

MANN REPORT RESIDENTIAL

| REAL ESTATE LAW |



Sandy Schwartz, Jeffrey Kaplan, and Ross Levine

Growing up on Long Island, childhood friends Sandy Schwartz and Ross Levine didn't plan to open their own midtown law firm together one day, but looking back it was destined to be.

Today both bright and energetic young men—along with their former boss—Jeffrey Kaplan are partners in the growing boutique law firm Schwartz, Levine & Kaplan, PLLC that excels in real estate law and in particular, transactions involving the sale and acquisition of high-end properties, both commercial and residential.

Schwartz and Levine attended the University of Michigan and applied to Brooklyn Law School, unaware the other had as well. They would graduate together and start their legal careers at a Park Avenue firm where they met Jeffrey Kaplan, the manager who hired them. But it didn't take long before the hardworking power trio saw how well they worked together.

In 2005 Schwartz, Levine and Kaplan left to start their own company—on a shoe-string, but the risk paid off. Today SL&K has grown to five attorneys and is busy earning a reputation as “zealous legal advocates” for their clients who see the big picture and get the deal closed. The firm is located at 60 East 42nd Street, directly across from Grand Central.

SL&K's principal areas of practice include high profile residential/commercial real estate transactions, bank/lender representation, matrimonial and family law and gen-

A Young, High-Energy Law Firm Brings Personalized Approach To Real Estate Law

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eral litigation including catastrophic medical malpractice and personal injury cases.

“For a relatively small firm, we efficiently handle a high volume of commercial and residential real estate deals,” said Schwartz, who pointed out the company handles between 80-100 real estate transactions at a given time—everything from commercial building sales—throughout the five boroughs and surrounding suburbs, to international, high-net worth condominium closings at the Plaza or Essex House Hotels.

The firm has built a reputation for developing innovative methods to enable its clients to maximize their individual transaction through complex real estate ideas involving esoteric concepts such as utilizing a “splitter” on a residential transaction, which Levine points out, “saves clients a lot of money.”

At SL&K, clients include an impressive and varied group of real estate developers, investment companies and mortgage banks like Bank of America, Wells Fargo, First Republic Bank, Met Life and hedge funds.

“We have a strong track record based on our aggressive and demanding style and approach to resolving clients' most unique and challenging legal matters,” said Kaplan, who heads the firm's matrimonial and litigation department, and has earned a reputation as one of the city's top divorce attorneys, winning high-pro-

file lucrative divorce settlements, both in and out of court.

The firm also prides itself on offering all clients “24/7 access” through the use of technology and personal hands-on relationships that put the clients first. At SL&K one or more partners work on every case.

Schwartz learned early on how important it was to reach one's lawyer. “I saw my dad, who owned a commercial construction business, get super stressed-out when he couldn't reach his attorney,” said Schwartz, who was introduced to the real estate industry early on by his father and grandfather, longtime real estate developers in New York and South Florida. “Today our clients never have to worry about that.”

“We are extremely efficient and speedy,” added Levine. “No one has ever lost a deal because of us, or because we dragged our feet.”

In addition to all New York State Courts, the firm represents clients in the Federal Court in the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and all state and federal Courts in New Jersey. ■

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