Our strength as a full service electrical contractor is rooted in the diversity of our services.

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**Buffalo**
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Lancaster, NY 14086  
716.675.9010

**Rochester**
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Rochester, NY 14623  
585.424.3472

Construction Services  
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Rochester, NY 14623  
585.869.4630

**Syracuse**
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- Prefabrication  
- Design Build

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www.oconnellelectric.com
Welcome to our spring edition of our O’Connell Newsletter. I truly hope this finds you and your families all safe and healthy. This has definitely been a trying time for O’Connell Electric and our entire country.

Looking back at history the world has survived several horrific pandemics and I am confident we will survive this latest attack on mankind. We all pray the toll on lives will not continue to rise. What this Coronavirus will do in the long term to our economy and our way of life remains to be seen. We are used to managing risk, it is an entirely different situation to manage uncertainty.

A little on the brighter side of things, our fiscal year ended on February 29th. It was a great year and I want to thank everyone for all your help and hard work as our sales exceeded the 300-million-dollar mark, another record-breaking year.

I would like to give a shout-out to our vendors and subcontractors for their hard work and support they provide us. And a specific thanks to all our customers that provide work opportunities and the confidence they have in us at O’Connell Electric.

The work picture remains strong for 2020 and as we all attempt to navigate our way through the challenging days, weeks, and months ahead, please know safety is priority one for all employees and your families, and getting people back to work as soon as it is safe to do so.

My mother always told me “learn to expect the unexpected.” I finally figured out what she meant by this. The electrical industry will change as to how we perform our work as a result of the Coronavirus. Please keep an open mind to change, even if that comes with challenges.

Enjoy the newsletter, have a great summer and thank you again for all you do for us.

Be safe and stay healthy.

Tom Parkes
President & COO
Electrical contractors dominated the 2019 list of ENR New York’s Annual Top Specialty Contractors rankings, with OCE taking the third spot. We only lag behind two ECs who serve the NY City market. This means that among all electrical contractors throughout New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, O'Connell is the largest EC outside of NY City.

Our position in the northeast market is attributable to the serious growth we have been experiencing at our Power Group. The sheer number of boots on the ground and our experience with substation and T&D work has positioned us as a force to be reckoned with. Our fleet has also grown considerably in the past couple of years to support the amount of work we have under contract. This allows us to maintain strong operational capabilities as we continue to bid and support our current projects.

Our Technical Services Group has grown considerably as well, as we continue to support medium/high voltage and preventative maintenance services to customers across the state, parts of Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Our team was instrumental in bringing home an eighty-million-dollar joint venture project for the New York Power Authority.

Keep up the great work and be safe!

~ Tom Parkes, COO

Always, the number one thing driving our growth is all the great people working for us, selling for us, and attracting new people to the organization who add great value and opportunity.

GROWTH OVER THE DECADE

Our resources, expertise and willingness to take on complex projects has positioned the company for extensive growth over the last ten years.

We invest heavily back into the company, and over the past several years, have put millions into expanding our regional operations, building and renovating office space.
POWER YOUR CAREER

At O’Connell, we have great opportunities available for:
- Project Managers
- Assistant PMs
- Project Coordinators
- Estimators
- Safety Team Members

Learn more and share information by visiting our LinkedIn Career Page.

☑️ Great Benefits
☑️ Job Security
☑️ Team Environment
☑️ Professional Development
☑️ Modern Technology

PROUD TO WORK SAFE?

Share a photo and tell us why!

EMAIL
john.miller@oconnellelectric.com
lexie.poudrier@oconnellelectric.com

Matt Yonts, Safety Coordinator
O’Connell Electric is committed to the safety and health of all Subcontractor Employees and anyone on our worksites. As an on-site Subcontractor, your Company Employees working on-site will be required to complete the O’Connell Electric Subcontractor On-Site Safety Orientation. This annual safety orientation is required for each Subcontractor Employee. Upon completion, the oriented Employee will receive a hardhat decal that is valid for one calendar year. The complete Subcontractor On-Site Safety Orientation program is available upon request from the O’Connell Electric Safety Department.

High Voltage Training

Nearly 120 OCE Electricians and several Project Managers attended our custom-developed High Voltage Switching Awareness Training from January through February this year. The material consists of topics that require four days of training, and includes both classroom, group work, and hands on learning.

