

Servicemen-turned-lawyers find legal fit

Forming a military law practice was natural for veteran lawyers.

After graduating from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 2006, Robert Singer went to boot camp in Jacksonville where he got his start in the JAG Corps. That spawned a nearly decade-long military career, which included a plethora of legal positions and travels that would take him from Florida to Virginia Beach to Pearl Harbor. Singer served on active duty as general counsel, naval prosecutor, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney and as a military defense attorney. After returning to Buffalo last year to take a position at Rupp Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham, he looked for opportunities to expand its practices. Since he enjoyed working with service members and veterans as a military officer, he has an appreciation for their contributions and wanted to see them afforded the rights they deserve. Forming a military and veterans law practice at the firm seemed like a natural fit. These days he represents enlisted service members and military officers accused of misconduct or substandard performance as part of court-martials, Article 15/Non-judicial punishment proceedings and before administrative separation boards and boards of inquiry. "What initially drew me to it was not only did I have the experience for this practice, but it's also something that is very fulfilling," Singer said. "Representing anybody is always a fulfilling path, but when you represent somebody who may have gone on seven different deployments overseas over the course of 20 years or who has made enormous sacrifices for this country, they may be in a situation where they may lose their retirement or something they've worked so hard to get. Those are cases you really want to get involved in and make a difference." It's a specialized area of law so his background in military jobs and serving at an administrative level helped him break into it. By his side at the firm and helping to spearhead the efforts are two former soldiers who are now associates plus managing partner David Pfalzgraf, a Navy veteran. "Oftentimes nobody realizes that the military language is its own separate entity," Singer said. "You really don't understand it if you're not in the military. And on top of that, all of the services speak their own language, too, so it's really important to have those different experiences at a firm so you can relate." It can be difficult to document a case when a client is dealing with severe service-related injuries or issues, according to Singer. "Being able to relate to those individuals, gain their confidence that you know what you're talking about and speak their language, it helps them open up," he said. When Anthony Kuhn, who was recently named managing partner at Tully Rinckey's Buffalo office, got involved in the practice a few years ago, he thought it would encompass mostly VA-related matters and service-connected disability compensation, but it's much more. He has handled medical and physical evaluation board ratings, traveled around the country for ROTC disenrollment hearings and litigated security-clearance cases through the Department of Hearings and Appeals for the State Department. He also has been involved in preparing clients for military justice and court-martials. "It's a lot more than I anticipated when I first got involved in the practice but I love it," said Kuhn, who graduated in 2015 from the University at Buffalo Law School after a nearly 20-year military career that included leadership posts. "There are constantly moving parts, I got to do some traveling and I get to represent my people — that's the best part about it." The ability to relate to clients is critical, according to Kuhn, and makes it easier for him to convince military clients that he will advocate for them. He's even represented people he

