I would recommend your firm to anyone. It was a long road, but through it all, you had my daughter's best interest at heart. Again, My Deepest Thank You – Mrs. P."

### Trial Attorney, Michael H. Ranzenhofer, has obtained the following personal injury awards and settlements:

- |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>\$800,000</b> for a Genesee County woman injured in a motor vehicle accident.                      | <b>\$250,000</b> for a 58-year-old Buffalo woman who sustained a neck injury in a motor vehicle accident.                                              | <b>\$150,000</b> for an Akron High School student injured at a campfire.                                             |
| <b>\$400,000</b> for an Amherst man injured in a motor vehicle accident.                              | <b>\$250,000</b> from the City of Buffalo for a 59-year-old Amherst woman for a back injury that she sustained when she fell in an abandoned tree pit. | <b>\$125,000</b> for a 70-year-old woman injured at the home of friend.                                              |
| <b>\$342,000</b> for an Alden High School student who injured her knee at school.                     | <b>\$200,000</b> for a woman who injured her knee when she fell due to a loose stairway railing.                                                       | <b>\$100,000</b> for an 88-year-old Akron woman who injured her shoulder when exiting the car driven by her husband. |
| <b>\$325,000</b> for a Buffalo teenager injured during cheerleading practice.                         | <b>\$185,000</b> for a 67-year-old Cheektowaga man who injured his foot when he slipped and fell on accumulated snow and ice in a driveway.            | <b>\$37,000</b> for a Buffalo State student who injured her ankle during a deck collapse.                            |
| <b>\$300,000</b> for a Buffalo man injured in motorcycle accident.                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |
| <b>\$275,000</b> to a 33-year-old West Seneca woman injured when rear ended by another motor vehicle. |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                      |

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING- The LegalSurvival.com Newsletter is published as a public service by Friedman & Ranzenhofer, P.C., Attorneys, with offices in Akron, Buffalo, Batavia, Rochester, West Seneca, Niagara Falls and Williamsville/Clarence, New York. The firm, founded in 1955, practices estate planning, real estate, personal injury, probate, criminal, traffic, marital, family, business, municipal, corporate, debt collection, landlord/tenant and elder law. Your comments and questions are always welcome. For further information or to obtain permission to reprint the contents of this newsletter, call Robert Friedman at (716) 631-9999, visit the Legal Survival web site at [www.legalsurvival.com](http://www.legalsurvival.com) or e-mail to [rfriedman@legalsurvival.com](mailto:rfriedman@legalsurvival.com).

While a great deal of care has been taken to provide accurate and current information, the ideas, suggestions, general principles and conclusions presented in this newsletter are subject to local, state and federal laws and regulations, court cases and any revisions of same. The reader is thus urged to consult legal counsel regarding any points of law – this newsletter should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give the reader a general understanding of the law – not to provide specific advice. Every effort has been made to achieve accuracy. The law constantly changes and is subject to differing interpretations. Always consult with your attorney and act only on his or her advice. Friedman & Ranzenhofer, P.C. shall not be responsible for any damages resulting from any inaccuracy or omission. This newsletter is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered. If legal advice or other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. Certain portions of this newsletter may be applicable only to New York State law. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

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## Senior Health & Fitness Fair

Senior Health & Fitness Fair is being held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 from 9 AM to 1:30 PM at the Clarence Senior Center, 4600 Thompson Road. Sponsors are Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Clarence Senior Center, Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC Attorneys and the Akron-Newstead Senior Center. The completely free event will offer lunch; health screenings; prizes; demonstrations; and exhibits. For further information, contact Debbie Santiago at 716.633-5138. ■



**Blue Cross & Blue Shield  
of Western New York**

**AKRON-NEWSTEAD  
SENIOR  
CITIZENS**

**Clarence  
Senior  
Center**