

## Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP's Benjamin E. Wisniewski Receives First Environmental Law LL.M. from University at Buffalo School of Law

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**BUFFALO, NY** – Benjamin E. Wisniewski, an attorney with Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP, has received the first ever Environmental Law LL.M. conferred by the University at Buffalo School of Law. He recently completed a second stint at law school to study various issues related to environmental law, energy law and local government law in New York State.

"Buffalo is the perfect setting for the Environmental Law LL.M. From nature's majesty in Niagara Falls, to the cautionary tale of Love Canal, I cannot think of a better setting to educate new environmental lawyers," said Wisniewski. "I am honored to receive the first Environmental Law LL.M. conferred by University at Buffalo and look forward to following the tremendous positive impact that future graduates will surely have on both the law and the environment."

The Environmental Law LL.M. program offers students the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in environmental law and policy through traditional classroom study, experiential learning opportunities, and one-on-one academic advising. Students are required to take a minimum of 24 credits of coursework, conduct a large research project and complete a clinic, practicum or externship working directly with clients on real environmental disputes.

"It was a delight to work with Ben," says Professor Kim Diana Connolly, vice dean for advocacy and experiential education at University at Buffalo School of Law and who served as his experiential learning supervisor and thesis advisor. "He was able to share what he learned from his first few years of practice which added a lot to the classroom experience for everyone, and enhanced his community work. His thesis entitled Local Legislative Power in New York State: The 'Ghost of Home Rule,' the Specter of Dillon, and the need for Exorcism by Constitutional Convention, was outstanding."

At Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman, Mr. Wisniewski is a member of the firm's Government Investigations & Enforcement Actions Practice Team where he is currently focused on representing clients participating in the Article 10 electric generation facility siting process. He earned his J.D., magna cum laude, Order of the Coif from University at Buffalo School of Law in 2014 and his B.S. in atmospheric science from Cornell University in 2005. Prior to entering law school, Mr. Wisniewski served as an officer in the United States Navy for six years.

"In regards to Ben's legal practice at Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman, having this degree will further support and enhance the firm's practice groups, including our growing environmental practice that is supported by Martin Doster – a retired New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Remediation Engineer

with more than 32 years of experience - as well as our municipal clients involved in Article 10 proceedings," said Kevin J. Cross, managing partner.