knows personally, one of whom was a fellow combat veteran with a retirement issue. Kuhn has served in leadership positions at military installations nationwide and as an embedded intelligence adviser for the New Iraqi Army during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He trained and supervised thousands of soldiers in armies in two different countries and still serves as an Army Reserve first sergeant in Amherst. "Not only is he a friend of mine but he's a fellow combat veteran," Kuhn said, referring to the client. "He's exactly the type of soldier I wanted to represent when I got involved in this practice area. And I get to do that now." Common matters handled by military law attorneys include criminal cases and court-martials, sexual assault allegations, employment law, ROTC disenrollment, security clearances and failures of drug tests. During a court-martial, which is similar to an indictment or arrest of a civilian, a defendant has the right to counsel once he or she is being investigated but doesn't have the right to assigned counsel or a JAG officer until official charges are brought, Kuhn said. For civilians, a defendant has the right to assigned counsel once there is an investigation. So attorneys like Kuhn can get retained privately by soldiers to come between them and the investigators. "Often we can take control and make sure that there aren't any injustices that might have occurred had there not been any attorney involved," he said. Sexual assault is something the military and Congress take a hard look at, according to Singer. He saw that firsthand during his time as senior special victims prosecutor in the military. "It presents various cases where they're very difficult decisions for juries to make," he said. "The last thing you want to have is someone get convicted of a crime for perhaps making a mistake or doing something short of criminal." Kuhn said he's noticed a rise in these types of claims. He was recently in Fort Drum where he went before an administrative separation board for a hearing on a similar matter. "Sometimes we're able to get involved at that step and go through what is like a mini-trial," he said. Matters involving the Board of Inquiry or Administrative Separation Board come up when soldiers have issues related to keeping proper standards, such as in fitness or discipline. Singer said everyone is entitled to a fair process. He has seen cases where soldiers faced scrutiny nearly 20 years into their service, close to retirement and a pension. "You don't want to see a situation where they are arbitrarily fired from their job," he said. He also represents soldiers seeking an honorable discharge, which is essential in obtaining benefits for which they are eligible once their service is complete. Due to misconduct, an ROTC candidate can be recommended for disenrollment, Kuhn said. However, commanding officers often struggle to do the right thing and may not have enough research, guidance or experience to make this type of decision. He said a hired attorney is allowed to be in the room during the hearing and offer assistance and guidance to the cadet before the hearing but cannot advocate for the client during it. According to Singer, without good credit, a soldier cannot garner security clearance. When a soldier makes bad decisions with credit cards and investments or has a house foreclosed on, it could wind up costing them their security clearance and job. As an attorney in these matters, Singer explains to an administrative law judge or panel of officers that the individual is still reliable and should retain his or her security clearance. Kuhn said a hired attorney can respond early in the process to the statement of reasons from the government why an individual should not be granted security clearance and possibly save the client time and money. He also has represented clients all the way through the process, including in a hearing before the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals, if necessary. "If you can properly respond to the government's statement of reasons, you can mitigate the concerns of the Department of State or work with government counsel to get security clearances granted or extended," he said. A security clearance is also necessary for civilians who work for the Department of Defense or with a government agency, and military lawyers represent them during administrative hearings. In cases of failure of urine analysis, Kuhn said sometimes there can be an innocent ingestion of something like a medication and other times it could be a false positive. He said his work includes involving a toxicologist in these cases, drafting a written response, making sure the sample is retested and challenging the results of the test. The work of military law attorneys does not end there. Both Singer and Kuhn help soldiers by volunteering their time locally.

Kuhn is a member of the Committee for Veterans and Service Members of the Bar Association of Erie County. Singer is a mentor at the Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court, meeting with veterans once or twice a month who need legal help. Singer interned for Erie County Family Court Judge Lisa Bloch Rodwin, who at the time worked in the Domestic Violence Bureau of the Erie County DA's Office. After Singer left the area, Judge Robert Russell started the first Veterans Treatment Court in 2008. Rodwin sent Singer an email to let him know about the court. "I told her if I ever come back to Buffalo, I'll be a mentor in Veterans Court," Singer said. Later, when he returned to Buffalo, Rodwin was the first person he went out to lunch with and she reminded him of what he said. Sure enough, shortly after he found himself in Russell's courtroom fulfilling his promise.

On the Record: Aug. 11, 2016

Hires/Honors/ Promotions Clark Patterson Lee, a full-service design firm that has served public and private-sector clients for 40 years, announced that Marissa Colucci has joined its team in Buffalo. Colucci received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from SUNY Buffalo State in 2015. Charles Pringle and his wife, Leslie, take the helm and begin operating Chadwick Bay Marina and the former Stefan's Marina. Following the finalization of purchase and lease agreements, Charles Pringle now owns and operates the former Stefan's Marina located at Lake Shore Drive West, and will lease operation of the city's marina located at Lake Shore Drive East. The Diocese of Buffalo has appointed Dr. Margaret Cain McCarthy as vice chair of the Catholic Schools Advisory Council. Her term will expire in 2018. McCarthy is a professor and associate vice president for academic affairs at Canisius College. Prior to that, she served as dean of the School of Education and Human Services. McCarthy holds a bachelor's degree in mass communications from the University at Buffalo and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Canisius College. She earned a doctorate degree in social foundations of education from UB. **Company Connections** Tully Rinckey PLLC donated funds from its ongoing "Jeans and Sneakers" initiative to provide needed support for immigration services at International Institute of Buffalo. The donated funds will support the mission of the organization, which helps refugees and immigrants get oriented to life in America, acquire job skills, learn the English language and receive translation assistance.

