

TUESDAY

June 23rd, 2015 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

SUNY GLOBAL CENTER
116 EAST 55th STREET NEW YORK, NY 10022

THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI MEDALLION SYSTEM AND FOR-HIRE SERVICES IN A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORLD

Join UTRC for a summit that will discuss facts and opinions from a wide variety of stakeholders, policy-makers, and academics on the current state of the NYC taxicab medallion industry, including the valuation of medallions in NYC and beyond. Also, the manner by which the for-hire vehicle industry (liveries, black cars and limousines) are coping with smartphone technology disruption will be discussed. Finally, a primer or review of how NYC's handling of smartphone app regulation fares against the rest of the country will be discussed, including the release of a seminal report on criminal background check best practices conducted by professors at the UTRC and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



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THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI MEDALLION SYSTEM AND FOR-HIRE SERVICES IN A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORLD

Tuesday June 23RD

SUNY Global Center 116 E. 55TH St. New York, NY 10022

Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00AM

9:00 - 9:15AM

OPENING REMARKS

Camille Kamga, Director, UTRC and Assistant Professor, The City College of New York
Matthew W. Daus, Esq., Former NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner/Chair, Distinguished Lecturer, UTRC

9:15 - 9:30AM

WELCOMING REMARKS

Former New York State Governor **Hon. David A. Paterson**

9:30 - 10:00AM

THE REGULATORY FACTS & DATA

Matthew W. Daus, Esq., Former NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner/Chair, Distinguished Lecturer, UTRC

Brook Taye, Regulatory Analyst & Economist, Windels Marx

An analysis of NYC taxicab electronic trip data will be shared to assess the impact of disruptive smartphone technology providers and other factors on NYC medallion values, including trends & future service solutions. Driver income, medallion revenue, ridership & supply/demand trends & geo-spatial trip data will be shared and discussed.

10:00 - 10:30AM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Hon. Michael A. L. Balboni, Former Deputy Secretary for Public Safety for New York State, Former New York State Senator and Chair of the New York State Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

10:30 - 11:15AM

PANEL DISCUSSION 1

"One Standard for All" – Safety, Effectiveness & Best Practices for Taxi, For-Hire & TNC Driver Criminal Background Checks

This session will provide an overview of one of the most controversial national issues involving new Transportation Network Company (TNC) laws that allow self-regulation for smartphone app transportation providers to conduct their own private driver criminal conviction history checks, while many taxi and limousine drivers are still required to undergo biometric fingerprint reviews vetted by government agencies. This session will provide an overview of the methodology and findings of this report published by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice Master's in Public Administration Program.

See <http://mpa.jjconline.net/>

Moderator: Pasqualino "Pat" Russo, Esq., Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York

Professor Lawrence Kobilinsky, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Sciences, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Philip Zisman, Distinguished Lecturer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Executive Director, Association of Inspectors General

THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI MEDALLION SYSTEM AND FOR-HIRE SERVICES IN A DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY WORLD

11:15 -11:30AM

Coffee Break

11:30 -1:00PM

PANEL DISCUSSION 2

Medallion & For-Hire Vehicle Stakeholder Views on “Leveling the Smartphone App Playing Field” in NYC & Beyond

Stakeholders and experts will discuss the impact disruptive smartphone technology has had primarily on the NYC for-hire ground transportation and taxicab markets, as well as elsewhere. A combination of trade group leaders and business owners from the NYC livery, black car, limousine and taxicab industries will be joined by medallion banking executives, banking regulatory experts and medallion brokers, and will “mix it up” with a debate on whether and how to level the playing field, from a public policy and business standpoint.

Co-Moderators:

Ira Goldstein,

Executive Director, NY Black Car Injury Operator’s Fund & Chief Operating Officer, NY Black Car Assistance Corporation

Richard J. Antonacci,

Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President, Signature Bank

Panelists:

Eddie Slinin,

CEO, Corporate Transportation Group

Mark Entin,

CPA & Former Federal Banking Examiner, National Credit Union Administration

Everett Abitbol,

NYC Taxi Fleet Owner, Greater Philadelphia, Chicago & New Orleans Taxi Associations