Topics include presentations on grounding, reviewing OCE’s switching policy, performing a switching assessment, filling out a switching order, and performing an actual switching scenario.

Electricians complete a tailboard as though they were actually switching, perform a switching assessment, use the switching order to secure all the proper tools and PPE. Then they actually operate the devices and are rated by their peers.

Don’t Work Energized!

Compliance with OSHA Regulations and NFPA 70E is not optional. Know the rules related to Electrical Safety in the Workplace!

Never Work On Energized Circuit Conductors or Energized Electrical Equipment.

TEST BEFORE YOU TOUCH
Distracted driving kills people every day. As a driver, we all have 100% control of managing distractions. We must make the choice to eliminate distractions. At O’Connell Electric we are committed to assuring that our drivers eliminate driving distractions. We are asking every OCE driver to enable the functionality outlined below on their iPhone. We trust that you will take these steps and help assure that you are not distracted while driving. For everyone else driving your own vehicle at any time, please do the same. Make your drive a safer drive!

O’Connell Electric

Foreman, Scott Guerra, LU 41, working at the Masten Armory, went above and beyond to proactively protect our subcontractors while working in an energized electrical room. Great work, Scott!

~ Submitted by Brad Keatley, GM Buffalo

For an ongoing project at Groveland Correctional Facility, another contractor was performing plumbing work using a torch in a bathroom of a specific building on the grounds. During the course of the work a hot item fell from the work area and caught a stack of combustibles (toilet paper) on fire. Mike Ervolino, an OCE General Foreman, was coincidentally about to enter the building and smelled something burning when suddenly the plumber came to the doorway kicking the rolls of paper that were on fire.

Mike quickly yelled to the plumber to kick them off the loading ramp and proceeded to move them to a large puddle to extinguish them. The plumber made multiple trips doing this until all the burning materials were removed. Mike and the plumber opened the windows and evaluated the area to ensure nothing else was on fire.

When things calmed down, Mike engaged in a conversation with the plumber about job site set up, fire watch requirements and hot work permits. Mike was quick to take action and has been Johnny-on-the-spot for many safety related situations during his long career at OCE.

~ Submitted by Brian Chamberlain, Safety Coordinator

Foreman, Scott Guerra, LU 41, working at the Masten Armory, went above and beyond to proactively protect our subcontractors while working in an energized electrical room. Great work, Scott!

~ Submitted by Brad Keatley, GM Buffalo
The annual Continuing Education Conference and Vendor Showcase brings together employees of the Linc Service and TEGG franchises from across the country and across the globe. During this three-day event, attendees participate in targeted educational sessions, visit with industry-leading service and supply vendors at the Vendor Showcase, and are recognized for their achievements during the annual President’s Awards Presentation. More than 1,300 members attended the 2020 event.

O’Connell, as a company, received the A.C.E. Award. This award recognizes companies for their outstanding performance in achieving more than 90 points in the TEGG Contractor of The Year scoring process.

OCE’s Technical Services Group chose among their peers for the nominations of TEGG Technician of the Year and Delta Team. Unfortunately, OCE did not receive any of these awards at the conference. But, we are very proud to honor these employees at O’Connell - OCE Technician of the Year, Rich McHugh and OCE Delta Team, Sergio Rivera and Scott Riester.

Next up were awards for our sales team and managers. Top sales performers are referred to as Diamond Award Winners, the most esteemed individual sales honor given to select individuals who showcase exemplary talents through their professionalism and noted sales successes. O’Connell took home four TEGG Diamond Awards, those who received them were invited to attend the All-Star Diamond Event in Austin, TX. O’Connell also received three TEGG Platinum Sales Performance and one Bronze Sales Performance Awards.

Last but not least, O’Connell took home four awards for the Circle of Excellence for Sales, Operations Coordinator, General & Sales Management, and Technical Operations.

"These accolades and industry recognition are outstanding. I could not be more proud of our team. We have skilled, passionate people working for us and it shows."

~ Joe Leggo, VP Technical Services Group
In April 2019 the Technical Services Group responded to an emergency call from the Buffalo Sewer Authority regarding an outage on one of their main incoming 115kV lines. Upon arrival our electricians noticed that the transformer differential relays were flagged which led them to believe that one of the main 115kV-13.8kV 20MVA transformers had possibly failed.

