



REAL PROPERTY LAW SECTION (RPLS) 2011 TRIP TO THE N.Y.STATE LEGISLATURE

For several years, the Real Property Law Section (RPLS) has had an active program of monitoring and reviewing proposed bills in the legislature and drafting bills of its own. **On May 17, 2011**, a group from the RPLS made our sixth annual trip to visit the legislature. Participants were: Anne Copps (RPLS Chair), Karl Holtzschue (Co-Chair Legislation Com.), Steve Alden (2nd V. Chair, Past Co-Chair Financing Com.), Jerry Antetomaso (Co-Chair Title & Transfer Com.), **George Haggerty** (Co-Chair UPL Com.), and Dennis Greenstein (Co-Chair Cooperatives & Condominiums Com.). Materials were prepared and appointments were arranged by Kevin Kerwin (Assoc. Dir., NYSBA Governmental Relations), who lead us on our visit.

We had meetings with: (1) *Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein*(Chair, Assembly Judiciary Com.) and her staff; (2) staff from the *Office of Counsel to the Governor* (Gurav Vasisht); (3) *Senator DeFrancisco* (Chair, Senate Finance Com.) and his staff; (4) *Governor Cuomo*[*!]; *(5) staff from the *Office of Assemblyman Morrelle* (Chair, Assembly Insurance Com.); and (6) staff from the *Office of Senator Seward* (Chair, Senate Insurance Com.).

We gave out a packet of materials at each meeting, including our contact information, a list of issues of interest to our section (licensing of title agents, public option title insurance, our bill on disclosure of title insurance service charges, our bill to repeal Highway Law 120, electronic recording, cooperative/condominium ombudsman, unauthorized practice of law, private transfer fees, standing to foreclose mortgages and assignment of mortgage in lieu of discharge), and copies of several of our legislative memoranda (available on the RPLS website).

VISIT WITH GOVERNOR CUOMO

Our own **George Haggerty**, a friend of the Governor, Andrew Cuomo since boyhood, arranged for him to see us for about 20 minutes, an unexpected highlight of our visit! The Governor gave us a tour of his private office and the Red Room, regaling us with tales from his time as Secretary of HUD and as Attorney General. He said he expected the new Department of Financial Services, which combines the Banking and Insurance Departments, to be very active.

All in all, this was our most successful and enjoyable visit to date.

By, Karl B. Holtzschue
Co-Chair, RPLS Legislation Committee