

Love Canal lawyer stands guard for school

By **MARGARET COSTELLO**
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As a child, Craig Slater wanted to be a forest ranger.

"He always loved nature," said his mother, Nancy Slater of Vestal. "It really bothers him to see people hurting the land."

Craig Slater went on to combine his love of the land with a desire to see justice served. Today, the 44-year-old Elmira native is one of the state's most prominent environmental lawyers. He served as one of a dozen lawyers involved in the Love Canal investigation more than two decades ago. He was a New York

State Assistant Attorney General and went on to become head of the Civil Branch of the Environmental Protection Bureau in Buffalo for three years.

Slater, who now works with the private law firm, Harter, Secrest & Emery, in Buffalo, was hired two

weeks ago by the city of Elmira to monitor and advise the city on possible environmental contamination

around Southside High School. The city has authorized up to \$15,000 to pay Slater.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has taken 45 soil samples from the property around the school at 777 S. Main St.

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