

WHO'S WHO | in Women in Professional Services

EILEEN O'BOYLE BITETTO

*Certilman Balin Adler
& Hyman, LLP*



Eileen O'Boyle Bitetto is a partner at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP in East Meadow. O'Boyle Bitetto concentrates her practice in the area of real estate tax certiorari law and condemnation litigation, which includes issues of real property valuation, particularly the review of assessed valuation—seeking opportunities where taxes may be reduced.

O'Boyle Bitetto also represents clients whose property has been acquired, or is about to be acquired, in

Eminent Domain proceedings – working to ensure that these owners are adequately compensated for their loss of property.

The most difficult challenge facing her industry is convincing a municipality of the value of a piece of property, O'Boyle Bitetto said.

“During these difficult economic times, real estate tax revenue is a critical component to a county, town or village budget,” she said. “It is, therefore, counter-intuitive for a local government to agree that a piece of property has a lower value, as this agreement might lead to a reduction in assessment for the property, which would then lead to a reduction in real estate taxes, and thereby lower revenue for the municipality,” she said.

“The inescapable truth is that commercial property owners are suffering from tenant vacancies and higher expenses; the result being lower overall value for parcel, O'Boyle Bitetto said. “In many cases, therefore, these property owners are entitled to lower real estate taxes, a hard pill to swallow for a government entity burdened by the difficulties of an economic downturn.”

O'Boyle Bitetto serves on the board of directors of the Automobile Club of New York, Inc., which is the local affiliate of AAA. It is a not-for-profit corporation established 100 years ago to maintain a club for auto users and owners, with the pri-

mary purpose of advocating law related to the use, rights and privileges of such owners/users.

Additionally, she volunteers her time as a mentor with the Lawyers in Kids' Education (“LIKE”) program, which was created by the partners at Certilman Balin. As part of this team, O'Boyle Bitetto uses vocabulary enrichment games and offers a listening ear to help at-risk elementary school students with literacy and life.

O'Boyle Bitetto is admitted to the NYS Bar. She is a member of the Nassau County, NYS and Nassau County Women's Bar Associations. O'Boyle Bitetto earned her undergraduate degree in American Studies from St. John's University and her juris doctor from St. John's University School of Law.

Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP is one of Long Island's largest full-service law firms with more than 80 attorneys. With offices in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, its 13 practice areas include: real estate, real property tax certiorari and condemnation, cooperative and condominium, land use and environmental law, corporate/securities, litigation, commercial lending, labor relations/employment law, bankruptcy and debtor/creditor rights, trusts and estates, elder law, municipal law/government relations, and criminal law.