Cira Angeles,

President and Co-Founder, Livery Base Owners’ Association

Tarek Mallah,

Group Senior Vice President Operations, Karhoo, New York, Livery Roundtable

Ethan Gerber,

Executive Director, Greater New York Taxi Association

Michael Woloz,

Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade

Uber Invited (TBD)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

HON. DAVID A. PATERSON



Former New York State Governor
55th Governor of New York State (2008-2010)

David A Paterson became New York's 55th Governor on March 17, 2008. He immediately raised eyebrows when he warned off an impending fiscal crisis in his inaugural address. Governor Paterson was ahead of the national curve in predicting and acting on the State's fiscal downturn. Despite the greatest economic crisis that New York State has ever faced, Governor Paterson enacted sweeping reforms on a wide range of issues facing New Yorkers.

During the next three years, he would reduce New York's deficit by nearly 40 billion dollars (twice the amount of budget – cutting in any comparable period). He became the first Governor to sign legislation attaching criminal penalties to predatory- lending during the worst foreclosure crisis in American history. He overhauled the Rockefeller Drug Laws which excessively punished low-level drug offenders, while depriving judges of discretion-in-sentencing, for over 35 years. Governor Paterson would introduce landmark civil rights legislation that eventually ended legal discrimination against same-sex couples in New York. He would also increase the welfare allowance for the neediest New Yorkers

for the first time in 20 years.

In 2009, Paterson settled 200 years of legal debate, when the NY State Court of Appeals upheld his appointment of a Lieutenant Governor, Richard Ravitch.

Since stepping down as Governor, David Paterson has hosted a popular drive time talk- radio show on WOR-am in New York City. Governor Paterson served as an adjunct professor of Government in 2011 and 2012 at New York University, and has since moved to Touro college school of Osteopathic medicine. Governor Paterson is a highly sought-after speaker by diverse entities and organizations, and often appears as a guest commentator on political news programs.

Governor Paterson has been appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo as 2014 New York State Democratic Party Chairman, It marks an occasion of a former Governor's return to state service.

HON. MICHAEL BALBONI



Former Deputy Secretary for Public Safety for NYS, Former NYS Senator and Chair of the NYS Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs

Former New York State Senator and Deputy Secretary of Public Safety under two New York State Governors, Michael Balboni is the President and Managing Director of RedLand Strategies, Inc., a consulting firm that provides the expertise, experience and contacts necessary to help companies and government agencies position themselves to get through a crisis, improve business performance, and maximize growth.

Prior to forming RedLand Strategies, Mr. Balboni had been a leader in New York security, politics and government. Following the tragic days of September 11, 2001, Mr. Balboni was appointed as the first Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee. During his tenure, he wrote nearly all of the major laws relating to Homeland Security for New York State, many of which became models for national legislation. In addition, Senator Balboni has served on transition teams for President Obama and Governor Cuomo. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Homeland Security Policy Institute (HSPI) at George Washington University and serves on the Spending and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission.

Mr. Balboni currently serves on several homeland security think tanks, charitable boards dealing with public health and is a regular contributor as a terrorism expert on national and local television and print media.

At RedLand Strategies, Mr. Balboni specializes in providing extensive experience on a broad range of public safety, homeland security, and government relations issues. He provides advice to companies such as JP Morgan Chase, CSX Transportation, Phoenix Beverage, Raytheon, 3VR Security, FJC Security, TEI Group, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Aliah Healthcare, County of Nassau, Town of North Hempstead, JFK International Arrivals Terminal, and Oracle.

SPEAKERS

EVERETT ABITBOL



NYC Taxi Fleet Owner Greater New York, Philadelphia, Chicago & New Orleans Taxi Associations

Everett M. Abitbol is a co-founder of Freedom Taxi. He attended the University of Rhode Island and came to Philadelphia to work as an intern on Edward Rendell's gubernatorial campaign. He subsequently joined Philadelphia's PHL Taxi, as an owner, operator, and broker of taxicabs. During that time, Mr. Abitbol opened Broad Street Capital, a finance company that provided medallion and real estate loan origination with a portfolio in excess of \$100 million. His talent for recognizing underserved markets and a uniquely creative approach to improving the industry through ten years of hands-on experience led Mr. Abitbol to envision a new operation that would serve the needs of owners, drivers, and passengers while improving the quality of life in the city.

