



SPIN CYCLE
Clients come to attorney Edward Burke Jr. to ease their legal worries.

BURKE'S LAW

When the high-profile need legal help in the Hamptons, they turn to **Edward Burke Jr.**, part of the East End's most in-demand legal dynasty.

by TOM CLAVIN *photography by* DANIEL GONZALEZ

"Get Eddie Burke" might sound like the title of an action movie starring Bruce Willis, but it's often the first thought for someone who's run afoul of the law in the Hamptons. Just ask Jason Kidd, now head coach of the Brooklyn Nets. Shortly after he wrapped his Cadillac SUV around a utility pole in Water Mill last year and was popped for DWI, Burke was beside him in court. Kidd pleaded guilty and had his misdemeanor charge reduced to a violation.

In the Hamptons, where high-profile criminal trials are rare, lawyers are measured by how effectively—and, especially,

how quietly—they make charges disappear or get punishments reduced. While Burke's practice specializes in real estate and zoning issues, negligence litigation and criminal law, some might say the Sag Harbor-based attorney has seen his practice thrive because of the stepped-up enforcement of drunk driving laws in recent years. Especially in the summer, the pages of the local weeklies are littered with the names of those busted, with many of the write-ups ending with "represented by Edward Burke Jr."

But the real reason for Burke's success is that he works relentlessly and loves doing it.

"The days are never the same," he says. "One call can change the direction of that day, week or month. I enjoy the rapid pace that's required to address a client's immediate needs or concerns."

It was perhaps inevitable that Burke would enter the law. His father's a Southampton town judge; two siblings are lawyers, too. There was the tug of the restaurant business when Burke worked at the Salty Dog, his family's then-popular eatery overlooking Little Peconic Bay, but Burke still found his way to St. John's University School of Law. After graduation, he

spent seven years as a prosecutor with the Suffolk County district attorney's office, racking up convictions in the Major Crimes Bureau.

In 2005, he switched to the other side of the courtroom and opened his own practice. Striking out on his own allows him to spend more time with his wife, Tricia, and three sons—and to hit the greens at Noyac Golf Club.

And, though his A-list clients keep him busy, Burke is never far away from his restaurant roots. He leased restaurateur Laurent Tourondel the space for the upscale burger joint LT Burger—right below his office.