



Meet Steven V. Maksin

Long before his prestigious legal career, Steven V. Maksin was like many students at Kingsborough Community College: hardworking and ambitious, yet facing considerable challenges on his way to earning a degree. He barely spoke any English, lacked economic resources, and was new to the American education system and its culture. Twenty-four years later, he still looks back fondly at his time at Kingsborough, and has chosen to give back to his alma mater in a *major* way.

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Mr. Maksin was 21 years old when he first came to the United States. Despite facing cultural and socio-economic adversities as a recent immigrant, Mr. Maksin was determined to make the most of the opportunities available to him. As an undergraduate at Kingsborough, he majored in Liberal Arts and distinguished himself as a top student, most notably by consistently making the Dean's List and becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa, an International Honor Society.

After graduating from Kingsborough in 1992, Mr. Maksin went on to enjoy a stellar academic career, graduating cum laude from New York University's Stern School of Business in 1994; receiving his law degree from Benjamin M. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University in 2000 and receiving his LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law in 2002.

Today, Mr. Maksin is Managing Partner at Maksin Legal Group and heads the firm's New York practice. His practice emphasizes federal income tax planning in a wide range of transactions, including structuring tax-efficient real-estate acquisitions and divestitures, joint ventures, venture capital transactions, securitizations and much more. He is also the founder and CEO of Moonbeam Capital Investments (MCI), a fully integrated, self-managed private equity fund that specializes in the acquisition of non-performing loans collateralized by commercial and residential properties.

Mr. Maksin also has a perfect counterpart in his wife, Natalie C. Maksin, who is not only a lawyer herself but a fellow partner at Maksin Legal Group. The couple first met at NYU's Stern School of Business as fellow undergraduates, and



Steve and Natalie Maskin

later followed one another to Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. They have raised five children together and currently live in Brighton Beach: *"Brooklyn was the very first place my wife and I saw after we landed in JFK airport coming from the Ukraine back in 1989. Brooklyn has always been a very special place for us and for our families. Even though I spend some of my time running my real estate business out of Las Vegas, Nevada, Brooklyn is our lovely home."*

For Mr. Maksin, living in Brighton Beach also means that Kingsborough Community College remains, both literally *and* figuratively, at the forefront of his thoughts. Perhaps this is why he established the Steven V. Maksin Endowed Scholarship at the very place where his own journey began: *"the main reasons for establishing the scholarship were 1) our firm belief that education is a necessary tool in*

being successful in the future and is part and parcel of our American core values, which need to be shared by all members of our society, 2) our understanding that there are many able and ambitious students who simply lack economic resources to pay for their education, 3) our clear realization that successful private citizens should provide additional funding to perpetuate the American dream in providing higher education to everyone who desires it, and 4) our hope that our actions will encourage others (former and current students at KCC) to follow our steps and give back to our alma mater KCC.”

Every month, the Kaleidoscope presents a different facet of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you can also share your story!](#)*

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