



HOPKINS COURT

*Doing Everything Possible to Keep Clients out of the Courtroom,
but Winning in Court When Necessary*

Hopkins Court is a senior citizens apartment facility in the town of Amherst, just outside Buffalo, N.Y.

SITUATION

A commercial developer that Mackenzie Hughes has worked with over the years approached the firm in the late 1990s for help in obtaining right-to-build approvals for a senior citizens apartment facility in Amherst, N.Y. The project was initially met with resistance from neighbors and municipal authorities. Nonetheless, on Mackenzie Hughes' recommendation, the developer made the effort to lay out his site with a view toward mitigating the concerns of the neighbors. That included a landscaped berm buffering the site, the saving of a good amount of the trees on the perimeter of the property, and a design for the driveway and parking lot that kept traffic from traveling through the abutting neighborhood. In addition, the client worked with the Army Corp of Engineers to keep the impact on existing wetlands to a minimum.

CHALLENGE

That effort satisfied the town officials, but despite the actions taken to keep the apartment facility's impact on the surrounding community to a minimum, some residents from the neighboring residential area brought suit against the developer almost immediately upon the town's approval of the plan.

SOLUTION

Armed with evidence of all that had been done to keep the project from having a negative impact on the residential area, Mackenzie Hughes represented its client in the courtroom.

SUCCESS

Mackenzie Hughes led its client to a victory in court. The firm's experience, preparation, and ability to demonstrate that its client had made the right moves paid off for both Mackenzie Hughes and the developer.

