

HJ&S
HUNZIKER, JONES & SWEENEY, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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ABOUT THE FIRM

The Law Offices of Hunziker, Jones & Sweeney traces its roots back to the 1890s, when the firm's original founders began the practice of law.

The firm includes top-notch legal professionals who are experienced in many areas of law, providing clients with excellent representation they can rely on for their legal issues. The firm has grown through the years to include the legal talents of Susan E. Champion, A. James Romer, Jr., Michael Sweeney, and Christopher E. Miller. The firm stands out by providing sophisticated legal representation accompanied by individual and prompt attention to its clients, developing long-standing attorney-client relationships based on mutual respect and confidence.

Over the course of 100 years, the firm has built a loyal client base due to its moral strength, integrity, and professional stability. Concentrating in the areas of Elder Law, Trusts and Estates, Real Estate, Bankruptcy, Business Law and Litigation, Family Law, and Chancery Litigation, the attorneys have all spent their adult lives in New Jersey and are dedicated to providing personal attention to clients' special needs and interests.

The firm is dedicated to providing high-quality legal representation at reasonable costs to clients throughout the state.

PRACTICE AREAS:

Elder Law

Trusts and Estates

Real Estate

Bankruptcy

Business Law & Litigation

Family Law

Guardianships

Conservatories



OUR ATTORNEYS

Michael J. Sweeney, Partner

Mr. Sweeney joined the firm in 2006 and concentrates in bankruptcy, business law and litigation, EDA and SBA financing, and transportation law. He has been practicing for over 35 years and has served as a qualified mediator.

Mr. Sweeney is a member of many professional organizations, including the American Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Association, and the Passaic County Bar Association. He has also served as a Barrister/Master for the Justice Robert L. Clifford Inns of Court. He has also served four-year terms on the District XI Ethics Committee and the District XI Fee Arbitration Committee, having been appointed to those committees by the New Jersey Supreme Court. For more than 15 years, Mr. Sweeney has served on the Board of Managers for Memorial Day Nursery School in Paterson, New Jersey.

Practices: Bankruptcy and Business Law and Litigation

Education: SUNY Stony Brook, B.A.; Rutgers University School of Law, J.D.

Bar Admissions: New Jersey, New York

Court Admissions: United States District Court of New Jersey, United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, United States Tax Court, United States Supreme Court

Susan E. Champion, Partner

Ms. Champion joined the firm upon graduating law school. She has been practicing for 40 years, concentrating in the areas of elder law, trusts and estates, guardianships and conservatorships, chancery litigation, and municipal law. Her previous experience includes the City of Paterson Law Department, and serving as Corporation Counsel to the City of Paterson.

An active member of the legal community, Ms. Champion's professional affiliations have included being a member of the National Academy of Elder Law; the Institute of Municipal Attorneys; the New Jersey Bar Association and the Passaic County Bar Association. Ms. Champion was appointed to the District XI Ethics Committee by the New Jersey Supreme Court and served as Vice President and Master of the Justice Robert L. Clifford American Inns of Court. Additionally, she is a member of the Guardianship Association of New Jersey, Inc.

Practices: Elder Law, Trusts and Estates, and Guardianships and Conservatorships

Education: Muhlenberg College, B.A. *cum laude*; Boston College Law School, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions: New Jersey

Court Admissions: United States District Court of New Jersey, United States Third Circuit Court of Appeals

A. James Romer, Jr., Partner

Mr. Romer has been a member of the firm since 1989 and practices in the areas of elder law, estate planning, trusts and estate administration, real estate law, business and commercial law, business organizations and taxation law.

An active member of the legal community, Mr. Romer is a member of the Elder Law Section of the Passaic County and New Jersey Bar Association; the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Section of the New Jersey Bar Association; the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; the Elder Law Section and Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York Bar Association; the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the American Bar Association; and the Wayne Rotary. Mr. Romer is also a Member of the Board of the West Milford Chamber of Commerce.

Practices: Elder Law, Trusts and Estates, Real Estate Law, and Business Law and Litigation

Education: Fairleigh Dickinson University, B.A.; Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

Bar Admissions: New Jersey, New York

Court Admissions: United States District Court of New Jersey

Christopher E. Miller, Partner

Mr. Miller has been employed by the firm since 2011 and became a member of the firm in 2019. He concentrates in the areas of trusts and estates, bankruptcy, and chancery litigation. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a law clerk for the chancery judge in the Passaic Vicinage in New Jersey, where he helped write a significant number of legal opinions. He also served as an Associate In-House Attorney for a media company in New Jersey, concentrating in the areas of employment law and public access to records.

