

WARD & MURPHY

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS-AT-LAW

AUGUST 2001

Changes to Serve You Better!

New Offices ...

Our new main office is easy to find – right across the street from the First National Bank of Groton and between the Red Apple Market and the Groton Historical Society. This historic house offers an expanded waiting area, the convenience of having all your files in one office, and easy parking in the rear of the office or across the street.



Our New Office - 170 Main Street Groton

In Ithaca, you now can find us at 109 East Seneca Street – across the street from the DeWitt Mall and the Moosewood Restaurant, next door to the Tompkins Trust Company’s Seneca Street lot – and close by our old office in the Clinton House. To be efficient, we open our Ithaca Office by appointment only, so please call ahead before visiting us in Ithaca!

How May We Help You? ...

Mail: Ward & Murphy
170 Main Street
Groton, New York 13073
Phone: (607) 898-3190
(607) 272-2816
(877) 212-4722 (toll-free)
Fax: (607) 898-3765
Email: liam.murphy@clarityconnect.com
Website: <http://www.ward-and-murphy.com>

Estate Planning ... Early is Easy

Most people delay thinking about their death. But the earlier you consider what you would want to happen when you die, the easier it is to plan for it and the more likely that your wishes will be respected. Why? Because consistent documentation on your wishes will build up a “papertrail” of what you wanted, making it very difficult for anyone to claim your wishes were not clear or certain.

What are the pieces of a complete estate plan? There are three basic items:

- 1) A will – a paper telling the world who gets your property when you pass away
- 2) A power of attorney – a paper allowing a trusted person to act for you while you are still alive
- 3) A “living will” – a paper telling doctors who can speak for you when you cannot speak and what treatment you want to refuse.

If you are thinking about making a will, please come prepared with a list of your assets so we can discuss tax issues as well as thoughts about who you would like to receive gifts – large or small.

The Partnership

In 2000, Jack Ward and Liam Murphy formed a partners. What does this mean for you? It means that as Jack slowly retires, Liam will be there to work with the Firm's clients.

While semi-retired, Jack is still very much available. If there is a matter you want to discuss with him personally, leave a message and he will return the call. When Jack is away, however, there can be a delay in his response – and often Liam can give the same answer faster.

As part of this change, Evan Webster became formally “of counsel” to the Firm. As many of you know, Evan retired to Arizona several years ago. The “of counsel” title recognizes that Evan does not actively practice, but remains an advisor. Evan is always available to answer questions about his old friends and clients, which provides continuity to Groton and to the Firm's clients.

Liam joined the practice in 1999 after over ten years in practice. He started at a large firm in New York City from 1989 to 1991, moved to Pittsburgh



Partner Liam G. B. Murphy Joined the Firm in September 1999

and practiced there from 1991 to 1992 and then practiced in Delaware from 1992 to 1999. He spent much of that time litigating cases in both state and federal courts all over the country. You may note that the new Firm letter head notes “also admitted” in Delaware and

Pennsylvania. Liam is, in fact, “inactive” in both those states – meaning he has passed the Bar in both but does not maintain an active license – Liam now limits his active practice to New York State. His full resume is available on the Firm website.

You, of course, retain the choice of who will serve you as a lawyer – including your right to take your business elsewhere. Until you tell us otherwise, Jack and Liam will look forward to continuing relationships with the Firm's clients. We will presume you wish us to continue that relationship unless you tell us otherwise in the next 90 days – and of course you can start or end matters at any other time as well.

New People – and Temporary New Hours

A valued paralegal to the Firm for some time now, M. Tabitha Bordwell recently returned to complete her undergraduate studies as a scholarship winner at SUNY Cortland. In 2000, the Firm added Amy Jackson, who acts both as the Firm's bookkeeper and as an additional resource to clients. Ms. Jackson recently gave birth to her second daughter. With Ms. Bordwell completing her studies and Ms. Jackson tending to her new daughter, we will – for only a short time – have less ability to greet you personally.

From August 20 to December 31, our hours will be as follows:

Appointments available:

- starting as of 9:30 a.m. for times ending by 2 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- starting as of 9:30 a.m. for times ending by 5 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday
- other times available by appointment

We will be able to answer your calls in person from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every business day

At other times, please call 898-3190 and leave a message. In an emergency, call 280-4954 and leave a message.

Questions? ...Call or write us our main office address at 170 Main Street, Groton, New York or use any of the phone numbers you already have -- either at the Ithaca (Jack's old) number (272-2816) or at the Groton office's number (898-3190) or in any of the other ways in the box on the first page -- we are always looking for ways to serve you better.