Test results indicated the transformer had sustained an internal fault and could not be re-energized. After discussion with the customer, it was decided to find a replacement unit. O’Connell located two 30MVA matching units in Concord, Massachusetts that would fit the sewer authority’s paralleling scheme. The customer then wanted us to perform testing and inspection of these units before they began the purchase process. After obtaining satisfactory test results on both transformers the units were purchased. Then began the shipping process from Massachusetts to Buffalo.

The transformers were drained, disassembled and transported by railcar to the Port of Buffalo. Shipping posed quite a challenge considering the Buffalo Sewer Authority is located on an island with two bridges that are not rated for the weight of these transformers. When they reached the port, they were loaded onto a barge and moved by means of tugboat to the break wall of the island. Hohl Industrial, who performed all the rigging on this project, then designed a ramp from the barge to the break wall of the island and unloaded the transformers by truck and trailer.

The first transformer was moved and set onto the pad of the transformer that was removed from service and will be energized this spring. The second transformer is staged and being installed this summer after the energization of the first transformer. All primary and secondary cabling for the transformers is being replaced as well. All system protections and controls associated with the Main-Tie-Main are also being upgraded with new SEL-751 feeder protection relays as well as SEL-787 transformer protection relays.

The project is expected to be finished by the end of the Summer 2020.

Division: Technical Services Group
Senior Project Manager: Brad Hartford
Project Manager: Angel Andrews
Senior Engineer (Protection and Controls): John Sargent, PE
Project Superintendent: Jason Sachs, LU 86
Foreman: Jesse Sobocinski, LU 41

Left to Right: Bill Reed, TEGG Diamond Award and TEGG Platinum Sales Performance; Brooke Tegas, Circle of Excellence - Operations Coordinator; Jason Kosia, Circle of Excellence - Technical Operations; Jason Sachs, Circle of Excellence - General & Sales Management; Rich McHugh, OCE Technician of the Year; Sal Balbi, TEGG Diamond Award; Brad Hartford, TEGG Diamond Award and TEGG Platinum Sales Performance; Michelle Jones, Bronze Level Sales Performance and Circle of Excellence - Sales; Rich Franco, TEGG Diamond Award and TEGG Platinum Award; Scott Riester and Sergio Rivera, OCE Delta Team.

Congratulations to all employees who were recognized by TEGG and O’Connell Teammates.
O’Connell Electric has had a fairly constant presence at the Greenidge power generating plant in Dresden, NY for many years. Due to the strong working relationship between the customer and OCE, when a unique project was presented to Greenidge, they called on us for assistance.

A cryptocurrency investment group was in search of a facility that could house and supply power to thousands of cryptocurrency mining devices for a chance to have a larger share of the market.

>> Enter Greenidge Generation and their facility

>> Enter O’Connell Electric.

The server farm comes as part of an extensive $65 million renovation of the power plant, which includes transforming the plant from coal to natural gas as well as investing in the electrical infrastructure needed to power the mining rigs.

This particular project evolved to utilize services from the Power Group, Communications Division and Construction Services Group, and created a combined workforce of nearly 40 IBEW members.

Power was one factor that was not an issue for the project. Fortunately, Greenidge had plenty of indoor available space as well. Time was the issue. Miners are useless unless they are operational.

The miners, with an estimated value around $2,000 each, were already in hand. The original plan was to install them in customized cargo containers placed outside of the generating plant. After three units were installed it was discovered that the noise produced by the miners while in operation far exceeded the allowable decibel level governed for the area.

>> Time for a plan B.

After a new power distribution plan was approved, purchasing the necessary equipment, including the major gear components for the medium voltage system, caused a major delay.

Once the equipment was ordered the team went to work figuring out how to expedite installation of the electrical system, install the main gear on one of the many staggered levels of the generation plant to the distribution center located 250 feet away on another level, and then have the power delivered to seven different smaller sub units scattered back up on the same floor as the main gear.

The Construction Services Group was asked to assist in designing a path and raceway system to connect the medium voltage 15kVA equipment prior to being delivered.