The First Niagara Foundation is providing \$5,000 in funding to maintain and expand a literacy program offered by The Teacher's Desk Inc., which increases access to reading materials for teachers and students in Western New York. The Teacher's Desk Inc. provides books and magazines to teachers free of charge to increase student access to quality reading materials that spark their interests. Orchard Park-based Curbell Plastics, suppliers of plastic sheet, rod, tube, film, adhesives, sealants and prototyping materials, sponsored the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Electric Vehicle Team through a donation of materials from its Rochester location. The materials helped students build and test components for the electric motorcycle that raced against other student and professional teams at New Jersey Motorsports Park earlier this month.

"A truly client oriented and outstanding organization."

I highly recommend Anthony J. Kuhn and the Attorneys at Tully Rinckey for any military legal . I am extremely happy with the results since I got the best possible outcome out of my case. You can expect to be treated with great attention, care and respect. Anthony was my lawyer during my case and contacted me regularly and answered all my questions. This is the type of care and attention my case received through out the process. I was extremely excited when Anthony secured me a complete victory out of my case To also give you the back ground on my case, I was recommended to be administratively separated under article 14-12c. The case turned out to be very complicated and frustrating. I am very grateful to have found this law firm to help me with my case. All of my calls, inquiries were returned competently and very quickly. I was always kept in the knowing of even if there hadn't been any new updates. It truly felt and is a law firm that puts the customer's satisfaction as his top priority. A truly client oriented and outstanding organization. Thanks for a magnificent job! D.R. on on Attorney Anthony Kuhn, Esq.

Prior results do not guarantee similar outcomes.

Asian Restaurant Sued Over Discrimination of Caucasian Employee

Judge Awards Fees, Costs in Restaurant Bias Suit

by Joel Stashenko A woman is entitled to just over \$11,000 in attorney's fees and costs after settling her reverse discrimination suit against an Asian restaurant in Niagara Falls. Though the \$12,500 settlement between Alexandra Glenn and Fuji Grill was silent about fees and costs, Western District Judge William Skretny said it did not preclude her from seeking additional payment in Glenn v. Fuji Grill Niagara Falls, 1:14-cv-380. Skretny ruled from Buffalo that parties such as Glenn are entitled to seek costs after an entry of judgment is made under the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 68, even if the settlement contains no provisions about entitlement to fees and costs. Glenn was the "prevailing party" in the civil rights action under Rule 68 by dint of the payment by her former employer, which represented success on a "significant issue in litigation," Skretny wrote, citing Texas State Teachers Assn. v. Garland School Dist., 489 U.S. 782 (1989). Skretny set the attorney's fee award at \$8,239, and said Glenn was entitled to another \$2,879 in costs. Her attorneys had sought \$23,540 and \$4,832, respectively. Glenn, a Caucasian, claimed that she was discriminated against during her 14 months working at Fuji Grill because the restaurant allegedly favored waitresses of Chinese descent in work assignments and in splitting tips. Lori Ann Hoffman, associate at Tully Rinckey in Buffalo, and Adam Charles Lease of Karpf Karpf & Cerutti in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, represented Glenn. Michael Schmahl of Niagara Falls and Richard Steiner, partner at Steiner & Blotnik in Buffalo, defended the restaurant.

New Helpdesk Manager Ensures Overall Security of Firm's IT Systems

Delaney Promoted to Helpdesk Manager at Tully Rinckey PLLC

April 14, 2016 – Albany, N.Y. – Tully Rinckey PLLC is pleased to announce the promotion of

Brandon Delaney to Helpdesk Manager. For the past five years, Delaney has served as an IT Analyst for the firm. In his new role, Delaney is responsible for the management and oversight of the firm's IT helpdesk. In this role, he works with the firm's Chief Information Officer to help ensure the overall health and productivity of the firm's information technology (IT) systems, supporting all branch offices throughout the country. Delaney reviews, tracks, and resolves systems issues at both the datacenter and end-user device levels. Additionally, Delaney consults with users about increasing efficiency, along with recommending and deploying hardware and software solutions to enhance or add functionality to the firm's IT systems. He is also responsible for the firm's high-definition video teleconferencing system, which enables attorneys and support staff to have video conferencing within the firm, and with outside agencies. Before joining the firm in May 2011, Delaney worked as a Senior Computer Technician for an IT company in Albany, N.Y. There, he helped end users as well as small and medium businesses achieve their technological needs. For more information, please contact Marcy Velte at (518) 218-7100 or at mvelte@1888law4life.com.

"He took on this case with vigor and ZERO FEAR of the government!"