Freedom Taxi is the realization of these ideals. Among the first of those underserved who engaged Mr. Abitbol's attention were wheelchair-bound Philadelphians. He devised a comprehensive operation with passenger-friendly booking, well-trained drivers and maintenance workers, new, specially outfitted cabs, and reliable service. In their first year on the road, the five new taxis have transported nearly 2,000 people dependent on wheelchairs.

Freedom Taxi fulfills Mr. Abitbol's ambition to establish Philadelphia's first green and wheelchair-accessible taxi fleet. He also maintains operations in Chicago. Mr. Abitbol and his wife, Valerie, live in Center City, Philadelphia and are active in community and cultural affairs. He was recently honored as the Advocate of the Year by Liberty Resources and was awarded the Susan G. Komen Pink Ribbon of the Month. His dedication to improving the transportation landscape has been covered and recognized by the Daily News, Inquirer and Philadelphia Business Journal who profiled Mr. Abitbol during the launch of Freedom Taxi.

CIRA ANGELES



President and Co-Founder Livery Base Owners' Association

Cira Angeles is the president and Co-Founder of LA Riverside Brokerage, Inc., a leading provider of insurance solutions that serve the risk management needs of the individuals and companies that form the taxi and livery industry in New York City.

She is also the spokesperson of the Livery Base Owners Association (LBOA), an organization dedicated to advocating for the interests of New York City's for-hire vehicle industry. The LBOA has 150 corporate and dispatch members and over 12,000 livery driver affiliates. In her role as spokesperson, she was a leading advocate of the street hail livery bill signed into law in February 2012, which expanded legal street-hail service beyond the borough of Manhattan. The measures enacted by the law have improved the accessibility and quality of transportation services across the city, particularly, in historically underserved communities.

Cira has dedicated over 20 years helping her clients in the city's private transportation sector and, in the process, has become an expert in the field. In 2009, she launched the successful radio program *La Hora del Conductor*, which airs every Saturday at 3:00 PM ET on Univision/Radio WaDO 1280 am radio. The program has become an essential source for industry specific news, and a forum for discussion of important issues affecting the NYC taxi and livery industry. Through this platform, Cira seeks to inform listeners on the influential rules, regulations, and enforcement measures that are enacted and executed by governments and taxi industry regulators. She also discusses the best practices for industry professionals when dealing with insurance matters, health issues workers compensation claims and other key issues.

In addition to her work in the transportation sector, Cira has actively engaged in the development of the Latino community in New York City. She has served on the boards of the Association of Progressive Dominicans (ACDP) and the Puerto Rican Family Institute, and continues to serve on the board of Hostos Community College.

Cira's efforts have earned her numerous citations and proclamations from the New York City Council, New York State Legislature, and various other organizations. The include being honored as the "2012 Latina Businesswoman of the year" by the New York State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos. She was recognized as a "Woman of Merit" in 2012 by El Diario La Prensa, the largest and oldest Spanish-language daily newspaper in New York City. She also received the "Hermanas Mirabal Award of Outstanding Merit" by the Counsel General of the Dominican Republic.

Cira was born in the Villa Trina, Moca, Dominican Republic, a rural town just outside the capital city of Espailat Province in the country's northern Cibao Region. She attended the Universidad Catolica Madre y Maestra and graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering and Fairleigh Dickinson University with a Bachelor's Degree in Arts. She emigrated from the Dominican Republic in 1986, and today lives in Fort Lee, New Jersey.

RICHARD J. ANTONACCI



Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President Signature Financial, LLC

Richard J. Antonacci serves as chief operating officer and executive vice president of Signature Financial LLC, a subsidiary of Signature Bank (NASDAQ:SBNY), a New York-based full-service commercial bank. Signature Financial is focused on equipment finance and leasing, transportation financing and taxi medallion financing.

Antonacci brings more than 25 years of specialty finance experience to his role. During his career, Antonacci has worked primarily with experienced vehicle lessors, providing them billions of dollars in financing and decades of expertise.

As chief operating officer and executive vice president of Signature Financial, Antonacci oversees all operational aspects of managing the specialty finance unit. He is responsible for overseeing lending efforts across transportation verticals within the specialty finance area, specifically taxi finance and vehicle finance.

