

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

RICHARD B. ALDERMAN

Born Syracuse, New York, December 20, 1944; admitted to bar 1969, New York and U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York.

Education: Dartmouth College (A.B. 1966); University of Pennsylvania (J.D. cum laude, 1969). The Best Lawyers in America, 1995 – ; New York Super Lawyers, 2007– ; The Best of the U. S. 2002 – . Member, New York Matrimonial Practice Advisory Committee; Member, Onondaga County Bar Association ; Member, New York State Bar Association (Family Law Section; Executive Section, 1990–; Trusts and Estates Law Section); Member, American Bar Association; Member, Women’s Bar Association of Central New York; Member, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; Member, American Bar Foundation. Lecturer in Family Law: New York State Bar Association, Family Law Section; Onondaga County Bar Association; New York State Judicial Institute; American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

ROSALIA BAIAMONTE, ESQ.
Gassman Baiamonte Betts, PC
666 Old Country Road, Suite 801
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 228-9181

Ms. Baiamonte was admitted to the Bar in January 1994. Since admission to the bar, Ms. Baiamonte has been engaged exclusively in the practice of matrimonial and family law.

Ms. Baiamonte is a graduate of Brandeis University (B.S., *cum laude*, 1990) and Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1993). From October, 1993 through February, 1996, Ms. Baiamonte was an associate of the firm of DaSilva & Keidel. In March, 1996, Ms. Baiamonte became an associate of Stephen Gassman, Esq., a renowned leader in the field of matrimonial and family law. Ms. Baiamonte was named a member of the firm on August 1, 2007.

Ms. Baiamonte is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Family Law Section, where she serves on the Executive Committee and the Continuing Legal Education Committee. She is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association, serving on both the Judiciary Committee and the Matrimonial Law Committee as the incoming First Vice Chair. Ms. Baiamonte is a frequent lecturer on various matrimonial topics for the New York State and Nassau County Bar Associations, Nassau Academy of Law, and New York State Judicial Institute. Ms. Baiamonte has also appeared as a guest lecturer at C.W. Post and St. John's University School of Law.

Rebecca Baritot

Rebecca Baritot graduated from Mercer University, where she was an Editor of the Law Review, and received her juris doctorate from this institution, cum laude, in 1983. She has practiced exclusively in the area of family law since that time and routinely lectures for private institutions and on behalf of the State Bar Association. She has been selected by Buffalo Business First to appear in 'Who's Who in law' in numerous editions and recently was the recipient of the Michael F. Dillon Attorney for the Child Award for 2012.

William R. Bartholomae, Esq.
Marris & Bartholomae, PC
317 Montgomery St.
Syracuse, NY 13202-2009

Mr. Bartholomae is the managing partner of Marris & Bartholomae, P.C. He was admitted in January of 1981 and devotes most of his practice to matrimonial and family law.

Katherine J. Bestine
Cohen & Lombardo P.C.
Attorneys at Law
Buffalo

Katherine Bestine is a 1985 graduate of the State University of New York College at Buffalo and received her law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law (Ohio) in 1989. Admitted to the New York State Bar in 1990, Ms. Bestine joined Cohen and Lombardo, P.C. in 1995 and became a partner in 2000.

Ms. Bestine's professional memberships include the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She is also a member of the Bar Association of Erie County which she has served as a Director and as Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee from 1994-1996. Ms. Bestine has served on the Erie County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee and is currently a member of the Bar Association's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee, and its Practice and Procedures in Family Court Committee. In addition, she is a past-president of the Women Lawyers of Western New York, and a member of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter. In 2005 the Women Lawyers of Western New York named her Lawyer of the Year. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, Inc. which assists private attorneys in the delivery of pro bono legal services to indigent individuals and not-for-profit organizations.

Ms. Bestine's community activities include serving as a volunteer for Haven House, a women's domestic violence center, and as a Trustee of the Village of Kenmore.

Ms. Bestine's areas of concentration are matrimonial and family law.