"LITERALLY THE BEST MONEY I EVER SPENT!!!! The USAF charged my son with Article 92, Violate General Order and Article 128, Simple Assault. I spoke to many attorneys who said to me, "Your son will be convicted of the Simple Assault because putting lotion on someone's face is considered an assault as it is an unwanted touch." They all wanted me to work on a plea deal with the government that ended with my son being discharged, spending time in the brig and having a federal conviction for the rest of his life. Knowing that this just didn't warrant a federal conviction, bad conduct discharge and time in the brig, I was on a search to find an attorney who would look at this case for what it was: a couple of 19-21 year-old immature young men horse playing. I was looking for someone who would say something different; someone who would be able to look at the case from more than one view. When I spoke to Mr. Rinckey, I thought I was going to get the same ole speech, but to my surprise, I IMMEDIATELY felt at ease and I knew right then that he was going to be my attorney (not sure if he knew it at this time). He took on this case with vigor and ZERO FEAR of the government! He wanted them to know that this was NOT going to go away with any plea deal! And he went to work! Then, LITERALLY 2 DAYS BEFORE trial the government added an additional charge, which was Article 134, Unlawful Entry. Mr. Rinckey stayed focused, developed a plan, and off to trial we went. He was so prepared, calm and at ease. I remember him saying to me, "I am ready to try this case." And yesterday – 14 APR 2016 – my son was found NOT GUILTY on ALL CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS!!! Yesss!!! You know, it's always hard to find money for an attorney, but I learned one thing with this case. Although I thought we couldn't afford an attorney, the truth of the matter was that we couldn't afford NOT TO HAVE an attorney. I only wish I had found Mr. Rinckey sooner, but that's okay. I have found my ATTORNEY for life," Y.W. on Founding Partner on Greg Rinckey, Esq.

Prior results do not guarantee similar outcomes.

Bizarre Stories: "Cost thousands of dollars" to Sue Mother for Changing last Name

Can I sue my mother for changing my last name?

Dear Moneyologist,

My family has been fragmented for at least the last three generations, creating an elaborate blend of step-everything and relationships that were seldom defined by blood. My deceased grandfather — whom I loved dearly — is not my relative by blood, nor is the so-called father whose name I carry. Suffice it to say our family traditions are fragmented or non-existent. When my mother divorced and remarried, she and my step-father changed my name and my younger brother's to match his, creating this collection of five kids where the oldest two had one last name and the younger three had another (my parents had the youngest son together). Over the years, the older two and one of my younger brothers were excluded from our family by my parents — they were literally thrown away. I dropped out of high school and joined the army at 17, where I remained for the next 25 years. My wife and I have been married 38 years and have done pretty well for ourselves and four kids, residing in a home larger than any in the history of our extended families. I genuinely wanted to help bring things together among my fragmented family and came up with the idea several years ago to invite everyone to our house for Christmas — my parents, my younger (step) brother, his third wife, their children, and another lovely girl from his first marriage. I envisioned board games, talking in the kitchen, and touch football in the yard. Instead we got isolation, indifference to our home, and an absolute reluctance to follow any team-building suggestions I promoted. My wife watched me try to play the encouraging, happy host to our indifferent guests and became visibly livid. Everyone left a day early, and the period of cold shoulders began — no birthday cards, no calls. I continued to telephone after some six months and, over time, a regular pattern of communication resumed. I thought we had navigated the storm. Three years pass, and I was at my step-father's bedside as he slipped away. It was traumatic, but the next day it took another turn: My mother informed me that, in their will some two years prior, they had decided to leave my brother the house and that he and I could split "whatever other inheritance was left over." She added, "That's OK, right? Your wife said she would never live here," she insisted. My youngest (step) brother, their natural son would inherit their estate for his family. After 48 years pretending I was a son as well the truth was clear: I was not a son, and neither I, my wife, nor my children would enjoy a peaceful legacy or inheritance with this family. I know from reading your column that there is nothing I can do about people's decisions with their money and, honestly, could not accept a dime if it were offered. But the notion that they took a little boy of 12 and tattooed some stranger's name on his forehead — watching him pass that name on to his children (even naming his firstborn after the stepfather) — and later tossing him out with his other siblings makes me sad and furious. On the flip side of all this drama, I'm not walking away empty-handed. I now have an oddly humorous story about how "I once crafted a family reunion in hopes of establishing a Christmas tradition, and got disinherited for my trouble" and a powerful illustration for my kids on what not to do. I now insist that they will each receive their legacy regardless of what choices they make in this life. And it makes me question: Can I contest the will and possibly sue the estate for the legal fees associated with changing my name and the names of my children and grandchildren back to my original name — a dramatic reset of sorts? Do you think this is possible? I suppose this is tremendously difficult, but I'm just about angry enough to do it. Writing this alone was helpful, though I apologize for the length. Forrest Dear Forrest,