Prior to joining Signature Financial in April 2012, Antonacci was managing director and executive vice president at All Points Capital/Capital One Equipment Leasing & Finance. He was part of a team that started the de novo operation, which later became the organization's \$4.5 billion specialty finance division. Also, during his 13-year tenure there, Antonacci assumed direct management over the taxi medallion finance unit, growing the portfolio 80+ percent to nearly \$1 billion while also expanding geographically into three additional metropolitan cities over a four-year period.

Antonacci is a member of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association, the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association and the International Association of Transportation Regulators. He was past chapter chairman for the NY Metro/Connecticut Chapter of the National Vehicle Leasing Association (NVLA) and was elected to the executive board of the NVLA NY Chapter after delivering 10 years of service to the association.

MATTHEW W. DAUS, ESQ.



Former NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner/Chair, Distinguished Lecturer, UTRC, & President, International Association of Transportation Regulators

Matthew W. Daus, Esq. currently serves as a Distinguished Lecturer at the City University of New York's (CUNY) Transportation Research Center of The City College of New York. Professor Daus conducts research and is extensively published as an expert on ground transportation regulation and technology. He teaches courses on transportation history, policy, sustainability, for-hire regulation and technology. Mr. Daus also continues to serve as President of the International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR), a non-profit educational and advocacy peer group of government transportation regulators from around the world promoting best regulatory practices. Mr. Daus is the longest serving Chairman of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), serving for 8 ½ years. Prior to his tenure as Commissioner, Mr. Daus served in executive positions in NYC government for almost 16 years at several agencies including as General Counsel to the TLC and the NYC Community Development Agency, as Special Counsel to the TLC and NYC Trade Waste Commission, and as a NYC Human Rights Prosecutor. Mr. Daus is a partner and currently chairs the Transportation Practice Group at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP.

MARK ENTIN



CPA & Former Federal Banking Examiner National Credit Union Administration

Mark D. Entin is a Certified Public Accountant practicing in NYC. Past experience includes working for the Federal Government as an IRS agent, SEC examiner and a compliance examiner for the National Credit Union Administration. Out of 30 years federal government experience, 25 of them were spent working for NCUA.

For the last 20 years as an NCUA examiner, he was heavily involved in the oversight and monitoring of taxi medallion credit unions. Reviews were primarily focused on medallion loan policies and underwriting. Since his retirement in 2012, he has performed a significant amount of credit union consulting primarily focused on assisting taxi medallion credit unions. His work includes helping the various credit unions prepare for both NCUA and NYS Financial Services reviews.

ETHAN GERBER



Executive Director Greater New York Taxi Association

Ethan Gerber is the Managing Partner of Gerber & Gerber PLLC, a 32 employee boutique law firm concentrating in the tax industry. He is also the Executive Director of the Greater New York Taxi Association, a board member, and counsel to the Association. G&G has been a leading force in the industry for many years and defends the overwhelming majority of selfinsured tax corporations. Mr. Gerber also counsels his clients on corporate matters and on the transfer and sale of their assets, and is a frequently interviewed by TV Radio and print journalists on tax related issues. Mr. Gerber was the President of the Brooklyn Bar Association in 2011 and 2012 and has served as the BBA's secretary, treasurer, and vice president. He is on the Board of Governors of the New York City Trial Lawyers Association, and has served on the judicial screening committees of the New York City Bar Association, the Brooklyn Bar Association, the Judicial Candidate Selection Committee of the Kings County Democratic Party and for the Independent Judicial Election Qualification

Commission, State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department. He also serves as vice chair of the legislation committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association (to Chairman Frank Seddio, Head of the Democratic Party of Brooklyn, and as a member of the BBA grievance committee. He worked as an attorney for two of New York's leading bodily injury firms and served as felony trial assistant district attorney for the Kings County District Attorney's Office. He has published law articles and taught several certified continuing legal education classes in both tort and commercial law. He is a graduate of Hobart College in Geneva, NY, and of Brooklyn Law School, where he served as an Editor of the Law Review.

IRA GOLDSTEIN



Executive Director, NY Black Car Injury Operator's Fund & Chief Operating Officer, NY Black Car Assistance Corporation

Prior to joining the Black Car Fund, Mr. Goldstein served as Chief of Staff for most of his nine plus years at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. Mr. Goldstein has enjoyed a distinguished and varied career leading up to his successful tenure in government. Among his most challenging roles were time spent as the general counsel and chief compliance officer for a Wall Street brokerage firm, where he specialized in representing start-up broker/dealers in getting NASD approval. Mr. Goldstein began his legal career with a real estate litigation firm and also handled many general practice issues, experience which served him well in his starting role as a staff attorney and executive director of the TLC's Consumer Relations Division, prior to his elevation to Chief of Staff.

