

Biernat and Kraft Join Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy

New Hartford, NY (August 4, 2015) - Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy Inc. (GKG) of New Hartford, New York has expanded its professional team with the addition of two of the region's most accomplished employee benefits insurance specialists. Andrew F. Biernat and Ross W. Kraft have joined GKG, each as Vice President—Strategic Business Advisor.

In their positions, Biernat and Kraft will work with large employers throughout the state to identify risk and devise solutions that attract and retain the best employees and promote the organization's security and success; they will focus on both employee benefits and property/casualty insurance.

The two were most recently with the Utica-Rome office of Brown & Brown Insurance, where Biernat was senior vice president for employee benefits and Kraft was managing director of employee benefits.

Frequently working as a team, Biernat and Kraft have distinguished themselves in benefits planning, human resource management and related business administration for over two decades. They were the principals of the Meridian Group of New York, which provided life, health and other employee benefits products and services to companies and organizations across the state before Meridian merged with Brown & Brown in 2010. Earlier in their careers they developed and managed the employee benefits division of a central New York employment agency.

Biernat holds the Group Benefits Disability Specialist (GBDS) designation and is a past president of both the New York State and Greater Central New York Health Underwriters associations. He is active with several community organizations including the Utica Zoo, as a trustee; and the American Heart Association Utica/Mohawk Valley Region, as a member of its Go Red for Women Executive Leadership Team. Among the honors he has received are the Distinguished Service Award from the New York State Association of Health Underwriters, Outstanding Volunteer Award for Financial Development from the American Red Cross Utica Chapter, and the 40 Under 40 tribute from the Mohawk Valley Business Journal.



Kraft holds both the GBDS and Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) designations. He, too, has served as president of the New York State and Greater Central New York Health Underwriters associations and is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Kraft has also been a 40 Under 40 honoree and serves the community in a number of volunteer capacities, including on the American Heart Association's Go Red for Men committee, as co-chair of Hospice and Palliative Care of New Hartford's Night in Tuscany fund raising event, various The Genesis Group committees, and on the Utica Safe Schools board. Kraft also coaches ice hockey for Center State Youth Hockey Association.



About Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy

Founded in 1904, Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy (www.gkgrisk.com) is one of Central New York's oldest and largest independent insurance agencies. Blending innovative insurance solutions with leading-edge strategies, GKG helps individuals and businesses of all types and sizes manage risk. The firm is headquartered at 210 Clinton Road in New Hartford, from which it serves clients across New York State and around the nation and globe. GKG employs a professional staff of over 40 and represents more than 80 insurance carriers.