LAW OFFICES OF TIMOTHY J. BRENNAN
TIMOTHY J. BRENNAN, ESQ.
222 BLOOMINGDALE ROAD, SUITE 303
WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10605
PHONE: (914) 993-9600
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EMAIL: tjb@tjbrennanlaw.com

- Education: Pace University School of Law, J.D. (*cum laude*), 1980
- Bar Admissions: New York State Bar, 1981
United States Supreme Court, 1984
- Employment: New York State Grievance Committee, Ninth Judicial District, 1980 - 1982
Staff Counsel - investigated and prosecuted complaints of professional misconduct against attorneys.
- Private Practice, 1982 - Present
Practice limited to matrimonial/family law and attorney ethics/grievance matters. Represent attorneys in matters before local bar associations and Grievance Committees in the First and Second Departments. Represent judges in matters before the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. Retained as trial counsel in contested matrimonial/family law matters. Retained as expert witness regarding legal ethics/legal malpractice matters.
- Bar Associations: New York State Bar Association
Westchester County Bar Association (Former Chair of Professional Ethics Committee)
Northern Westchester Bar Association (Past President)
- CLE: Lectured on professional ethics at:
Pace University School of Law
New York State Bar Association
Westchester County Bar Association
New Rochelle Bar Association
Northern Westchester Bar Association
Rockland County Bar Association

JEFFREY L. CATTERSON, ESQ.

Galasso, Langione, Catterson & LoFrumento, LLP, Garden City

Education:

Hofstra University School of Law, 1998

SUNY Stony Brook, 1994 B.A., Summa Cum Laude

Practice Areas:

Jeffrey L. Catterson, Esq. commenced his legal career with the firm in 1997. He specializes in all aspects of matrimonial and family law litigation, including, but not limited to: divorce, custody, support, equitable distribution, modification and enforcement issues, and the negotiation and preparation of pre-nuptial agreements, post-nuptial agreements, separation agreements, and stipulations of settlement.

Mr. Catterson has represented, and assisted in the representation of, numerous high profile and celebrity clients. He has extensive experience with respect to complex business valuations and enhanced earnings computations involving multi-million dollar wage earners and business owners.

Mr. Catterson's other areas of practice include medical malpractice, personal injury, commercial litigation, general litigation and appellate practice.

Personal:

Mr. Catterson has a loving wife, Susan, and two beautiful daughters, Jessica and Abigail. He enjoys spending time with his family, playing football and golfing.

Professional Memberships:

New York Bar

American Bar Association

Nassau County Bar Association - Matrimonial and Family Law sections

Suffolk County Bar Association - Matrimonial and Family Law sections

JULIE CERIO

Cerio Law Offices, Syracuse

Julie Cerio has been in private practice since 2001 as a partner in the Cerio Law Offices with her husband Thomas. Julie's practice concentrates on the representation of parties and children in Family Court and Matrimonial matters. She has been on the Law Guardian panel in the 4th Department since 2003 and won the Honorable Michael S. Dillon award in 2008 for her role as an advocate for children. Her proudest accomplishment remains raising her four children.

Hon. Christine M. Clark

Schenectady County Supreme Court
620 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 285-8445

Judicial Offices

Justice, Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial District, Elected, 2013 to 2026

Judge, Family Court, Schenectady County, Elected, 2011 to 2012

Judge, City Court, Schenectady County, Elected, 2006 to 2015

Interim Judge, City Court, Schenectady County, 2005 to 2005

Other Professional Experience

Schenectady County District Attorney's Office, Special Victims Unit, Bureau Chief, 2004 to 2004

Schenectady County District Attorney's Office, Assitant District Attorney, 1998 to 2003

Dreyer Boyajian, LLP, Associate Attorney, 1996 to 1998

Dreyer Boyajian, LLP, Law Clerk, 1995 to 1996

Admission to the Bar

NYS, Appellate Division, Third Department, 1997

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1997

United States District Court, Northern District of New York, 1997

United States Supreme Court, 2001

Education

J.D., Albany Law School, 1996

B.A., Columbia University, School of General Studies, 1993

Publications

Professional & Civic Activities

Alumni Mentor, Albany Law School, 2003 to present

Albany Law School, Alumni Association, 2000 to 2010

Member, Capital District Women's Bar Association

Member, New York State Bar Association

Member, Schenectady County Bar Association

JUDGES OF THE TRIAL COURTS

Hon. Gerald William Connolly

Albany County Building
112 State Street, Room 1350
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 285-8592

