

Michael J. Sluka, Esq.

**Bergen County Board of Social Services
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Counsel, Bergen County Board of Social Services (January 2018 to Present)

- BCBSS is the Adult Protective Services (APS) provider for Bergen County
- Counsel provides advice to the APS Unit on a variety of issues including capacity, guardianship, exploitation etc.
- Files Guardianship on behalf of APS to prevent abuse or neglect or financial exploitation to those considered vulnerable adults in the community who lack capacity
- Represent APS in the Guardianship Proceeding in Superior Court whether they are contested or uncontested
- Provide advice and representation to BCBSS across other programs including Child Support, on matters involving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP) and Uniform Intestate Family Support Act (UIFSA) matters
- Review trusts to determine whether assets should be countable resources for purposes of Medicaid qualifications

Chief Counsel for the Hudson County Division of Welfare, formerly Hudson County Board of Social Services (2010 - 2017)

- Provide legal counsel to the Division of Welfare across a variety of subject areas including: Paternity, Child Support, Food Stamps (SNAP), TANF, Medicaid, Temporary Rental Assistance, Indigent Burials and the Uniform Intestate Family Support Act (UIFSA)
- Oversee the filing of Complaints to establish Paternity, Child Support and Medical and handle same before Hearing Officers and Judges of the Superior Court, Family Division, handle de novo appeals of Hearing Officers decisions and handle UIFSA matters before Hearing Officers and Judges
- Respond to Subpoenas regarding various assistance programs including Motions to Quash and preparation of Releases so information can be provided as well as providing counsel to division employee regarding records and subpoenas
- Handle various motions including Motions for Modification, Enforcement and Emancipation before Hearing Officers and Judges including those filed by incarcerated obligors

Municipal Public Defender, Borough of Paramus (January 2005 - 2017)

- Handle hundreds of criminal cases, including shoplifting and drug cases in the Municipal Court which meets on Wednesday afternoons. Negotiate plea bargains, handle various motions and trials before the Municipal Court Judge

Legal Counsel, REED Academy, INC.

- Co-founder of a not-for-profit school for children with Autism ages 3 to 21
- Provided counsel to the Board of Directors on a pro bono basis in a variety of subjects including contracts, licensing and education issues.

Founding Partner of Litigation Law Firm, Sluka & Minasian, LLC a full-service law firm

- Provided legal representation in a variety of areas including Municipal Court, Criminal Law, Bankruptcy and Real Estate over the last thirty years.

EDUCATION

1984 New York Law School, New York, NY
Degree: Juris Doctor

1981 Rutgers University, Newark, NJ
Degree: B.A. Economics Magna Cum Laude

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

- Former volunteer basketball coach for Paramus Recreation Department for five years
- Former assistant coach for 7th and 8th grade girls' softball team
- Serves annually as Employer Host for the Paramus Rotary Club Career Day
- Served as Board of Directors for Hudson County Chapter of American Red Cross

References available upon request.