CAMILLE KAMGA



Director, University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) Assistant Professor, The City College of NY, CUNY

Camille Kamga is the Director for the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) and an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at The City College of New York. As a consortium of 18 major U.S. academic institutions, UTRC asserts a significant role in the Federal Region 2 and nationally, conducting research and projects on surface transportation, carrying out training and educational programs and actively disseminating the results of its work. It is one of the few such Centers in the U.S. federally designated since 1987.

Dr. Kamga is a member of the TRB's Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee (ABJ30). He serves in the Board of Director of the Intelligent Transportation Society of NY – a professional group providing education and outreach to foster the understanding of ITS applications and technologies. He is also a member of Education and Research Committee of the International Association of Transportation Regulators. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Graduate Center, CUNY, specializing in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). He is the 2006 recipient of the National Pikarsky Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Science & Technology from the Council of UTC.

LAWRENCE KOBILINSKY



Professor and Chairman Department of Sciences, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky has been at John Jay College since September 1975 when he joined the interdisciplinary forensic science department as its forensic biologist. He received his B.S. and M.A. degrees from The City College of The City University of New York in 1969 and 1971 respectively and his Ph.D. degree from The City University of New York. His doctoral work was performed at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in the department of Biochemistry. After receiving his doctorate he became a postdoctoral fellow at the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York City. While there he became a research associate and eventually a visiting investigator. At John Jay College he was promoted to the positions of assistant, associate and full Professor and served in an administrative capacity as Acting Dean of Graduate Studies and subsequently as Undergraduate Dean and Associate Provost. He has also served as Science Advisor to the College President and is currently Chair of the Department of Sciences. He is a member of the doctoral faculties in Biochemistry and Criminal Justice at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. He has served as a consultant to CBS, NBC, ABC, and many other network and cable news programs on issues related to forensic science. He also served as an advisor to the U.S. State Department regarding forensic science laboratories in The Ukraine.

TAREK MALLAH



Group Senior Vice President Operations Karhoo, New York, Livery Roundtable

A recognized leader in the New York ground transportation industry, Tarek's experience includes serving as the General Manager of the Dial 7 Car & Limousine Service, Vice President of the Corporate Transportation Group and Director of International Affiliate Relations at CLS Chauffeured Services. Tarek is also a co-founder of the Livery Roundtable, a "coordinating council" representing the unique interests of the livery industry in New York City."

PASQUALINO "PAT" RUSSO, ESQ.



Adjunct Professor John Jay College of Criminal Justice of the City University of New York

Professor Pasqualino "Pat" Russo, Esq. has been an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice since 2001, where he instructs courses in the Master in Public Administration Inspector General Program, including Ethics in Public Employment, Human Resources Management, and Public Administration. In 1990, he graduated from Brooklyn College with a B.A. in History cum laude. In 1993, Pat earned his law degree from Brooklyn Law School, where he served as Vice President of the Student Bar Association and was a staff member of the Brooklyn Law School Journal of Law and Public Policy.

In 1997, Pat began a career in public service when he was appointed to serve as Counsel to the Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General, where he led and supervised investigations and criminal prosecutions of fraud, abuse and corruption at the local and state level. Pat continued in public service when he was appointed an Administrative Law Judge for the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission ("TLC"). Pat was elevated to the Appeals Unit, and was subsequently appointed as the Chief Administrative Law Judge. In 2007, Pat joined the NYC Department of Investigation ("DOI") as Inspector General for the City. At DOI, he supervised and led public corruption investigations involving public servants, contractors, and elected officials. Most notably, Pat spearheaded the federal corruption prosecution of a former NYC Councilmember for using discretionary funding for personal and political gain, as well as numerous, successful state and federal prosecutions of public officials and contractors who had defrauded New York City.

In March 2012, Pat joined Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP as Special Counsel in the Transportation Practice Group. He provides counseling to corporations, non-profit organizations and individuals on a variety of matters, including internal investigations, integrity monitoring and corporate governance. In 2014, Pat was promoted to Senior Special Counsel.

