## FRED RAFFETTO



Municipal Attorney Par Excellence
On the Move

Frederick ("Fred") C. Raffetto, Esquire, has a passion for public service. As a municipal attorney for the past 30 years, his career has centered upon providing legal guidance to elected and appointed officials in the performance of their daily responsibilities, as well as defending them in cases of litigation.

His most visible, and perhaps most rewarding, position has been serving as the City Attorney for Asbury Park – a position he has held (as a contracted outside professional) since 2004, which is a remarkable tenure for any municipal attorney, especially in the challenging environment of Asbury Park.

According to Fred, "Before I was appointed to serve in Asbury Park, the typical tenure of a municipal attorney here was for less than a year." After his appointment, however, Fred soon became smitten with the city by the sea, and he has helped guide Asbury Park municipal officials with legal issues ever since — a tenure that has spanned through several different administrations, and even a change in the form of government.



"When I first started in Asbury Park, there were burned out buildings and shuttered store fronts, and basically tumbleweed was rolling down Cookman Avenue," he reflects. During these last 20 years, however, Fred has seen revitalization efforts effectuated throughout all areas of the City, which he credits to the elected officials who have driven the City's progress. "Asbury Park was like a blank canvas with so much potential when I started. It has been incredibly fulfilling to see the progress that has been made over the last two decades through the efforts of the dedicated officials who have been charting the City's course," he shares. "I am extremely grateful to still be involved with this amazing, diverse and resilient City. The issues presented here are always on the cutting edge, and are very exciting from a municipal law perspective."

EDUCATION:
Degree: J.D.
Seton Hall University School of Law
Newark, New Jersey

Degree: A.B. Lafayette College Easton, Pennsylvania PROFESSIONAL LICENSES: Licensed to Practice Law in the States of NJ and FL

PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION: Hill Wallack LLP The Galleria 2 Bridge Ave., Suite 211 Red Bank, NJ 07701 Outside of his career, Fred's passion for public service has translated into the nonprofit realm as well. Notably, in 2011, Fred helped the founders of Athlete Ally, Inc. establish the organization — one whose mission is to end homophobia and transphobia in sport, and to champion LGBTQI+ equality. He then served as a founding Board member for 10 years before rolling off at the end of 2021. During his time, Athlete Ally grew from a fledgling organization to one that now has an annual budget in excess of \$2 million, an internationally based Board and following, and support and acclaim from professional athletes such as Billie Jean King.

In addition to Athlete Ally, through the years Fred has also served as a Board member for Prevention First/Preferred Behavioral Health Group, Preservation New Jersey, Inc., and the Shore Institute of the Contemporary Arts.

As if all of that were not enough, Fred is also an athlete in his own right, having competitively and successfully completed the New York City Marathon in three consecutive years (2015, 2016 and 2017). Each year that Fred participated in the marathon, he raised funds for Team for Kids (TFK), a non-profit organization sponsored by the New York Road Runners, which provides programs for nearly 250,000 children in underprivileged areas nationwide, including 125,000 in New York City's five Boroughs. These programs help to build students' motivation, confidence, and desire to be physically active for life. During the three years that Fred ran the marathon, he raised over \$25,000 for TFK, an accomplishment for which he is extremely proud and grateful. "My marathon runs, and my fundraising experiences for TFK, will always be among the greatest accomplishments in my life."

Recently, Fred and his assistant, Sandra Rodriguez, joined the law firm of Hill Wallack LLP, one of the State's leading law firms, with offices in Princeton, Cedar Knolls, Cherry Hill, Red Bank, Yardley, PA, and New York City. Fred is a partner at the firm, and is based out of the Red Bank office, which is situated in the Galleria.

"I love being in downtown Red Bank, literally footsteps away from culture, restaurants and retail, and love the urban vibe of this area," he shares.

Fred brought his existing municipal clients, including Asbury Park, with him when he joined Hill Wallack. "A great opportunity presented itself here with the ability to become affiliated with one of the most prestigious law firms in New Jersey, and to continue to serve, and to build upon, my existing municipal client base. I am incredibly excited to have joined the Hill Wallack team, and to start this next chapter of my professional life," he enthuses.

Eric Abraham, Esq., Managing Partner of Hill Wallack's Red Bank office, commented, "Hill Wallack is very lucky to have Fred Raffetto, and we look forward to many productive years working together!"



