

## Chief Judge Carl L. Bucki

### Staff Information

**Marcia Bannister**, Judicial Assistant

**Phone:** 716.362.3280

**Adolph Iannacone**, Law Clerk

**Phone:** 716.362.3282

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### About:

**Judge Carl L. Bucki** began his service with the United States Bankruptcy Court on December 30, 1993. Since January 1, 2007, he has served as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York.

Judge Bucki is a graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences of Cornell University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree *magna cum laude* and with distinction in 1974. He then earned his Juris Doctor degree *cum laude* from the Cornell Law School, where he also served as Articles Editor of the Cornell Law Review. Following graduation, Judge Bucki served as confidential law clerk to the Honorable Matthew J. Jasen of the New York Court of Appeals. He then entered private practice, first at the firm of Moot & Sprague from 1977 to 1990, and then at the firm of Cohen, Swados, Wright, Hanifin, Bradford & Brett from 1990 until his appointment to the court. From 1986 to 1993 he also held the position of national counsel for the Polish Union of America.

Judge Bucki served as chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association from 1988 to 1989, as a member of the Association's House of Delegates from 1989 to 1991, and as an Eighth District Representative to the Association's Nominating Committee from 1990 to 1994. He was District Representative to the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the American Bar Association from 1987 to 1989. As a member of the Bar Association of Erie County, he was appointed chair of the Commercial and Bankruptcy Law Committee from 1987 to 1990. Judge Bucki has also authored numerous scholarly works, including articles in the Cornell Law Review, the New York State Bar Journal, the American Bankruptcy Law Journal, and the Western New England Law Review. He served as the Second Circuit Representative on the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges from 2001 to 2004, and as an Associate Editor of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal from 2007 to 2010.

**HON. JOHN M. CURRAN**

92 Franklin Street, Part 3

Buffalo, New York 14202

(716) 845-9471

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**JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE**

June 2004 - **Justice of the Supreme Court - 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**  
Present Buffalo, New York  
Justice of New York State's trial court of statewide jurisdiction

January 1996- **Orchard Park Town Justice**  
May 2004 Orchard Park, New York  
Judge for municipality of 28,000 residents.

**LEGAL EMPLOYMENT**

May 2000 - **Phillips Lytle, LLP**  
May 2004 Buffalo, New York  
Partner in 170-lawyer firm founded in 1834.

May 1987- **Albrecht, Maguire, Heffern & Gregg, P.C.**  
May 2000 Buffalo, New York  
Partner in 18-lawyer firm founded in 1920.

September 1984- **Mershon, Sawyer, Johnston, Dunwody & Cole**  
April 1987 Miami, Florida  
Associate in commercial litigation department of 85-attorney law firm.

Summer 1983 **Brown & Kelly**  
Buffalo, New York  
Law Clerk

May 1982- **Hurwitz & Fine**  
April 1983 Buffalo, New York  
Law Clerk

Summer 1980 **United States Attorney's Office**  
Buffalo, New York  
Undergraduate Clerk

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

January 2006 -  
Present

**Canisius College**  
Buffalo, New York  
Adjunct Faculty Member: “The American Constitution”

## EDUCATION

**State University of New York at Buffalo Law School**  
Buffalo, New York  
Juris Doctor: May 1984

- Second Place Oralist, National Finals, 1983 National Appellate Advocacy Competition involving 254 competitors from 120 law schools - Atlanta, Georgia.
- First Place Team, Regional Competition, 1983 National Appellate Advocacy Competition - Brooklyn, New York.
- Robert T. Connolly Award for Excellence in Trial Practice Course.
- Graduate Assistantship awarded in senior year to assist in developing new law alumni magazine.

