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Karin Moran, MSW

Jeremy Darman, MSW, MA

Here Comes the Bride? With a vote of 89 – 52 the New York State Assembly passed a bill to legalize same sex marriage earlier in the week. The measure was voted on after much debate that proved to be spirited at times and moving at others. Particularly relevant to note is a number of Republican House members who changed their votes from No to Yes, such as Assemblyman Fred Thiele of the Hamptons... “There’s that little voice inside of you that tells you when you’ve done something right, and when you’ve done something wrong, that vote just never felt right to me. That little voice kept gnawing away at me.” One Democratic member, Bob Reilly, representing part of the capital district, went so far as to apologize for his no vote in 2007 before voting in favor of the bill this week. There were, of course, opponents who spoke out as well, such as recent Congressional candidate, Jim Tedisco of Schenectady and Saratoga counties...“I think you can see the kind of slippery slope we’re going down here,” he said. “What I see here is individuals trying to change the definition of a longstanding institution called marriage to fit into their agenda.” The battle will now move to the Senate, and we will, of course, keep you up to date.

Something Old – Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli is again calling for reformation of the State’s budget process. In a recently released report, DiNapoli restates his “poor opinion of the 2009-2010 budget — which he, like others, sees as using more than \$10 billion in federal stimulus dollars to put off systemic changes to New York’s spending practices.” To view a copy of the full report log onto http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/budget/2009/rptenactedbudget09_10.pdf

Something New – Assemblyman James Brennan (D-Brooklyn) and Senator Eric Schneiderman (D-Bronx) added new provisions to their campaign finance reform bill this week. If enacted as now drafted, the initiative would shave allowable individual candidate donations by more than \$48,000. The Assembly has a decade’s long history of passing similar bills, however, the Senate has thus far, yet to follow suit.

Something Borrowed – Saratoga socialite Marylou Whitney is running a horse in the upcoming Preakness whose name she borrowed from a New York Post headline regarding former Governor Eliot Spitzer. “Luv Gov” is a long shot in Saturday’s race, but “hay” you never know!

Something Blue – In yet another Albany scandal, the state’s Inspector General publicly called for the resignation of Herbert Teitelbaum, the Executive Director of the Commission on Public Integrity for his “role in investigating the Spitzer administration’s misuse of the State Police for political gain.” Allegations regarding such investigation suggest Teitelbaum “unlawfully disclosed confidential information” to a member of the Spitzer administration.