

RICHARD M. GARDELLA

Richard M. Gardella, Class of 1953, has been a leading practitioner of municipal law in Westchester County for more than 30 years and is President of the White Plains High School Alumni Association.

At White Plains High School Mr. Gardella lettered in football, basketball, baseball and track. As a football center he earned All-Metropolitan and All-County honors. He went on to play football at Williams College and with a U.S. Army team in Germany.

Upon his return to Westchester, Mr. Gardella proceeded to forge successful careers in two different fields – first as a journalist, then as a lawyer.

Experience as an Army public relations specialist led to a position with the *White Plains Reporter Dispatch* in 1960 as a general assignment reporter. He assumed greater responsibilities at newspapers in Bronxville and Yonkers before becoming City Editor of the *New Rochelle Standard Star*.

While serving as City Editor, Mr. Gardella attended Fordham Law School at night, graduating in 1972. He left the newspaper business a year later to become Assistant Corporate Counsel in the City of White Plains Law Department.

Mr. Gardella formed a law firm in Harrison, in 1977, and later became a partner in Neale, Wilson and Gardella in Scarsdale before establishing his own private practice in White Plains from 1983-1999. He served as Special Counsel to the City of White Plains for 11 years, Village Attorney of Scarsdale for 16 years and Corporation Counsel for the City of Rye for 18 years. He is currently special counsel to the Village of Scarsdale.

Active in the legal profession, Mr. Gardella is Past President of the Westchester County Bar Association (WCBA) and was Regional Vice President of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. He continued to utilize his journalist skills as Editor of *Municipal Lawyer* published by Pace University Law School, as editor and columnist for the WCBA monthly newsletter and as Editor of the White Plains High School Alumni Association newsletter.

Mr. Gardella's mother, Elvera Ucci, graduated from White Plains High School in 1926 and his four siblings, the late Judge George Gardella, and