I'm sorry to hear that you tried and failed to bring your family together. It sounds like your parents have had tumultuous relationships with their children and, even though you have organized Christmas and remembered people's birthdays and been present for your parents, you have not been able to break that pattern. Your mother based her decision on something your wife said or something your mother thinks she said. She may be a very sensitive person, or perhaps someone who finds trouble where there is none. You could always say, "You misunderstood," or, "That's not what happened." But, ultimately, you must abide by her

decision. Life is unfair. As I said to a reader who was unhappy with the size of his inheritance (\$10,000, to be exact), try not to define your entire relationship with your parents by the amount that is left to you in their will. As hard as it is to hear, this may not be about you. It may be that your parents have a limited capacity to give and receive love, and they may think that your youngest brother needs a house most of all. I don't know the details of your respective financial situations, but you say you live comfortably. The heavy lifting has already been done: You have built your own family without continuing these deep divisions. The legal system is harsh when it comes to inheritance. If you weren't formally adopted by your stepfather, you likely have no standing to contest any aspect of your stepfather's will or its terms, says Blake Harris, an attorney at Mile High Estate Planning in Denver. But you would still have little recourse, even if he did adopt you. Why? Parents can leave whatever they want to who they want. What's more, if you were not mentioned in the will, you were technically not disinherited, Harris says. To successfully contest a will, it must be based on a claim that the will failed to fulfill legal requirements for its proper execution or that your stepfather "lacked testamentary capacity," he adds. You inherited your last name from your stepfather and, because you will not inherit the family home, you want to retaliate by changing your family's last name. Suing them in court would be costly and a fruitless task, given that your mother used a court order to give you your stepfather's last name. (This is often done by parents in a blended family, especially when the child's biological father is no longer around, so it's not that unusual and you would have little grounds for being treated unfairly.) "It would cost thousands of dollars to take this case and only a few hundred dollars to change your name," says Mathew Tully, founding partner of Tully Rinckey law firm in New York. We are a sum of our actions and this tit-for-tat goes against everything you stand for: The importance of family. Changing your name won't change who you are. But taking a frivolous court case would.

Tully Named to Prestigious HillVets 100 List

Tully Rinckey PLLC Founding Partner among most influential veterans of 2015

March 23, 2016 – Albany, N.Y. – Tully Rinckey PLLC Founding Partner Mathew Tully was recognized yesterday as one of 2015's most influential and impactful veterans. Tully's accomplishments and achievements as a veteran and business owner were celebrated by HillVets, a nonprofit group of bipartisan veterans and supporters empowering veterans to advance in careers following military service. Tully was honored at a reception at the Reserve Officers Association headquarters on Constitution Ave. NE in Washington, D.C. alongside former U.S. Secretary of Defense and U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Sen. Lindsay Graham, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, and many other accomplished veterans who earned their place on the 2015 HillVets 100 list. "It is an honor to be included among this year's list of HillVets 100 recipients," said Tully. "From Tully Rinckey PLLC's beginnings, the mission of the firm has been to defend the legal rights of service members facing employment discrimination due to their military service. We have since grown the scope of legal services we offer to include federal employment law, security clearance representation, and a range of others, but our core focus continues to be the legal defense of our nation's veterans." In the fall of 2015, HillVets requested nominations for the second annual HillVets 100 list. The nominations poured in and HillVets compiled a list encompassing individuals from diverse sectors, including the arts, politics, business, philanthropy, and personal achievements. To be included in the HillVets 100 list, nominees had to demonstrate a purpose of giving back to those that have sacrificed so much for our nation. Tully was among those named to the HillVets 100 list in the category honoring veteran-owned and operated businesses on Capitol Hill. Tully Rinckey PLLC opened its