PRACTICE AREAS

Mr. Miller received his Juris Doctorate from Seton Hall University School of Law and has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Hamilton College. During law school, Mr. Miller was a member of the *Journal of Sports and Entertainment Law* and was the recipient of a Chancellor's Merit Scholarship, in addition to being awarded Best Brief for his Appellate Advocacy Class.

Practices: Bankruptcy and Business Law and Litigation

Education: Hamilton College, B.A.; Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

Bar Admissions: New Jersey, New York

Court Admissions: United States District Court of New Jersey

Howard A. Ebright, Of Counsel

Mr. Ebright joined the firm in 2006 and concentrates in bankruptcy, business law, civil litigation, collections, estate planning, family law, insurance subrogation, land use, municipal court, and real estate. He also has military experience, having served in the Military Intelligence Service for the U.S. Army.

Mr. Ebright is a member of several professional organizations, including the New Jersey Bar Association, and the Passaic County Bar Association and taught a Skills and Methods course at the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. He served as a Trustee on the Board of Directors for the Passaic County Legal Aid Society and was appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to serve on the District XI Ethics Committee and District XI Fee Arbitration Committee. Additionally, he was appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to serve on the advisory committee on The Skills and Method Course for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Mr. Ebright previously served as Municipal Court Prosecutor and Zoning Board Attorney in Elmwood Park, New Jersey.

Practices: Bankruptcy, Business Law, Civil Litigation, Collections, Estate Planning, Family Law, Insurance Subrogation, Land Use, Municipal Court, Real Estate

Education: New York University, B.A.; Seton Hall University School of Law, J.D.

Bar Admissions: New Jersey

Court Admissions: United States District Court of New Jersey, United States Supreme Court

Elder Law

The firm offers representation in the full array of legal issues affecting the aging population. The firm's attorneys understand that this area of the law can be emotional, and serve with respect and compassion. The firm assists seniors and their families in Medicaid planning, asset preservation, and trusts and estates issues, including will contests, the choosing of fiduciaries and end-of-life planning.

Trusts & Estates

The firm offers comprehensive legal representation for all estate planning needs from the simple to the complex. Estate planning ensures that a client's wishes upon death respecting distribution of assets are clear, and the estate is protected against creditors' and other familial claims. The firm's services include:

- Wills
- Estate Administration
- Fiduciaries
- Power of Attorney
- Intestacy Law
- Trusts
- Estate Taxation
- P.O.L.S.T.
- Supplemental Needs Trusts





Guardianships & Conservatorships

The firm represents clients in guardianship and conservatorship petitions and proceedings. In the unfortunate case when an individual becomes incapacitated and needs the assistance of others, a legal guardian must be appointed. The firm's attorneys are experienced in analyzing individual circumstances to determine the best legal strategy. In New Jersey, there are specific forms of legal guardianships such as a Veteran Guardianship and a Guardianship for developmentally disabled persons. If the court appoints an individual as a power of attorney for another, New Jersey conservatorship laws will apply.

Real Estate

The firm represents clients in residential and commercial transactions, both as sellers and purchasers. With a full array of services, clients will receive invaluable counseling and advice from start to finish. The firm's experienced real estate attorneys prepare and review contracts, perform extensive title searches, complete all necessary legal documents required in a property transfer transaction, and provide thorough representation at closings. The firm also handles multi-million-dollar commercial financing transactions for its clients as well. Our attorneys have experience with SBA and EDA funding for its business clients.

Bankruptcy

The firm represents individuals facing the unfortunate situation of bankruptcy. Bankruptcy law is complex, involving federal law mandates and exemptions. The firm's dedicated and skilled attorneys assist clients in navigating through the bankruptcy issues of which assets are exempt, how to handle judgment liens, and whether a residence can be saved from foreclosure. It is vital to seek the guidance of an experienced bankruptcy attorney in order to protect your legal rights.

Business Law & Litigation

The firm's business law and litigation team assists clients, not only in the structuring and financing of a new business, but also with more complex issues, such as litigation. The attorneys are knowledgeable in corporate structures, and assist in writing comprehensive contracts and business agreements. The attorneys advise clients in various strategies for both small and large corporations. When forming a business or corporation in New Jersey, retaining skilled attorneys is vital to ensure a successful venture.

Family Law

The firm's attorneys offer wide-ranging legal representation when it comes to family law issues. Providing high-quality legal representation, the firm's attorneys will advocate to obtain the best possible outcome for its clients. The firm offers representation in the following matters:

- Divorce
- Child Custody & Support
- Equitable Distribution
- Alternative Dispute Resolution



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