### **University of Dayton**

Dayton, Ohio  
Bachelor of Arts, History: April 1981

- Magna Cum Laude, 3.86 GPA (Top Four Percent)
- Dean's List, Eight Consecutive Semesters
- John F. Kennedy Award - Upperclass Academic Scholarship
- Assistant Editor of College Newspaper

### **Canisius High School (1977)**

Buffalo, New York

## ELECTIVE OFFICE

**Orchard Park Village Trustee (1991-1993)**

## AWARDS/

## PUBLICATIONS:

- Distinguished Alumnus Award for the Judiciary, SUNY at Buffalo Law School (2013)
- “Citizen of the Year, 2008,” The Buffalo News
- Curran, *Issues Involving Medical Records at Trial*, 86 NY St BJ 36 (November/December 2014)
- Curran, *The “Professional Reliability” Basis for Expert Opinion Testimony*, 85 NY St BJ 22 (July/August, 2013)
- Curran & Berman, *Gremlins and Glitches: Using Electronic Health Records at Trial*, 85 NY St BJ 20 (May, 2013)

- “Trial & Post-Trial Motions,” Chapter 49, “Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts” (3rd Edition)
- Principal Draftsman, Bench Book for Electronic Discovery for NYS Judges

**BAR MEMBERSHIPS**

- Florida (1984) (inactive)
- New York (1986)
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- United States District Court for the Western District of New York
- United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- The Florida Bar
- Erie County Bar Association

**ASSOCIATIONS**

- Committee On Pattern Jury Instructions, Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York
- American Law Institute
- Supreme Court Justices Association - 8th Judicial District (Treasurer 2006; Secretary 2007; President 2008)
- University at Buffalo Law Alumni Association (President 2005-2006; Treasurer 2003-2004; Director 1999-2003)
- School Board, Nativity of Our Lord Elementary School (Vice President 2007-2008; President 2008-2009)
- Orchard Park Chamber of Commerce (Vice-President 1998; Director 1996-1998; 2000-2002)
- Canisius High School Alumni Assoc. (President 1992-1993)
- NYS Magistrate’s Association
- Orchard Park Youth Court Volunteer Attorney
- Orchard Park Little League Coach
- Nativity School Baseball Coach

**FAMILY**

- Spouse: Margaret McGrath Curran
- Children: Emily Rose Curran (26 years)  
Neil McGrath Curran (23 years)  
John Patrick "Jack" Curran (22 years)



# Harter Secrest & Emery LLP

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS



## Raymond L. Fink

PARTNER

**Locations:** Buffalo, Rochester

**Phone:** 716-844-3724

**Fax:** 716-853-1617

**Email:** [rfink@hselaw.com](mailto:rfink@hselaw.com)

## Practice Areas

- Bankruptcy, Financial Reorganization, Insolvency
- Financial Services
- Health Systems and Hospitals
- Litigation
- Manufacturers and Distributors
- Secured Lending/Asset Recovery

## Bar Admission

- New York

## Professional Experience

Raymond Fink has been practicing law for more than three decades, and during that time he has represented corporate clients at various stages of development, earning a reputation for his ability to formulate innovative business strategies that take into consideration the available resources, timing issues, and business objectives.

He has represented clients in many diverse industries including private financial organizations, banking institutions, equity finds, secured creditors, lessors and lessees of equipment and real estate, franchisers and franchisees, health care facilities, agricultural lenders, various business enterprises, and business owners in internal business disputes.

He is also an experienced mediator/arbitrator and a Part 36 certified court receiver.

His experience includes:

- Representation of asset purchasers in large national chapter 11 case

- Representation of automobile dealerships in General Motors and Chrysler bankruptcy proceedings
- Representation of retired officers in chapter 11 proceedings Mark IV Industries
- Representation of mortgage holders in large, complex commercial foreclosures and restructuring of significant commercial mortgage loans.
- Representation of Creditors Committee in Laidlaw chapter 11 proceedings.
- Represented a chapter 11 trustee in a complex proceeding involving the closure and potential expansion of a non-hazardous municipal waste landfill.
- Representing numerous secured creditors and equipment lessors in a variety of workouts and bankruptcy matters, including several large national/international banking institutions.
- Representing secured lenders in significant national bankruptcy proceedings, including the cases of the *Bennett Funding Groups, et al.*, *C.I.S. Corporation, et al.*, *First Republic Bancorp et al.*, *Peter J. Schmidt et al.*, and *Columbia Gas Transmission Company, et al.*
- Prosecuting and defending complex litigation concerning fraudulent conveyances and preferential transfers.
- Representation of business owners in internal disputes, including litigation concerning valuation of ownership interests.