Washington, D.C. location in 2008, and expanded to its latest 6,400-square-foot, seventh-floor suite just one block from the White House on Connecticut Avenue NW in 2014. On Sept. 11, 2001, while employed in the legal department of Morgan Stanley, Tully escaped from the World Trade Center and shortly thereafter relocated to upstate New York. There, he began providing legal services to service members facing employment discrimination based upon military service. Tully has become a pioneer of litigation involving the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, which protects the civilian employment rights of military personnel. Following discrimination he faced employed as a federal prison guard, Tully researched and litigated his own USERRA case, deciding then and there to continue his work to help others in the military facing similar issues. In 2005, Tully was deployed to Iraq with the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division of the New York Army National Guard and was based at Forward Operating Base Danger in Tikrit, Iraq. In 2012, he received the Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during a suicide bombing while serving in Afghanistan. His service there also afforded him the Bronze Star. Tully is currently the New York State commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH). For more information or to speak with Mathew Tully, please contact Marcy Velte at (518) 218-7100 or via email at mvelte@1888law4life.com.

One of the Nation's Largest Military Law Firms Provides needed Support for WNYHeroes

"Sneakers and Jeans" initiative funds services for Western New York veterans

February 26, 2016 – Buffalo, N.Y. – Tully Rinckey PLLC is continuing a long tradition of giving back to veterans in need by providing financial support to local veteran's assistance organization, WNYHeroes. A check for \$250 was delivered today to WNYHeroes, Inc. on behalf of Tully Rinckey PLLC today by Buffalo Managing Partner Darren Swetz and firm Associate Anthony Kuhn. The organization provides veterans, members of the armed services, widows and children of deceased veterans with access to essential services, including financial assistance and support. Tully Rinckey PLLC has a long-standing record of service with the military. Throughout its seven offices, the firm employs more than 70 attorneys, of whom a large group are veterans. The firm's founding partner, Mathew B. Tully, is a recently-retired lieutenant colonel in the New York Army National Guard who received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan. As a civilian attorney, he has won numerous landmark decisions protecting veterans' rights, especially those pertaining to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Managing Partner Greg T. Rinckey is a former Army JAG who currently represents service members worldwide in a variety of military law issues.

"WNYHeroes provides area veterans with financial assistance and support during a trying time in their life," said Mr. Kuhn. "This organization has played a vital role in post-combat care to give some needed relief to veterans and their families. We at Tully Rinckey PLLC are honored to support this program." Co-founded in 2007 by U.S. Army veteran Chris M. Kreiger and community activist Dionne Kane, WNYHeroes is a non-profit organization serving the needs of Western New York veterans and their families. The organization's primary goals are to provide financial assistance to disabled veterans as they wait to receive benefits, and help provide access to family-care services. Kreiger himself is a Purple Heart recipient after being seriously wounded in Iraq following multiple roadside bomb attacks. He experienced a traumatic brain injury (TBI) on the left side of his brain, lost hearing in both ears, and required surgery to his right leg following a separate humvee accident. It was his experiences upon

returning home which led to the creation of WNYHeroes. Since its inception in February 2010, Tully Rinckey PLLC's Jeans and Sneakers initiative has donated about \$17,500 to more than 50 nonprofit organizations. Under this initiative, employees who wear jeans and sneakers to the office on Fridays make a \$1 donation for each casual clothing item worn. At the end of the month, the firm makes a dollar-for-dollar matching contribution. Recent recipients of Jeans and Sneakers donations include the Binghamton Crime Victims Assistance Center, Trillium Health in Rochester, the Clarence Senior Citizens Center, the Centers at Saint Camillus in Syracuse, and the Albany County Family Court Children's Center. For more information, please contact Marcy Velte at (518) 218-7100 or via email at mvelte@1888law4life.com

"Jeans and Sneakers" Fundraiser Aids Western New York Non-Profit

Law firm gives "Casual Friday" a whole new meaning

WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y. (WKBW) - A Western New York law firm is giving "Casual Friday" a whole new meaning. The Tully Rinckey Firm is cashing in on employees who want to wear jeans and sneakers. It's all to raise money for non-profit organization across Western New York. Each Friday, employees would donate a dollar for every piece of casual clothing they would wear. This week, the firm donated \$250 to Western New York Heroes. The group trains dogs on how to assist troops suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). So far, The Williamsville law firm has given away more than \$17,000 to charities. Associates said this is a way for the firm to stay connected to the Western New York community.