
The Council

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The New York Chiropractic Council is pleased to announce that it has retained Empire Strategic Planning (ESP) to represent the Council on state government and public affairs issues for the 2009 legislative session. ESP was founded by former Senator Nick Spano, who enjoyed a distinguished 28-year career in the New York State Legislature, first as an Assemblyman and then as a member of the New York State Senate, where he served for 20 years.

While in the Senate, Spano ascended to the rank of Senior Assistant Majority Leader and also chaired the following influential Senate committees: Investigations and Government Operations, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and Labor. It was during his tenure as Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee that Spano became most familiar with chiropractic issues. As Labor Chairman, Spano introduced the first versions of the Workers' Compensation and No-Fault insurance equality bills and proved to be a tireless advocate for chiropractic. Senator Spano was also instrumental in securing passage of the profession's insurance equality law in 1997.

Working with Sen. Spano as legal counsel at ESP is Perry Ochacher, who should also be a familiar face to the chiropractic profession. Perry served as the lobbyist for the Chiropractic Federation of New York from 1992-2000. In that capacity, Perry was involved with every significant state legislative issue affecting chiropractic and developed excellent working relationships with key legislators, regulators and other chiropractic organizations, including both the Council and NYSCA. Prior to joining ESP, Perry was practicing commercial and real estate law in White Plains. Before that, he served as Clerk/Chief of Staff to the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Perry received his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988.

Dr. Ellen Coyne, chair of the Council's Legislation Committee, said, "I look forward to working with both Sen. Spano and Perry, and tapping into their collective government and lobbying experience, along with their knowledge of chiropractic issues and long-standing relationships with the chiropractic profession."