## Education

- University of Toledo, College of Law, J.D., 1977
- University at Buffalo, B.A., 1975

## Professional and Civic Activities

- Member, Bankruptcy Law Section, New York State Bar Association
- Member, American Bankruptcy Institute
- Member, Business Corporate Law Committee, New York State Bar Association
- Current Board Member and Former Board President (2003-2005), Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo, Inc.
- Vice President, Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies
- Court Certified Mediator
- Certified Receiver
- Former Member, Attorney Grievance Committee for the Eighth Judicial District
- Former President, Bar Association of Erie County (1994-1995)
- Former Board Member, Bar Association of Erie County (1987-1990)

- Former Chair, Committee on Commercial and Bankruptcy Law, Bar Association of Erie County (1985-1987)

## Honors and Awards

- Named in *Best Lawyers*® as the “Best Lawyers’ 2016 Litigation-Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year” in Buffalo.
- Named in *Best Lawyers*® as the "Best Lawyers' 2015 Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law“ Lawyer of the Year” in Buffalo.
- Named in *Best Lawyers*® as the "Best Lawyers' 2012 Litigation-Bankruptcy Lawyer of the Year" in Buffalo.
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the field of Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Commercial Litigation, and Litigation - Bankruptcy.
- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion in *Super Lawyers*® 2013-2015
- Legal Elite of Western New York, *Buffalo Business First/Buffalo Law Journal* - 2015
- Who's Who in Law, *Business First of Buffalo/Buffalo Law Journal* - 2004, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012

## Speaking Engagements

- Frequent lecturer, continuing legal education programs sponsored by the New York State Bar Association and Bar Association of Erie County
- Client-specific in-house seminars

## Judge Michael J. Kaplan

### Staff Information

Christine Klimko, Judicial Assistant

Phone: 716.362.3270

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### About:

**Michael J. Kaplan** is a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of New York. At the time of his appointment to the bench in 1991 he was Clerk of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. He served as Chief Judge from 1993 to 2000.

Judge Kaplan earned his B.A. degree from Columbia University in 1968 and his J.D. degree from Boston University School of Law in 1971.

He joined Lawyers Co-Operative Publishing Company in 1972, rising to senior editor before leaving in 1981. Also during this period he was active in the private practice of real estate law (1974 to 1981), and was an adjunct faculty member of the Rochester Institute of Technology and Monroe County Community College (1973 to 1981). He became Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York in 1981, serving in that position until 1988, when he was appointed Clerk of the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. He remained in the latter situation until his judicial appointment in 1991.

Judge Kaplan is a former member of the United States Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System, the Second Circuit Judicial Council Bankruptcy Committee, the Second Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel Service, and the Board of Governors of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He is a current member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and the Erie County Bar Association.

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## Commercial Division - NY Supreme Court

### *8th Judicial District*

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### **Biography of Justice Timothy J. Walker**

Justice Timothy J. Walker is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo (B.S., Business Administration, 1985, cum laude), and the University of Toledo College of Law (J.D., 1988, magna cum laude), where he served on the Editorial Board of the Law Review, and was inducted into the Order of the Coif. In December, 2006, he was appointed to the New York State Court of Claims, and has since been designated as Acting Justice of the Supreme Court.



Justice Walker began his career with the law firm of Moot & Sprague in Buffalo, New York. His law practice primarily consisted of commercial and complex tort litigation, representing individual business owners, as well as Fortune 500 and multi-national organizations.

At the time of his appointment to the bench, Justice Walker was a partner in the Litigation Department of Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, where he also served as the Firm's Chief Ethics Officer (2002-2005). Justice Walker also served as Councilman for the Town of Eden (2001-2005), Board Member of the Eden Central School District (2000 - 2006; President, 2004 - 2006), and Eden Town Prosecutor (1996-2001).

Justice Walker is a member of the New York State and Erie County bar associations, as well as the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. He is a past member of the American Bankruptcy Institute. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York and before a number of Federal Trial and Appellate Courts.

Prior to assuming the position of Presiding Justice of the 8th Judicial District Commercial Division, Justice Walker was responsible for developing procedures for, and supervising the Residential Foreclosure Conference Program in the 8th Judicial District (2007-2010).

Web page updated: January 4, 2013