

ABOUT THE FIRM

Maroney Associates, PLLC is a boutique law firm that concentrates its practice on elder law, estate planning, special needs planning, guardianships, probate, and real estate transactions. Founded by the husband-and-wife legal duo, Matthew J. Maroney, Esq. and Cristina Prieto, Esq., Maroney Associates, PLLC strives to provide excellent and valuable advice in an efficient, effective, and caring manner. *Se habla español.*

Matthew J. Maroney, Partner

Matthew J. Maroney, Esq., is a graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he double majored in Political Science and History and earned a number of recognitions, including Dean's List honors and the History Achievement Award. Mr. Maroney received his Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law. Prior to forming Maroney Associates, Mr. Maroney worked for several years as staff counsel for three major insurance and financial institutions.

Cristina Prieto, Partner

Cristina Prieto is a graduate of the State University of New York at Albany and St. John's Law School. Mrs. Prieto's legal experience includes several years as a trial attorney, representing major insurance and financial institutions in various aspects of litigation throughout Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, and Westchester Counties. She is fluent in Spanish and frequently serves the Hispanic community's needs for legal advice.

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Personal attention for your unique needs.



ELDER LAW

Maroney Associates, PLLC offers a variety of long-term care planning strategies designed to address the high costs associated with long-term care. Our skilled elder law attorneys have successfully assisted our clients with a variety of long-term care planning options, including:

- Last Will and Testaments
- Living Wills and Trusts
- Health Care Proxies
- Power of Attorney
- Medicaid eligibility
- Special Needs Trust
- Long-term care insurance

ESTATE PLANNING

Establishing an estate plan is one of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones. Proper estate planning allows you to determine who will be in charge of your finances and health care, and how your estate is to be distributed in the event you become incapacitated or pass away. Our attorneys consider a number of factors, including:

- Preparing for incapacity
- Avoiding probate
- Providing for minor children
- Charitable bequest planned giving
- Last Will and Testaments
- Living Wills and Trusts
- Health Care Proxies
- Power of Attorney

ESTATE PLANNING FOR HIGH-NET-WORTH INDIVIDUALS

Without advanced estate planning strategies, Federal and/or New York State Estate Taxes may deplete a significant portion of your assets. Maroney Associates, PLLC assists affluent families with various sophisticated planning strategies, some of which include:

- Marital/Credit Shelter Trusts
- Family Limited Partnerships (FLPs)
- Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)
- Qualified Personal Residence Trusts (QPRTs)
- Irrevocable Life Insurance Trusts (ILITs)
- Charitable giving to reduce estate taxes

BUSINESS SUCCESSION PLANNING

When a company loses an important member to sudden death, illness, or retirement, the subsequent transition period can often be chaotic and costly for large and small businesses alike. Maroney Associates, PLLC offers business and estate planning services to help owners and shareholders develop a strategy and ensure a smooth transition. Succession planning can be tailor-made to fit any business model, and it typically involves either retention or buy-sell retention planning.

- **Retention Planning** involves keeping the business or shares within the family. With a retention plan a spouse, children, or other relatives will retain control of assets.
- **Buy-Sell Retention Planning** offers the other shareholders or vital employees a larger stake in the company. Interested parties stipulated in the plan will be granted the right of first refusal, or the ability to accept or reject the shares before they are offered to individuals outside of the company.

PROBATE/ESTATE ADMINISTRATION

When a loved one passes away, his or her estate often goes through a court-managed process called probate or estate administration, where the assets of the deceased are managed and distributed. The length of time needed to complete the probate of an estate depends on the size and complexity of the estate, the local rules, and the schedule of the probate court. Our experienced attorneys are prepared to assist you in all the aspects of probate and estate administration including:

- Filing of a petition with the proper probate court
- Notice to heirs under the will or to statutory heirs (if no Will exists)
- Petition to appoint an Executor (in the case of a Will) or Administrator for the estate
- Inventory and appraisal of estate assets by the Executor or Administrator
- Payment of estate debt to rightful creditors
- Sale of estate assets
- Payment of estate taxes
- Final distribution of assets to heirs

PLANNING FOR CHILDREN

All parents, with or without a great deal of assets, should have an estate plan in place to set forth their wishes for their children. Estate plans should include, among other things, the nomination of a guardian in the event that they have an untimely passing while the child is still a minor, and the creation of a trust that is designed to safeguard the inheritance for their children. Our knowledgeable attorneys are equipped to assist you in developing a plan that thoroughly provides for your children.

SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING

If you currently provide care for a child or loved one with special needs due to physical or mental disability, you must have contemplated a future point in time when you are no longer able to provide and care for them. Maroney Associates, PLLC can help you set up a Special Needs Trust. The Special Needs Trust can be used for a variety of life-enhancing expenditures without compromising your loved ones' eligibility for Social Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, including but not limited to:

- Annual check-ups at an independent medical facility
- Attendance of religious services
- Supplemental education and tutoring
- Out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses
- Maintenance of vehicles
- Funds for entertainment, such as movies, shows or ball games

GUARDIANSHIPS

Guardianship needs arise when a loved one becomes incapacitated (unable to make important decisions for themselves). Maroney Associates, PLLC is experienced at handling these matters and we do so in a very personal and caring manner. This includes setting up:

- Power of Attorney
- Health Care Proxies
- Living Trusts

These documents may prevent a need for a Guardianship case, and/or allow the court insight into your intentions relative to who you would want to be in charge if you were deemed incapacitated. If the need for a Guardianship arises, Maroney Associates, PLLC is well experienced and equipped to prepare the necessary petitions to be brought before the Guardianship Part of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and handle the court appearances and hearings necessary to prosecute the Guardianship Petition.

REAL ESTATE LAW

Whether you are an individual, investor, or business looking to purchase, sell or refinance a residential or commercial property, it is always advantageous to have an experienced attorney to represent you in the transaction. Maroney Associates, PLLC can simplify the process of completing a real estate transaction. Our services include:

- Real property contracts
- Closings, transfers and exchanges
- Refinances
- Title questions
- Leases and licenses