While a few members of Construction Services were walking the site with the customer, Project Manager and General Foreman, the idea of using OCE’s new 3-D scanner was discussed as the ideal situation in which to use the device. The customer agreed that due to the configuration of the generating plant, scanning would be the best option to accurately measure, plan and install the entire system.
In four hours, approximately 69 scans were taken of the facility to provide 1.5 billion measurement points, encompassing the areas required in the installation of the entire system.

The scans created a real-life 3D model (Point Cloud). Information for the 15kV equipment was provided in a two-dimensional format that the design team converted into 3D models. These models were placed in the point cloud to illustrate an actual installation. The design team then took the models and created a series of drawings to detail the installation plan, and also created a complete bill of materials for the installation. The cloud model also helped identify possible installation obstacles, which were addressed on the plan, as opposed to being discovered on site, saving time and money.

With the design work completed and accepted, along with the conduit and cable tray raceway ordered per the model, the preliminary work for the installation of the tray could begin. All floor penetrations and existing obstacles were addressed as the material was arriving to the site.

As the 30-inch cable tray was being installed new information regarding the equipment being supplied by the 2,000-amp distribution center began to surface and caused a change in the initial installation. It was decided the distribution center should be fed from the side of the gear, rather than the bottom, changing the vertical portion of the cable tray to conduit and fabricated enclosures. The change required design assistance to be accomplished over the phone. This was all achieved because the scans previously taken were re-opened on the computer and a new layout and bill of materials was established. A new plan was printed and provided to the crew installing the work.

A second visit from Construction Services to the project was requested by the General Foreman to discuss the raceway plans of the distribution center to the seven 3,000kVA, 415/240V “mini substations”. These mini subs are the source that feeds the Miners. After a few additional scans of this area were brought back to the office and added to the original scans, an installation plan was developed and sent back to the job site with another bill of materials, including designing another custom enclosure needed for the installation. All of this was turned over by noon the next day.

All raceway work was completed by the time the gear finally arrived to the project.

The mini subs placement within the facility went through a few revisions until the final layout plans took effect. Upon acceptance, all seven subs and raceways were installed, and had 15kV, 1/0 feeders installed, tested and terminated.

Sound like a lot of work? Just another day for O’Connell Electric. Our team’s success at Greenidge is a great example of multi-group, multi-division collaboration.

**Division:** Victor Construction, Construction Services Group, Power Group, Communications

**Project Manager:** Rich Maher

**Foreman:** Ernie Callaway, LU 840

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The server farm currently consumes 14 of the 106 megawatts of Greenidge’s capacity, enough electricity to power well over 11,000 average U.S. homes.

An aerial view of a completed mining cube. Four have been built, with anticipation of expanding.
Faculty at Binghamton University are developing a new energy storage solution for warehouse energy management with engineers at Raymond Corporation, a leading manufacturer of electric forklift trucks and intralogistics solutions. The project is designed to demonstrate why a behind-the-meter storage system and controllable forklift charging can be beneficial for warehouse owners and the utility grid.

The solution will use solar panels, a stationary energy storage system and lithium-ion batteries on forklifts to reduce energy costs for warehouse owners.

O’Connell Electric was brought in to install both the 250 kW/420 kWh battery storage system and 200 kW solar PV system at Raymond Corp’s headquarters just north of Binghamton.

Division: Solar
Project Manager: Lane Young
Foreman: Jeff Conte, LU 86

Located in Lewiston, NY, Mount St. Mary’s Hospital provides comprehensive care for families, from primary care to emergency services and management of chronic conditions. Our Buffalo Office has been involved in a comprehensive service upgrade project that required the removal of existing 13.2 kV service from the street and all existing main distribution equipment as well as the existing 300 kW emergency generator and associated transfer switches.

We installed a new electrical service, outdoor walk-in substation, and main distribution panels along with two new 800 kW Caterpillar emergency generators with 10,000 and 6,000 gallon above-ground storage tanks, emergency distribution with bypass/isolation transfer switches, and parallel switchgear.

We also collaborated with several of our business partners for the installation of new exhaust stacks, building fascia and interior renovations required for the installation as well as all required plumbing for the new transformers and installation of a new sprinkler system in various areas.

