

# ■ Matthew Barnes

Barnes & Barnes

Mixing business with pleasure is not necessarily a successful combination. But Barnes & Barnes Partner Matthew J. Barnes' passion for business blended with his desire for law has proven quite the feat.

Barnes began his public accounting and business taxation studies in college and graduated from Hofstra University School of Law. "I became intrigued by the interplay between commercial law and accounting," he said.

Barnes represents small, mid-sized and large national organizations in pursuit and defense of clients' construction litigation claims, business litigation claims and corresponding transactions,

"In this profession, I have the opportunity to utilize both skill sets – accounting and law – to provide a value added perspective to the firm's business clients," he said.

He considers successfully defending a multi-million dollar complex litigation matter that raised significant, novel legal issues as among his highest achievements.

"It spawned a meaningful extension of law in the Second Circuit of our federal courts," he said. "The result was featured on the front page of the New York Law Journal within days of the favorable decisions."

Prior to joining the firm, Barnes gained

experience as a tax lawyer in a mergers and acquisitions group of a global accounting/financial services firm in New York City. His extensive background in public accounting, coupled with his experience as an attorney, gives him a unique perspective in the context of commercial litigation. He regularly litigates claims in the public and private construction sector involving termination, non-payment, claims for extra work, acceleration or delay, as well as lien law foreclosure and surety rights.

Despite the economic challenges in recent years, Barnes has helped the firm enjoy steady growth, resulting in a recent expansion.

"I hope to continue this trend and counsel a broader array of clientele in the near future," he said.

Barnes was selected by Super Lawyers as a 2011 Rising Star in the area of construction litigation. A member of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations and the New York State Bar Association, he's been published in *The Suffolk Lawyer*. He's a member of the Subcontractors Trade Association and serves on the advisory committee of the New York/Long Island chapter of the American Fence Association.

Barnes is also a member of the Alexander Hamilton American Inn of Court.

