

Prominent Long Island Lawyer Accused Of Pocketing \$200,000 In Client Funds

A prominent Long Island attorney is accused of misusing up to \$200,000 in funds that were awarded to his clients, reports **CBS New York**.

Steven Morelli, reported to live in Manhasset and to own a home in Manhattan, is accused of pocketing settlement money meant for his clients, some of whom say they've been waiting for their payouts for more than a year.

"Somebody I know to be a good man and a good lawyer found himself in some trouble here," Marc Gann, Morelli's defense attorney, said to the news outlet. "I hope it doesn't end this way. This is a guy who has fought for his clients for many years. I know the allegations are serious allegations, but my understanding is that everyone to this point has been made whole."

One client was reportedly shorted \$50,000 from a nearly \$70,000 settlement. Irman Rubbani, a limousine driver in Brooklyn, told CBS2 that he has not seen "one penny" of the \$50,000 Morelli owes him.

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