

AVENUE'S LEGAL ELITE

This month, *AVENUE* teamed up with Lexis Nexis Martindale-Hubbell to compile a list of the city's top attorneys, in practice areas most relevant to our readers. Those who made the cut have all received an AV Preeminent Rating™—the highest Peer Review Rating™ available. Whether selecting a firm to meet your personal legal needs or seeking to validate credentials, our list provides the information you'll need to obtain the best representation out there. Here, you'll find just some of the names you need to know. For the complete list, please visit www.avenueinsider.com.

The Estates Man

Attorney Michael N. Connors' passion for his work in trust and estates law carries over into the community



MICHAEL N. CONNORS, ATTORNEY

Connors & Sullivan Attorneys-At-Law, PLLC
7408 Fifth Avenue - Suite 2
Brooklyn, NY 11209
718.238.6500
www.connorsandsullivan.com

Whether advising a client, fielding questions on his radio talk show, or appearing on television as an expert in his field, Michael N. Connors is dedicated to his work in trust and estates law. Born and raised in New York City, Michael N. Connors enlisted in the United States Army shortly after his graduation from Pace University, serving as a noncommissioned officer in Germany until his honorable discharge. Once home, Connors enrolled in Brooklyn Law School, and attained his degree in 1979. He founded his private practice in Brooklyn in 1981. Five years later, he partnered with Florence Sullivan, the Republican candidate for U.S. Senate in 1982, to form Connors and Sullivan PC. The company has grown to become a mid-sized firm that deals almost exclusively with trust and estate law, with an emphasis on estate planning, estate administration, and the related taxes.

"We are small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to have attorneys and staff that can give you experienced advice, whatever your situation," says Connors of his firm. For him, the key to being a top lawyer is the ability to foresee all potential scenarios and develop contingency plans for any complications that might arise. "As lawyers, we have to be flexible in our planning and prepare for both the best and the worst case possibilities," Connors says.

For more than 20 years, Connors has been looked to as an authority on the importance of wills and estate planning; he spends much of the time educating communities on these topics through regular seminars that focus on asset protection and taxation. He has appeared on CNN, NY1, and ABC News. He also hosts a radio talk show called *Ask the Lawyer* in which he breaks down the complexities of trust and estates law for his listeners on WOR NewsTalk Radio 710 every Saturday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. Connors served on the New York State Governor's Advisory Committee for the Aging for more than 15 years, and for more than six years on the New York State Ethics Commission Public Advisory Council. He is the National Judge Advocate for the Catholic War Veterans and serves on the board of directors for his Legatus chapter and for the Civil War Round Table of New York.

"One of my proudest moments was when I helped free two sisters in their 80s from a nursing home that was holding them against their will," Connors remembers. Another success for Connors and Sullivan was the use of a combination of discounts on the transfer of a \$30 million property in an estate so that only one-third its value was subject to estate taxes. His determined work ethic aside, Connors is passionate about what he does. Even after 30 years of experience, he still loves his job. "Meeting with clients and becoming acquainted with them and their families, knowing their history and hearing their stories, is the most rewarding aspect of my work," he says. "Getting to know the client as a person, not as a file, is extremely satisfying, and at the end of the day that really is what motivates us." ♦