

18 Top lawyers honored for time in, out of office

May 25, 2023 — EAST MEADOW HERALD

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It was an experience that provided plenty of perspective, including for Frank Torres.

"Whenever I'm honored and recognized for what I do in my field of law, it's so humbling," said Torres, an associate attorney with Duffy & Duffy. "I never would have expected so many years later after getting out of law school that I would have gotten to this point."

That point was being recognized as one of the Top Lawyers of Long Island during a ceremony last week, May 17, at the Heritage Club at Bethpage. Hosted by RichnerLive — the events division of Richner Communications and Herald Community Newspapers — the event featured some 300 attorneys, all mingling and congratulating each other on their achievements.

Lawyers were awarded for their accomplishments in a wide range of fields, including civil rights litigation, land use and zoning, commercial litigation, personal injury, and dispute resolution.

Jothy Narendran, a co-managing partner with Jaspán Schlesinger Narendran, was named one of the philanthropists of the year. She encourages everybody at her firm to get involved with a charity that they connect with on some level. For Narendran, that work involves Spectrum Designs, a custom apparel shop that employs individuals who are neurodiverse.

"It's so nice to be recognized, especially in the community that we're in," Narendran said. "I don't think there's success without giving back."

Amy Amato, executive director of RichnerLive, expressed gratitude for all who attended and made the event possible. Herald publisher and chief executive Stuart Richner described the gala as a "great way to celebrate all of the legal firms and professionals that contribute to our community. They are critical to ensuring that everyone's interests are represented both fully and fairly. And I congratulate all of the winners for their hard work, passion and expertise."

A portion of the ticket proceeds were donated to the Suffolk County Bar Association Charity Foundation, and the Nassau County Bar Association We Care Fund. There the money will be used for educational and charitable purposes, including the improvement of citizenship and justice, and to provide scholarships, grants and charitable programs to help those in need.

Brad Cronin, founding partner of Cronin & Cronin Law Firm, was honored with the lifetime achievement award for tax certiorari. He's been practicing in his field for 40 years.

"You do a lot of hard work to get to this point," Cronin said, "but the wonderful thing is I have a wonderful staff that's been with me for 20, 30 years. And it means a lot that they've been able to support me and everything I do."

Giuseppe Franzella, member of Bond Schoeneck & King, was honored for his work in commercial litigation. Franzella chose this particular path of law because of his family, and that he's known that that was what he wanted to do since he knew what work was.

"I just wanted to be able to advocate for people and really solve people's problems, which is what I do today as a litigator," Franzella said. "I'm very flattered to be honored. It feels great to have the support of my firm and the local legal community, and it's an honor to be among this group that's been nominated, which is people I've worked with in the legal community, and looked up to, for a long time."



Simone M. Freeman <i>Partner</i> Land Use & Zoning	Jothy Narendran <i>Co-Managing Partner</i> Philanthropist of the Year	Lawrence J. Tenenbaum <i>Partner</i> Labor & Employment	Tyleana K. Venable <i>Associate</i> Education Law
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