

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES
MAY 16, 2012 LEGISLATIVE FORUM
ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION, NYSBA

Honorable Senator Mark J. Grisanti

The Senator was born and raised in Buffalo, NY and is the youngest of six brothers and sisters. He graduated from Sweet Home High School and attended Canisius College, where he received his Bachelor's of Arts degree in English. After finishing his undergraduate degree he received his Juris Doctorate from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Throughout college he was a member of the Student Bar Association, received numerous certificates and book awards, and was a member of the Entertainment Committee for the Bar Association and the Italian Law Society.

After graduating law school Senator Grisanti worked at his father's law firm that his grandfather founded in 1921. As a third generation attorney, Senator Grisanti has worked at his family's practice for over 18 years. He first became interested in running for State Senate when practicing law on the lower west side of Buffalo. Senator Grisanti quickly distinguished himself as an attorney who stands for those who can't help themselves.

Senator Grisanti is ready to take on the tough issues such as UB 2020, redevelopment of the Niagara Falls airport, education reform and eliminate fraud in Medicaid. Senator Grisanti's goal is to have unification among leaders in the Western New York area. Senator Mark Grisanti sees the position of New York State Senator in the 60th district as a privilege, not a right.

Senator Grisanti attends St. Rose church, and currently resides in North Buffalo with his wife Maria, and three children, Ashlee, John, and Theresa. He is a member of the Erie County Bar Association, the Delaware club, the Italian-American Police Association, the Assigned Counsel Program, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, the New York State Troopers Association, the Buffalo Police Benevolent Association, and the Police Athletic League. He is a longtime contributor to the St Rose of Lima church, the St. Anthony of Padua church, the Canisius College Alumni Association, and many others. Mark has received certificates of appreciation from the Erie County Bar Association, the American Heart Association, BornHava, Roswell Park Cancer Institute and has been a notable contributor to many other organizations.

Selected Bills Sponsored by Senator Grisanti in 2011-2012 Session

S2642-2011: Requires mandatory compliance with existing safe handling and personal protective measures by workers who come into contact with pressure-treated wood marine piling. Committee: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** | Requires mandatory compliance with existing safe handling and personal protective measures by workers who come into contact with pressure-treated wood marine piling.

S2643-2011: Requires the placement of one recycling receptacle for drink containers for every four waste receptacles on state owned property. Committee: **FINANCE** | Requires the placement of one recycling receptacle for drink containers for every four waste receptacles on state owned property.

S2646A-2011: Provides electronic toll collection discounts for certain fuel efficient vehicles. Committee: **TRANSPORTATION** | Provides electronic toll collection discounts for certain fuel efficient vehicles.

S2647-2011: Relates to the liability of landowners who permit recreational uses of their land. Committee: **JUDICIARY** | Relates to the liability of landowners who permit recreational uses of their land; establishes landowners owe no duty to keep premises safe for entry, passage over premises or other recreational uses or to give warning of any hazardous condition of use of or structure or activity on such premises to persons entering for such purposes.

S2648-2011: Protects certain information on hunting, fishing and trapping license and permit applications from disclosure. Protects certain information on hunting, fishing and trapping license and permit applications from disclosure or release outside of the department of environmental conservation.

S2650A-2011: Relates to management of wildlife resources. Committee: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** | Relates to management of wildlife resources; permits the release of certain ring-necked pheasant or quail birds without permit; adjusts the hunting season to August 16 to April 15, catch limits, and geographic areas for hunting certain species.

S2651A-2011: Provides that diesel fuel that contains a concentration of sulfur that is less than or equal to 15 parts per million shall not be sold unless it includes biodiesel. Committee: **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** | Provides that diesel fuel that contains a concentration of sulfur that is less than or equal to fifteen parts per million shall not be sold or offered for sale unless such diesel fuel includes biodiesel as its lubrication additive.

S2663A-2011: Enacts the "New York state healthy and green procurement act". Committee: **FINANCE** | Enacts the "New York state healthy and green procurement act".

PETER G. FANELLI (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)



Since May of 2007, Peter G. Fanelli, a native of Queens, has served as the Director of Law Enforcement for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Albany. Director Fanelli oversees a sworn force of three hundred and fifty men and women, working out of nine regional offices, spread over all sixty-two counties of the State. This unit, small in comparison to the State's population, are the State's experts in law violations involving hazardous waste, water pollution, pesticides, chemical and petroleum spills, air pollution, recycling, hunting and trapping, endangered and dangerous species, and fresh and saltwater fishing. Since there is no place in the State they do not patrol, Homeland security has been added to his duties during his tenure.

