

Q&A with Elaine Colavito and John Farrell – A Focus on the Firm’s Suffolk County Office

Recently, Michael Sahn had a conversation with partners Elaine Colavito and John Farrell about the Firm’s Suffolk County Office in Hauppauge, and their focus on expanding the Firm’s practice in Suffolk County and eastern Long Island. Elaine and John share their insights, including how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected them and our clients. Here are the highlights of the conversation.

Q. Both of you live in Suffolk, so give me your perspective on the development of our Suffolk practice?

Elaine: Since both John and I live in Suffolk, devoting our time to developing the Suffolk practice is a natural and productive effort for us. We know the Suffolk communities, the Court system and the municipalities. We want to take advantage of our knowledge, and we both enjoy practicing in our home areas, so to speak. I focus on matrimonial and family law, while John concentrates on zoning, land use and municipal practice. This allows us an opportunity to diversify the practice areas and share our backgrounds with the clients. At the same time, we both still do a lot of work in Nassau County, and collaborate with all the Firm’s attorneys on our areas of specialization.

Q. How did the Pandemic affect the practice?

John: Having to work remotely presents many difficulties for everyone, but we had a distinct advantage because we still had access to the office. Elaine and I had to stagger our work hours since we, like others, had to tend to remote schoolwork with our children, and all our other family obligations. The most significant factor we recognized during the Pandemic was the need to devote a substantial amount of our time to expanding the Suffolk office while servicing our clients. Since then, we have had multiple team meetings to implement new strategies which have resulted in remarkable growth in the practice. We know the Firm’s goal is to establish a widely recognized regional practice throughout Nassau, Suffolk, New York City and Westchester and we are really enthusiastic to lead the way “out east”.

Q. Do you expect to expand the actual office space to accommodate growth?

Elaine: Absolutely. We are considering that now. We actually have expansion plans on the table. We need more space as we anticipate hiring other attorneys with a Suffolk County focus. Also, the Firm’s attorneys are spending more time in Suffolk with us because of the increasing number of Suffolk cases. The office also provides a convenient place to meet clients, have closings and work. We have other attorneys and staff who live in Suffolk, which makes Hauppauge a great place to get together and collaborate.