

L A W

Old friends return to Meltzer Lippe's labor group

By **ROSS DALY**

Meltzer Lippe Goldstein & Breitstone LLP has added seven attorneys in recent months to give the Mineola law firm a robust labor and employment practice.

In October, Jonathan Farrell and Michael Masri left Rivkin Radler to join Meltzer Lippe, and were soon joined by Alex Leong, also of Rivkin Radler.

Last week, Peter A. Schneider and Thomas J. Bianco, two of the name partners in the Woodbury law firm of Kaufman, Dolowich, Schneider, Bianco and Voluck LLP, joined Meltzer Lippe, along with two other partners of the firm, Carmelo Grimaldi and Richard M. Howard. Meltzer Lippe now has a total of about 40 attorneys.

More than five years ago, Meltzer Lippe had a three-person practice in labor and employment, but the partners left. Now, two of the departed have returned.

"The ones who came back were particularly exciting, confirming what we knew – that it's a good firm with good people," said managing partner Lewis Meltzer.

Meltzer said the firm's core practice areas involve corporate taxes and real estate, areas that have many employment and labor issues such as employment contracts for key executives.

Also, some large corporate clients have many employees and are at risk of wage claims and discrimination lawsuits, Meltzer added. "It's a natural fit with the rest of our practice," he said of the new group. "We had been missing it and we are very, very happy to have the people who left us, rejoin us."

One of the returning attorneys is Jonathan Farrell, who first worked at Meltzer Lippe from 1996 to late 2001.

Farrell cited the firm's "fair and equitable" compensation, and stressed the importance of the firm's employee benefits practice, which dovetails with the employment and labor group, as reasons for his return.

Farrell heads the labor group, and has been talking to attorneys outside the firm with the intention of adding still more people. "Without a doubt, there will be more labor attorneys," he said.

Other areas in the firm are growing as well, Farrell said, noting, "The firm has had unbelievable growth."

Meltzer Lippe's Labor & Employment practice represents management exclusively.

Moot award named for retiring professor

Barbara Lukeman, an associate in the Long Island office of Nixon Peabody LLP, has resigned as a full-time professor at Hofstra Law School, where she taught courses in appellate advocacy, legal writing and research, and ran a moot court competition seminar.

To commemorate her time at Hofstra, the student-run Moot Court Assoc. has announced that it is launching an award in Lukeman's honor. The award will be given each year to an outstanding law student who advances the goals of the Moot Court Assoc. and the moot court program at Hofstra Law School.

Lukeman earned both her undergraduate and law degrees from Hofstra. In her practice at Nixon Peabody, she concentrates on commercial, complex tort and product liability matters pending in state and federal courts. She also has experience with issues in product liability and toxic tort litigation.

Hofstra Law School students finished as quarterfinalists in the Herbert Wechsler National Criminal Law Moot Court Competition in Buffalo in March. It was the first time the school participated in the event.

Films are focus of matrimony seminar

It's a seminar equally suited to attorneys, psychologists and film school students.

Wisselman, Harounian & Assoc. P.C. of Great Neck, a firm specializing in family and matrimonial law, will present "A Legal Perspective of Marital and Domestic Issues Portrayed in American Film."

Using clips from "The War of the Roses," "Kramer vs. Kramer" and "I Am Sam," the seminar will examine the legal and mental health issues depicted in the films and how they are actually handled by today's courts. The range of legal topics discussed will include domestic violence, occupancy of the marital residence, maintenance of the marital standard of living, economic partnership, equitable distribution and valuation, the best interests of the child, abandonment by a parent and parental alienation, joint custody, neglect, parental fitness, fathers' rights, supervised visitation and foster care.

The seminar is designed to appeal to those in the mental health community, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and marriage counselors. The firm has received more than 100 responses, the most in six years of offering workshops, said Sharyn O'Mara, the firm's marketing associate.

The event will be held twice, at the Port Washington Yacht Club May 4 and at noon June 8.