Division: Buffalo Construction
Project Manager: Brad Keatley
Foreman: Tim Smith, LU 237
St. Ann’s Community is a network of communities that provides comprehensive care, housing and services for older adults. St. Ann’s Home, one of the organization’s largest buildings located in Irondequoit, is a 388-bed skilled nursing facility equipped to provide 24-hour on-site care.

St. Ann’s is in the midst of a multi-year renovation project that impacts all nine floors of the building. The facility is changing to a household model, reflecting today’s preference among seniors and their families.

O’Connell was contracted primarily for the complete replacement of the electrical infrastructure from the basement to the 9th floor. The overhaul features a new 3000-amp service, MCC, and distribution and branch panels from the 9th floor to the mechanical spaces. In addition, the project included upgrades to the fire alarm and mechanical systems.

Division: Victor Construction
Project Manager: Rob Miller
Foreman: Nick Garnier, LU 86

NYS CANAL AUTHORITY: LOCKS CS2/CS3

The CS2 & CS3 locks located in Seneca Falls, NY are being upgraded with modern PLC controls and electrical infrastructure as well as a new camera and sound system. These new systems will work in tandem to allow more efficient on-site control and allow the locks to be controlled remotely. The project also includes new LED site lighting and renovation of the lock house electrical distribution system.

Division: Victor Construction / Communications
Project Managers: Rob Miller / Rob Unger
Foreman: Keith Marten, LU 86
Rochester Gas & Electric identified the need to remove and upgrade aging power systems in their network to increase reliability for local customers in Eastern Monroe County. O’Connell was hired to install approximately four miles of 35 kV cable in new and existing ducts, remove existing aerial and direct buried nitrogen filled cable, install a new duct bank through rough off-road terrain and on busy suburban streets. The project also includes a 200-foot-long 36-inch diameter jack-and-bore and 300 feet of 5-inch HDD conduit that runs under the Thousand Acre Brook, a large trout stream in Penfield, NY. Work is expected to be complete in July, 2020 and involves four local sub-contractor partners.

740/759 Gas Filled Cable Replacement

Division: Power Group T&D
Project Manager: Dave Emmi
UG/Civil Foreman: Scott Rohr, LU 86
OH Foreman: Steve Parkes, LU 1249

POWER GROUP ON-BOARDING

Nearly 300 OCE employees, including apprentices and major subcontractors were either introduced to or refreshed on standard OCE operating procedures and expectations at the Power Group’s annual on-boarding seminar. The training was hosted at three locations to efficiently cover projects across the state. Annual on-boarding is a large, but necessary undertaking.

Topics included:
• Utility specific policies and processes refresher
• OCE specific safety program
• Dig Safe NY 4-hour training
• Confined space, lead awareness, asbestos awareness refresher training
ON DECK! - OCE'S LARGEST INSIDE JOB TO DATE

In March, O'Connell Electric was awarded a record-setting contract for one of the largest inside electrical construction projects in the company’s history.

Work has already started for a massive distribution center to be built on 111 acres of land in Onondaga County. At nearly four million square feet in size, the building will be one of the largest distribution facilities in the country.

The application proposed to the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency mentions the facility will have up to 90 loading docks, cover ninety of the 111 acres of land, and have parking for 200 tractor trailers and nearly 2,000 cars.

While, at this time, we cannot disclose much information, we’re excited to continue providing updates and fully detail the scope of OCE’s involvement in the coming months.

More to come!

Divisions: ALL!!!
Project Managers: We’re assembling the team!
Foremen: This will be a huge team effort.

FROM THE FIELD
Send us your pictures to be featured on LinkedIn, Facebook and in our newsletter!

Early morning railroad crossing! These crews did a great job working quickly, but safely, to remove existing 34.5kV gas filled cable while simultaneously installing new open wire.

Great work and communication by all!

Dave Emmi
Manager T&D, Power Group

Our crew at Roswell Park Cancer Center in Buffalo representing OCE & Local 41. O’Connell has been on site for a year now providing significant substation upgrades. Keep up the great work guys!

Chris Wall
Project Manager, Buffalo
All of us at O'Connell strongly feel that we have been very blessed and are fortunate for the relationships we have with our vendors, customers, and communities we live and work in.

Over the holiday season we decided to share this good fortune in honor of everyone by making charitable donations to local organizations in the communities served by each of our offices.