In March 2014, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo appointed Pat, with the consent of the NYS Senate, to the MTA Inspector General Management Advisory Board. Pat serves as the Treasurer of the Association of Inspectors General. He is a member of the Government Ethics Committee of the New York City Bar Association, and is a member of the Federal Bar Council and the Brooklyn Bar Association.

EDUARD SLININ



President & Founder Corporate Transportation Group, Ltd.

Mr. Eduard Slinin is the President and Founder of Corporate Transportation Group, LTD ("CTG"), one of the largest, global ground transportation companies in the world. With over 35 years of unparalleled success, Mr. Slinin is an expert in the ground transportation industry. He is one of the industry's pioneers, building one of the largest fleets of cars and global affiliate networks spanning 39 countries and 450 of the world's largest cities. Through Mr. Slinin's strong vision and capable leadership, he has revolutionized corporate and paratransit transportation at CTG, completing millions of rides per year throughout the New York metropolitan area and around the globe. His endless commitment to his employees, customer service, and strong desire to seek new horizons has kept his company on the forefront of the ground transportation industry. Mr. Slinin serves as a Fox Business News contributor and has been appointed to multiple leadership positions, including serving on the board of directors of Black Car Assistance Corp. and the New York Law Enforcement Association. Mr. Slinin is one of the most successful and respected entrepreneurs of his time in ground transportation with two (2) former United States Senators, as well as other notable political figures on his board of directors for CTG.

BROOK TAYE



Regulatory Analyst & Economist New York City law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP

Brook Taye is Regulatory Analyst & Economist at the New York City law firm of Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP. He is also a PhD. Candidate at École Polytechnique in Paris, France. His PhD. research area focuses on High Growth Entrepreneurial Firms in Africa. Brook has a law degree from University of London at the School of Oriental & African Studies in London, England; European Master in Law and Economics from University of Ghent, Belgium; Master in Economic Analysis of Law and Institutions from Université Paul Cézanne Aix -Marseille III, France; and Master in Law and Economics from University of Bologna, Italy. At his current position Brook is responsible, among other things, for conducting legal and economic analysis of various transportation related issues for multiple clients.

MICHAEL WOLOZ



Managing Partner and Chief Strategist Connelly McLaughlin & Woloz

Michael Woloz joined the public affairs firm Connelly McLaughlin & Woloz in 2000 and became a named partner in 2011. He is currently the firm's managing partner and chief strategist. Mr. Woloz has managed public relations, government relations and marketing campaigns for corporations, boards of trade, universities and nonprofit organizations. He successfully negotiated landmark state and city environmental legislation on behalf of multiple energy clients, shaped the media narrative of clients undergoing major regulatory changes, built marketing campaigns for start-up businesses and helped secure funding and public awareness for a variety of major cultural clients.

In 2015, he was featured in the annual ³Power 100² by City and State Magazine which also called CMW a "go-to firm for public affairs." Also in 2015, he and the firm were named among the City's top real estate lobbyists by "The Real Deal" and in 2014, Crain's New York Business included Mr. Woloz and the firm among the "in-crowd" of lobbyists in 2014. The New York Times has also regularly highlighted his firm as influential in New York City politics today.

Mr. Woloz has appeared on WABC-TV's ³Up Close with Diana Williams,² NY1's ³Inside City Hall,² ³Fox 5 News with Ernie Anastos² and is a regular spokesperson for clients in various print, broadcast and online media outlets. Mr. Woloz has served on numerous panels including the "Art of Advocacy" in early 2015 and numerous panels on taxi-related topics. Mr. Woloz has an expertise in the taxi industry, having long represented the Metropolitan Taxicab Board of Trade, the oldest and largest taxi fleet trade association in the United States.

Mr. Woloz has held various appointments including the nationally recognized Mayor's Clean Heat Task Force. Mr. Woloz is active in a number of non-profit and charitable organizations including the arts education group, Young Audiences New York, where he is a longtime Board Member. Additionally, he is Co-Chairman of the Powhatan Democratic Club in Queens.

In July 2013, Mr. Woloz co-produced the first Mayoral Forum on Arts and Education in New York City held at Columbia University Teachers College. More than 1,000 New Yorkers attended the sold-out forum.

