

PROFILES

HAMPTONS HEDGEROW LEGAL EAGLE

By JULIE LEVENTHAL AND JANET ALEXANDER

Its multi-acre estates, beachside properties, luxurious homes, and famed reputation as a summer destination, make the Hamptons a veritable real estate paradise. The highly desired and unique topography of the Hamptons demands some of the highest priced sales in the country. People from around the world are purchasing land and estates and taking advantage of the great residential and commercial investment opportunities. These purchases require a lot of decision making. Buying, building, and renovating a property have critical legal implications. Hiring the right law firm to oversee your real estate transactions and zoning requirements is imperative.

Edward Burke Jr., the founder of Edward Burke Jr. and Associates LLC, has developed his firm's reputation for expertise in real estate zoning as well as in criminal, negligence, and DWI law. Having grown up in the Hamptons, attended school in Sag Harbor, and worked at his family's restaurant, The Salty Dog, he knows all there is to know about the Hamptons and its politics. Burke is organized, well respected in the community, and comes from a true bloodline of lawyers. His father, Edward Burke Sr., is a retired New York State Court of Claims judge and is currently a Southampton Town Justice, and both his brother and sister practice law.

Burke himself spends most of his time practicing criminal law. Brian J. DeSesa, Burke's longtime associate, primarily focuses on real estate law. "We have a lot of real estate cases," Burke reported. Recent news of the national record-breaking \$147 million home purchase in the East End is a case in point for how the market's comeback is proving to be a boon for Burke's business. To manage the workload, a year ago the firm hired Melissa Aguanno to handle the increasing volume of criminal and trial law cases. "Based on work demands, we have plans to expand," Burke said.

Friendly and detail-oriented, Burke makes clients feel at ease and confident that they are in the hands of a true professional. "I'm proud of the East End and the Harbor. It was a dream of mine as a child to build a business on Main Street in Sag Harbor and my dream has come true."

When he's not practicing law, Burke enjoys quality time with his wife, Patricia, and their three sons. He is also involved with the talent and tenancy of LT Burger, the new Sag Harbor restaurant by Chef Laurent Tourondel, located just below his office. This summer Edward Burke is giving back to his community by assisting in the organization of the Pro-Am Golf Outing to benefit breast cancer research and other local East End charities.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit edwardburkejr.com or call 631.725.3131.



Eddie Burke Jr. / Photo by Daniel Gonzalez