

**Martha Mann Alfaro**

Deputy Chief, Division of Legal Counsel, New York City Law Department

Martha Mann Alfaro joined the New York City Law Department's Division of Legal Counsel in 1981, and has served as Deputy Chief of the Division since 1994. Her counseling and legislative work has involved many civil rights initiatives including the City's anti-apartheid legislation and pension divestiture programs; amendments strengthening the City's Human Rights Law; equal opportunity programs for City employees and City contractors; and the City's domestic partner program. She has trained City employees in the Americans with Disabilities Act and medical privacy laws. She also drafted amendments to the Education Law establishing a new governance system for the City's schools.

Danshera Cords is a Professor of Law at Albany Law School. She teaches and writes in the area of tax law. Her teaching is primarily in the areas of partnership tax, corporate tax, individual tax and tax policy. Professor Cords has also taught include business organizations and Chinese Law.

Professor Cords' writing has been primarily in the areas of taxpayer rights and tax procedure. She speaks regularly around the country and has been repeatedly invited to speak on American Business and Tax Law in China. Beginning in the fall of 2013 she received an appointment as Distinguished Foreign Professor at the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics in China, a program sponsored by Shanghai Education Committee. She has also been invited to and has been a visiting professor at schools including Seattle University School of Law and University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Professor Cords has been teaching since 2002. Before joining the Albany Law School faculty in 2010, she was a Professor of Law at Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio. At Capital, she served as the Academic Director of the Graduate Tax and Business program from 2005-2008. From 2000-2002, Professor Cords was an attorney-advisor to the Hon. Maurice B. Foley of the U.S. Tax Court in Washington, D.C.

## **Kathleen Hodgdon**

Kathleen Hodgdon serves as Associate Counsel to the Association of Towns of the State of New York. As Associate Counsel, Ms. Hodgdon provides legal assistance and training to town officials on a variety of municipal issues, specializing in real property taxation.

Prior to joining the Association of Towns, Ms. Hodgdon acted as counsel for the New York State Conference of Mayors. Ms. Hodgdon also completed a clerkship as an Appellate Court Attorney for the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department in Albany, New York.

Ms. Hodgdon is a member of the New York State Bar Association, where she serves as co-chair of the Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee of the Local and State Government Law section, the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York and the Capital District Women's Bar Association.

**STEVEN G. LEVENTHAL**

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Steve is an attorney and CPA, and managing member of the Roslyn general practice firm of Leventhal, Mullaney & Blinkoff, LLP.

Steve serves as Village Attorney for two villages, and as counsel to the boards of ethics of two counties, three towns, and a village. He is the Associate Village Justice for two villages, a hearing officer for the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE), an arbitration chairperson for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), and Trial Commissioner for the Nassau County Police Department.

Steve is President of the Nassau County Bar Association, a director of the Nassau Suffolk Legal Services Corporation, a member of the Executive Committee of the NYSBA Local and State Government Law Section, and co-chair of the section's Ethics Committee. He is a member of the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District. Steve is Associate Dean for Continuing Judicial Education of the Nassau County Magistrates Association.

Steve is co-author and editor of Municipal Ethics in New York: A Primer for Attorneys and Public Officials, published by the NYS Bar Association. He served as chair of the Nassau County Board of Ethics, and as a consultant to the United Nations Ethics Office. He has lectured and written extensively on the subjects of government, legal, corporate and medical ethics. Steve is frequently engaged to provide ethics advice, training and continuing professional education programs to municipal officers and employees throughout the state, municipal associations, bar associations, law firms and universities, including the annual orientation for newly elected and appointed officials presented by the New York State Association of Counties.

**Seth H. Agata** was appointed Executive Director of the Joint Commission on Public Ethics in March 2016. He previously served as Chairperson of the New York State Public Employment Relations Board and Acting Counsel to the Governor and as well as First Assistant Counsel and Ethics Officer to the Executive Chamber. Before joining the Governor's staff, he was Assistant Secretary for Program and Policy (with oversight of the Assembly Codes, Correction, Election Law, and Judiciary Committees) and Senior Associate Counsel in the Office of Counsel to the Majority for the New York State Assembly. He served as Counsel for Investigations in the Office of State Comptroller, Assistant District Attorney for Columbia County, and a trial examiner in the New York City Office of Collective Bargaining and was in private law practice in New York City and Columbia County. He co-authored *The History of the New York Court of Appeals, 1932-2003* (Columbia U. Press, 2006) and has written on other topics. Mr. Agata is a graduate of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and the Cornell Law School. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

**Noreen VanDoren**

Noreen VanDoren serves as a Supervising Attorney and Ethics Officer for the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) and has been providing legal and policy advice to OGS Executives regarding the Minority- and Women-Owned Business participation requirements in State contracts since 2003. She assists the various OGS program units (Centralized Procurement, Design and Construction, Finance and Business Services Center) in evaluating MWBE availability, goal setting and compliance. Ms. VanDoren is also responsible for overseeing OGS's compliance with the legal requirements of the New York State Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses and Preferred Sources programs, as well as the Human Rights Law. Ms. VanDoren joined OGS as Assistant Counsel in October 2000, assisting on legal issues related to OGS Centralized Contracts and represented the NYS Procurement Council and Council of Contracting Agencies in the development of the Vendor Responsibility Questionnaire and evaluation process for State contracts. In 2010 she became an Associate Attorney overseeing the agency's litigation matters and continues to provide legal guidance and assistance to all OGS program units other than Real Property. Prior to joining OGS she was a partner and associate attorney in an Albany based medical malpractice and product liability defense firm for 12 years. She is a graduate of SUNY Albany and Albany Law School.