

# 9 OFFICES IN FIVE WNY COUNTIES

## Akron Office

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PO Box 31  
Akron, NY 14001

## Batavia Office

113 Main Street • Suite 3  
Batavia, NY 14020

## Buffalo Office

70 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14202

## Clarence/Williamsville Office

8207 Main Street • Suite 13  
Williamsville, NY 14221

## Lockport Office

6409 Dysinger Road  
Lockport, NY 14095

## Medina Office

113 West Center Street • Suite 2  
Medina, NY 14103

## Niagara Falls Office

810 Main Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

## Orchard Park Office

4211 North Buffalo Road • Suite 17A  
Orchard Park, NY 14127

## Rochester Office

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Rochester, NY 14625

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Robert Friedman

## PROBATE, GUARDIANSHIP & NURSING HOME MEDICAID WEBINARS

Attorney Robert Friedman, drawing on over forty-one years of estate planning and elder law experience, will be presenting these three webinars:

**“Guardianships for Incapacitated Persons”** on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 10 am to 11 am. The Center for Elder Law & Justice partnered with the Erie County Department of Senior

Services (“ECDSS”) to host the 2020 Virtual Elder Law Day Summer Series to provide information on legal issues affecting older adults and assist them in making informed choices about their health, financial well-being, and long term health care needs. Mr. Friedman will explain Mental Hygiene Law Article 81 guardianships for incapacitated persons, alternatives to guardianships, how guardianships prevent elder financial abuse, use of guardianships in Medicaid planning and real life examples of guardianship cases. To obtain a free copy of *Stop Elder Abuse Guide* to accompany the webinar, see “Free Resources” at WNY-Lawyers.com. Register on the ECDSS website at [www2.erie.gov/seniorservices](http://www2.erie.gov/seniorservices).

**“Fourteen Ways to Preserve Your Assets with the Medicaid Laws”** on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm is being hosted by the Amherst Center for Senior Services. 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, guardianships, caregiver agreements, and promissory notes. The new lookback period for Medicaid home care will also be discussed. Register at [wny-lawyers.com/webinars/](http://wny-lawyers.com/webinars/) or call 716.631.9999.

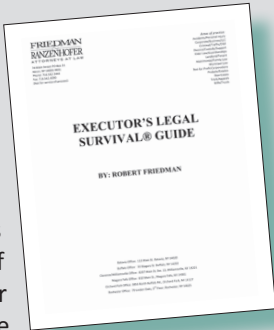
**“Fifteen Ways to Avoid Probate”** on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am is being hosted by the Amherst Center for Senior Services. Learn estate and asset protection planning techniques, the risks and benefits of avoiding probate, the best forms of real estate ownership, the most common estate planning mistakes, recent changes in estate and gift tax laws, the duties of trustees and executors, myths about living trusts, when to update your will, and how to prevent will contests. Register at [wny-lawyers.com/webinars/](http://wny-lawyers.com/webinars/) or call 716.631.9999. ■

## CHILD VICTIMS ACT (“CVA”) DEADLINE EXTENDED ONE YEAR

The window for victims to file otherwise time-barred cases under the CVA has been extended for an additional year to August 21, 2021. The United States Bankruptcy Court, however, has set a deadline of November 16, 2020 for filing bankruptcy claims against the Boys Scouts of America. The CVA expands the rights of survivors of sexual abuse by extending the statute of limitations for bringing both civil and criminal claims against priests, teachers, counselors, and anyone else who has sexually abused a minor. Robert Friedman answers the “12 Most Commonly Questions Asked by Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse” at [wny-lawyers.com/child-victims-act](http://wny-lawyers.com/child-victims-act). For a free confidential consultation, call 716.542.5444. ■

## EXECUTOR'S LEGAL SURVIVAL® GUIDE

The newly released 2020 edition of the *Executor's Legal Survival® Guide* is designed to assist you in naming a good executor in your will, explain to executors their duties and responsibilities, and inform estate beneficiaries of the role of the executor in the probate process.



