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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 3, 2009

## DEROHANNESIAN AMONG GROUP OF PROFESSIONALS TO DISCUSS PRIVATE VS. PUBLIC DOCUMENTS IN FEDERAL COURT

ALBANY, N.Y. – "Privacy and Public Access to Documents in Federal Court" will be the topic of discussion at the Northern District of New York Federal Bar Association's November 10, 2009, seminar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY.

In both civil and criminal cases, court documents can either be sealed or made public. This two hour seminar will address the balance between keeping information confidential and the public's right to know.

Private practice attorney, <u>Paul DerOhannesian II</u>, of the law firm of DerOhannesian & DerOhannesian law firm in Albany, will be among the panel of experts including: Magistrate Judge David R. Homer; Magistrate Judge Randolph F. Treece; *Times Union* Editor and Vice President Rex Smith; Hiscock & Barclay, LLP Partner Michael Grygiel; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of NY Grant Jaquith; Tobin & Dempf, LLP Attorney Kevin Luibrand; and Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of NY Alexander Bunin.

Mr. DerOhannesian has been involved in several document sealing issues surrounding <u>criminal</u> litigation. Last February, Mr. DerOhannesian successfully fought to have portions of his client's sentencing memo sealed as it portrayed his client's severe physical and emotional abuse, and contained highly sensitive medical and personal information. Mr. DerOhannesian was seeking leniency on behalf of his client and sought a sentence outside the guidelines range. A federal court judge in Rochester ruled that portions of the memorandum would be sealed. Additionally, the trial involved other documents filed under seal by the defense.

Registration for the November 10th seminar begins at 1:30 p.m. with the panel discussion following at 2 p.m. Closing remarks start at 4 p.m. There is no fee for this seminar, but pre-registration is requested. For more information, visit <a href="www.nynd.uscourts.gov">www.nynd.uscourts.gov</a> or <a href="www.nynd.uscourts.gov">www.ndnyfcba.org</a>. The program is approved for two hours of Continuing Legal Education credit for attorneys.

## About Paul DerOhannesian II:

Paul DerOhannesian II has practiced law for more than 30 years and is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyer, American Association for Justice, New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, and Albany County Bar Association. DerOhannesian is a respected instructor having conducted more than 275 presentations, including for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the American Prosecutors Research Institute, the National College of District Attorneys and provides extensive training for many local, state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, Naval Justice School and the New York State Police.

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