Prior to being selected to lead the Division, Director Fanelli served in various capacities as he came up through the ranks. Starting in June of 2006 he served for one year as the Assistant Director for Field Operations with the rank of Colonel. From October of 2002 to June of 2006 he was the District Major for the southern district, overseeing regional operations in New York City, Long Island and the mid-Hudson Valley. During this time he was responsible for the expansion of the Division's off-shore marine presence into a formal Marine Enforcement Unit using the Division's largest and most well equipped patrol boats, which are now armed with some of the State's most sophisticated counter-terrorism technology.

From August of 1997 to October of 2002, he was the Regional Captain for the mid-Hudson Region. It was during this time that he attended the FBI National Academy. It was also during this time that the events of September 11 led to increased involvement in security issues for all police marine patrols on the Hudson River. Then Captain Fanelli coordinated the Division's participation in security details for the Indian Point nuclear power plant and the numerous bridges and public mass gathering events along the River.

Director Fanelli served as a Lieutenant in various capacities from December of 1988 to August of 1997 supervising environmental conservation officers in the five boroughs and then in Herkimer and Oneida Counties. In 1996 and 1997 he was the training officer for the Division and completed the COPS MORE grant application that brought laptop computers to the field officers for the first time.

His career started with a field officer position in Broome County in the fall of 1980. He came to the position from the New York State Department of Health where he served as an Assistant Research Scientist working on health studies on the residents of the Love Canal and the employees of Hooker Chemical in Niagara Falls. Previous to that he was employed as an environmental health technician with the Albany County Health Department and an environmental educator with the Rensselaer County Environmental Management Council.

Director Fanelli holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University.

KATE SINDING (Natural Resources Defense Council or NRDC)

Ms. Sinding is a senior attorney and deputy director of NRDC's New York urban program. Her work includes advancing recycling programs for used electronics (e-waste) and ensuring the proposed natural gas drilling in New York State is subject to the most stringent environmental and health protections. She also works on advancing smart growth for communities in the New York region, as well as other waste and land use matters. Prior to joining NRDC in November 2006, Kate was a partner in the specialty environmental law firm of Sive, Paget & Riesel, P.C. Kate is a member of the board of the New York Product Stewardship Council and sits on the Manhattan Citizens' Solid Waste Advisory Board. She has taught Environmental Law at Columbia University and Fordham University Schools of Law. Kate is a graduate of New York University Law School, the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University, and Barnard College.

LISA M. BURIANEK (Office of the New York State Attorney General [Eric Schneiderman])

Ms. Burianek has been an Assistant Attorney General for the State of New York since 1993, and is currently Deputy Bureau Chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau, managing staff in the Albany and Buffalo EPB offices. Prior to working as an Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Burianek has also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and as an Assistant Regional Counsel in the Office of Regional Counsel, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2. She received a B.A. in 1981 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in geography (meteorology/climatology) and a J.D., from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1985.

DARREN SUAREZ (NYS Business Council)

Mr. Suarez is director of government affairs, where he fosters The Business Council's advocacy efforts by spearheading the Council's energy and environment/OSH committees.

Darren comes to The Business Council from Hinman Straub LLC, where he served as a government analyst. While there, he lobbied on behalf of a number of Fortune 500 companies on energy and environment issues. Before that Darren was the program director for environmental and economic development for the New York State Senate. While working for the Senate he represented the Majority Leader in meetings and public events. He also, developed, amended, and negotiated economic development tax incentives. He worked for the City University of New York and Cornell University. He worked for the New York State Department of Labor as a job services representative working with employers to meet their workforce needs.

Darren holds a degree in Political Science from UMass - Dartmouth. He was the recipient of the 2006 Economic Development Service Award in recognition of work in attracting AMD to

construct a \$3.2 billion 300 mm-wafer fab in New York State. He was the coauthor of the 2005 amendments to the Empire Zone tax incentive program. He was awarded the 2005 New York Nature Conservancy's Salamander Award for working to protect New York's biodiversity and a joint recipient of the 2004 National Conference of State Legislatures Staff Chair Award for work as a primary author of New York's Brownfield Cleanup Program.