The guide, by attorney Robert Friedman, answers such frequently asked questions as: What is probate? What are the executor's responsibilities? What are the steps in probating a will? Should a family member be named as executor? What death benefits are available? What qualities and abilities should an executor have? There are numerous checklists including: documents that the executor must collect, who the executor must notify, how to preserve estate property, what advisors to hire, and what records must be maintained. To obtain a free copy, call us or see "Free Resources" at WNY-Lawyers.com. ■

## WHAT'S NEW AT FRIEDMAN & RANZENHOFER, PC?



Sam Alba

- **Our Orchard Park Office** is now located at 4211 North Buffalo Road, Suite 17A (Second Floor). The building is handicap-accessible with an elevator and ramps to the front and rear doors. There is a large parking lot in the rear of the building.
- **CSEA Legal Services Plan** has appointed us as exclusive plan attorneys for Erie, Niagara, Monroe, Orleans, Wyoming and Genesee Counties.
- **Sam Alba** was re-elected as Erie County Bar Association director, reappointed as Depew Village Attorney/Deputy Prosecutor and named as a *Super Lawyer* rising star in New York State for personal injury and criminal defense. *Super Lawyers* is a peer reviewed honor limited to no more than 2.5% attorneys in the state of New York.
- **Landlord Covid-19 Legal Survival, Covid-19 Estate Planning and Covid-19 Employment Issues** pages were added to our websites, WNY-Lawyers.com and LegalSurvival.com, to continuously update our clients on the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on their legal rights.
- **Robert Friedman** was interviewed on WKBW TV on landlord/tenant Covid-19 eviction issues on April 29, 2020, June 30, 2020 and July 16, 2020. ■

## FRIEDMAN & RANZENHOFER, PC CELEBRATES 65TH ANNIVERSARY

We are celebrating our 65th anniversary in 2020. Founded in 1955 by Holocaust survivor and U.S. Army veteran Fred Friedman, our general practice law firm has grown from one office in Akron to nine offices in five Western New York counties. As a convenience to our clients, offices are located in Akron, Williamsville/Clarence, Orchard Park, Medina, Lockport, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Batavia and Rochester. We attribute our success to client education, community involvement, and a reputation for cost effective, practical solutions to legal problems. Attorneys, Mike Ranzenhofer, Robert Friedman (second generation attorney), Sam Alba and Justin Friedman (third generation attorney) are available to advise their clients seven days a week. Our commitment to community and public service has enabled us to better understand the needs of our clients. ■

### Contact Us 24 Hours a Day

*Have a late night urgent legal question?*

*Have you been injured in an accident?*

*Arrested for DWI?*

*Served with a lawsuit summons?*

We answer our phones, 716.542.5444 and 585.343.0746, twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week. Additionally you can reach us using the chat service and contact forms on our websites, WNY-Lawyers.com and LegalSurvival.com.



**YOU DIED...**  
**WHERE IS YOUR WILL?**  
*Your basic will prepared*  
**ONLY \$149**  
Call 716.631.9999 or 585.343.0746  
**WNY-Lawyers.com**



Mike Ranzenhofer

## WE HELP INJURY VICTIMS

Consult for FREE with experienced personal injury attorneys who you know and trust. Our local and compassionate attorneys obtain justice for our injured clients. Whether you are hurt in a car or on a motorcycle; or because of a slip and fall, dog bite, or defective product, our attorneys will fight to get you the compensation that you deserve.

✓ **Experience:** Mike Ranzenhofer has obtained significant results for injury victims. For over 40 years, Mike Ranzenhofer has

taken the time to listen to you and fight for the injury justice that you are entitled to.

✓ **Availability:** We are available seven days a week by telephone at 716.542.5444 or 585.343.0746; text at 716.983.6370 or email: mranz@legalsurvival.com. We will personally meet you at your home, the hospital or at one of our nine local offices.

