

# Weingarten, Reid & McNally

## *Special Session Update*

### **DRP**

The Legislature adjourned this evening absent agreement on any of the provisions of a Deficit Reduction Plan(DRP). The Governor had called both houses back in to session today (11/10) following a speech to a joint session of the Legislature yesterday (11/09). Special Sessions began in both houses at noon but the rank and file members soon found themselves in conferences that lasted into the early evening. The day ended in both houses with the passage of only two bills (A.40002, A.40005) neither of which addressed the stated purpose of the session which, according to Governor Paterson, was "to address the current-year deficit." Comments by legislators made clear that the Governor's proposals were unacceptable in their current form, particularly in regard to the loss of federal dollars from the DRP's proposed Medicaid cuts.

As negotiators continued discussions, the Governor stated that this was only Act 1 and that he would call the legislators back next week on Monday(11/16/09) for a one or two day session to again attempt to pass a Deficit Reduction Plan.

### **Marriage Equality**

Following a heated day of demonstrations outside the Senate Democratic Conference room in the Capitol, the Senate Democratic key leaders apparently agreed to bring the Marriage Equality bill to a vote prior to adjournment in June of 2010. Initially, the bill was going to be brought to the floor for a vote today, but late this evening it appeared that the measure lacked the 32 votes necessary for passage in the Senate.

The Governor announced the agreement that the bill would be brought to a vote prior to June 2010 in a press conference on the second floor of the Capitol flanked by rank and file Senate Democrats including Senators Duane, Klein and Schneiderman stating: *"This is the first time that the Senate leadership has indicated that it will support a vote on marriage equality,"* Paterson said during a Red Room press conference that followed a meeting at which the question of bringing

the bill to the floor to fail tonight was yet again discussed - and apparently rejected. *"This is a stunning and very happy development in this process," the governor continued. "...I will continue to place marriage equality on any special sessions that I call on Monday and Tuesday because I feel that the bill should be debated immediately. However, I have profound respect for the leadership of the Senate and the process that they took to bring us to this vote"*

**And finally, Albany insiders were given the opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to an old friend "Sandy the Elevator Operator" who retired today. The Senate honored her appropriately with a resolution (it was unanimous). Members of our firm were treated to a final ride to the third floor of the Capitol which leads to the entrance to the Legislature; she opened the door with her now famous line "Welcome to Fantasy Island."**

**[YouTube - Sandy's Last Day](#)**