A special Thank You goes out to all of our employees across each of our offices for your contributions to our “Make a Difference Campaign”.

During the month of December, we actually hosted two donation campaigns:

“Together We Can Make A Difference”

“Help Us Share The Warmth”

Tom Sauer and Jennie Morrow, from our Albany Office, delivered a “big check” from us to the Melodies Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital, Albany Medical Center.

All of our locations were very giving, allowing us to compile hundreds of pounds of non perishable food items and dozens of gently used coats, jackets, scarves, hats, gloves, and other cold weather clothing items.

In January, all of the items gathered were donated to local food shelters and organizations within each of our office locations.

Thank You!
We got served! In February, employees celebrated leap day by playing in a volleyball tournament to raise funds for Villa of Hope, a non-profit that partners with troubled individuals, families and communities to rebuild relationships, recover potential, and renew hope.

Congratulations to Courtney Nevin, Paul Kemp’s daughter for receiving the EAWNY 2020 Scholarship. All applicants are judged on academic achievements in school and personal characteristics by a panel of college and high school educators.

The Electrical Association of Western New York
PO Box 20219, Rochester NY 14602
(585) 382-9545 Fax (585) 382-9455
www.eawny.com

Meet OCE’s once mascot, Coco. Years ago, Coco would frequently visit the office. Turns out his favorite place to hang out was Vic’s office!

You can imagine Vic wasn’t the biggest fan, but in good spirit, always put up with Coco sitting in his chair. For the holidays one year, Jon and Susan Parkes-McNally brought Coco in the office on a weekend for a little photo shoot in Vic’s office.

Coco’s Christmas present to Vic was a full album of photos and funny quotes. The album is still around today!

Got a throw back to share? Send us a photo and some details!
Employee News
New Employees and Position Changes

Sal Balbi  Project Manager, Buffalo
Brent Bodine  TEGG Engineer, Technical Services Group
DeAnna Darling  Fleet Compliance Assistant, Victor
Scot Gerould  Diesel Mechanic, Power Group
Matthew Hickman  BIM Coordinator, Construction Services Group
James Jamison  Client Support Specialist, IT
Chris Mascaro  Assistant Project Manager, Power Group
Ryan Osswald  Buyer, Albany
Jordan Rowley  TEGG Engineer, Technical Services Group
Andrew Spring  Junior Project Manager
Trey Theobald  Project Manager, Power Group

Congratulations, Bill!

Bill Sandvik’s efforts developing our safety program have made significant contributions to our organization.
Thank you for all of your years of service, Bill.
Enjoy your retirement!

say hello
Recent Addition to our O’Connell Family

Amelia Zielke
Daughter of Jen and Zach Zielke, Estimator, Power Group
BUFFALO GM, BRAD KEATLEY, APPOINTED TO A SEAT ON NECA’s BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

The Business Development Task Force provides a framework where non-proprietary information on best practices and successful initiatives are shared. It addresses not only traditional lines of business but also emerging technologies in design and construction, energy efficiency, wind, solar, EV, data centers, smart grid, and energy storage.

The Task Force also explores opportunities related to topics like financing, tax incentives, advocacy, education, research, tools, training, and collaboration with federal agencies, state or local governments, universities, other associations or industry groups.

CEO, VIC SALERNO, RECEIVED THE NATIONAL CASE AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

An alumnus of Saint John Fisher College and Board of Trustees member, Vic has created a legacy of giving at the institution. In recognition of his decades of service to the College, he received the Robert L. Payton Award for Voluntary Service, presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at an awards ceremony, in February.

The award recognizes an individual who demonstrates leadership in advancement programs, furtherance of the philanthropic tradition, and public articulation of needs, goals, and issues in education.

GENERAL COUNSEL, JOE TURRI, RECEIVED RBJ CORPORATE COUNSEL HONORS

The Rochester Business Journal selected Joe Turri Esq, to receive a 2020 Corporate Counsel Award. The award honors the Greater Rochester area’s standout corporate counsel for the critical roles they play in making their companies successful.

Attorneys are selected based on the positive impact for a company or organization they serve and who demonstrate exceptional character, integrity and ethics. In addition, the honorees must show a significant contribution to the success of their client.
Safety First, Last & Always