✓ **No Fee Guarantee:** You pay no fee unless you win your case. ■

## OUR CLIENTS' RECENT PERSONAL INJURY SETTLEMENTS

SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	CAUSE OF ACCIDENT	INJURIES	AGE
\$300,000	Slipped and fell on ice in chiropractor's parking lot.	Broken ankle.	52.
\$275,000	Car collided with farm vehicle with no lights or reflectors.	Ankle injury.	55.
\$250,000	Grate covering second story window fell and struck dog walker in head, knocking her to ground.	Wrist injury.	65.
\$217,500	Tim Horton's employee tripped over a "glob" of asphalt left by paving contractor.	Broken knee cap.	59.
\$195,000	Two car collision.	Neck injury.	60.
\$175,000	Tripped and fell on low-profile planter at mall.	Fractured right elbow.	75.
\$125,000	Tripped and fell on broken concrete sidewalk.	Ankle injury.	76.
\$100,000	Developmentally disabled man struck by a motor vehicle while legally walking in street.	Fractured jaw and pelvis.	56.
\$100,000	Car accident.	Neck and back injury.	67.
\$90,000	Passenger in truck struck from behind.	Wrist injury.	75.
\$90,000	Attacked by dog with propensity for violence.	Scarring on right arm.	5.
\$85,000	Rear-ended in car collision, pushing knee into dashboard.	Knee injury.	45.
\$75,000	Car crossed center line and struck another car.	Neck and shoulder injury.	47.
\$75,000	Car accident.	Back and neck injury .	58.
\$55,000	Slipped and fell at store with wet and slippery entrance.	Hip injury.	29.
\$50,000	Tripped over a "gap" in front door threshold which landlord failed to repair after numerous requests.	Broken hip.	52.
\$50,000	Slipped and fell on slippery store floor.	Broken knee.	55.
\$45,000	Struck by vehicle when lawfully crossing street.	Injured hand.	63.
\$45,000	SUV struck by rented vehicle that ran a red light while being chased by Buffalo Police.	Multiple disc herniations.	54.
\$40,000	Rear-end motor vehicle collision.	Neck and back injury.	51.
\$40,000	Fell on slick Metro Rail platform.	Broken hip.	76.
\$30,500	Foot slipped into hole in front yard while taking grandchildren trick or treating.	Broken ankle.	68.
\$27,000	Pedestrian attacked by dog.	Scars on back.	8.

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1955 **65** years 2020  
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## NEW MEDICAID LOOKBACK

Beginning January 1, 2021, there will be a Medicaid transfer penalty for those applying for Medicaid Managed Long Term Care or other home care services; or for the Assisted Living Program. The lookback will apply to new applications, after January 1, 2021, for transfers made on or after October 1, 2020. Applicants must submit a form from a doctor indicating that they meet the functional requirements for home care. The 30-month lookback is similar to that of a Medicaid nursing home application. The lookback will be phased in. Applications filed in January 2021 must include three months of financial records beginning October 1, 2020. By April 2023, thirty months of records will be required. Applicants who made any non-exempt transfers will be subject to a period of ineligibility ("penalty period") based on the amount of the transfers. ■

## PRO BONO DEFENSE FOR PEACEFUL PROTESTERS



Justin Friedman

In response to the wave of the protests that swept across Western New York following the tragic death of George Floyd, the criminal defense attorneys at Friedman & Ranzenhofer, PC have been offering free legal defense to protestors who have been arrested while engaged in peaceful demonstrations. On July 22, 2020, at our first appearance in Buffalo City Court representing two peaceful protestors who had been arrested in Niagara Square for disorderly conduct, attorney Justin Friedman made a motion to dismiss the charges based on the insufficiency of the criminal complaint. Despite opposition by the assistant district attorney, the court granted the motion to dismiss. The court granted a similar motion that he made on August 12, 2020 on behalf of a peaceful protestor who had been charged with obstruction of governmental administration.

According to Mr. Friedman, "My pro bono work on these cases reflects our firm's overall commitment to racial equality and the importance of providing legal representation to protect the civil rights of those who would otherwise have limited legal options." While at the Catholic University Columbus School of Law, Friedman organized naturalization seminars for immigrant communities, lead groups to New Orleans to assist in public defense, and participated in the school's Clemency Clinic, investigating claims for the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project and filing petitions for executive pardons and sentence commutations. If you arrested for peacefully protesting in Western New York, contact us for free representation at 716.542.5444 or [jrf@legalsurvival.com](mailto:jrf@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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