Judicial Offices

Acting Justice, Supreme Court, Third Judicial District, Appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman, 2006 to Present

Judge, Court of Claims, Appointed by Governor George Pataki, 2006 to 2014

Other Professional Experience

Admission to the Bar

NYS, Appellate Division, First Department, 1987

Education

J.D., Fordham University

PROFILE – MICHAEL C. DAAB, ESQ.

Michael Daab is currently ‘Of Counsel’ to the matrimonial firm Gassman Baiamonte Betts, PC. Prior to that, he was a partner at the matrimonial firm of Potruch & Daab, LLC. He is a graduate of Columbia University (BA, *cum laude*, 1994) and Hofstra University School of Law (1997). He has practiced exclusively in the fields of Matrimonial and Family Law for over 15 years. In that time, he has litigated divorce and family law matters from inception through trial and has developed an extensive background in appellate practice as well.

Mr. Daab has lectured before the New York Family Law American Inn of Court, of which he is a Barrister member, and is a panel member of Nassau County Matrimonial Supreme Court Mediation Program. He is also a member of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association and of the Matrimonial Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association.

Elizabeth M. DiPirro

Hogan Willig
2410 North Forest Road
Suite 301
Amherst, NY 14068

Professional Experience

Mrs. DiPirro understands and appreciates the significant emotional and financial turmoil that people may experience during a break-up of their relationship and families. Over the course of her tenure as a matrimonial/family law practitioner, she has strived to assist her clients in resolving these highly sensitive and important matters in a way which minimizes anxiety and hopefully, enables them to move forward as positively as possible.

Mrs. DiPirro is also certified in the areas of mediation and Collaborative Law.

Education

J.D., 1988, State University of New York at Buffalo Law School
B.S., 1985, LeMoyne College

Admissions to Practice

New York State, 1989
U.S. District Court, Western District of New York

Professional Associations & Memberships

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, Member 2012
Bar Association of Erie County, Member
- Matrimonial & Family Law Committee, Member
- Practice & Procedure in Family Court Committee, Member
Bar Association of Erie County, Certified for Mediation
Judicial Hearing Officer for Buffalo City Court Small Claims Arbitration Program
New York State Bar Association - Family Law Section, Member
Western New York Collaborative Law Professionals, Ltd., Member
Women's Bar Association of the State of New York - Western New York Chapter, Member

MARGARET M. DONOHOE

Donohoe Talbert LLP

New York City

Margaret Donohoe brings her clients a strong intellect, broad experience and a willingness to give frank advice, tempered by sensitivity and a sense of humor. Ms. Donohoe has been practicing exclusively in the field of matrimonial and family law for thirteen years, and has been recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine as one of the top family law attorneys in New York. She has lectured on family law subjects to the New York State Bar Association and the New York City Bar Association.

Ms. Donohoe is one of the few matrimonial attorneys in New York with an Ivy League education, experience in an elite federal clerkship, and training at a top commercial litigation firm. Ms. Donohoe graduated magna cum laude from Yale University in 1992, with a B.A. in English, and from Yale Law School in 1995, where she was chairperson of the Barrister's Union. After law school, Ms. Donohoe clerked for the Honorable John C. Lifland, in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. She then spent three years engaged in complex commercial and securities litigation at Covington & Burling (and its predecessor). As a result of her federal clerkship and early litigation experience, Ms. Donohoe entered the arena of matrimonial law with an understanding of complex commercial issues, and a thorough grounding in complex, civil litigation. Ms. Donohoe was previously a partner in the family law department of Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman, LLP.

Ms. Donohoe was drawn to family law by her desire to work with individual clients. She recognizes that family law matters are of vital importance, affecting every aspect of her clients' lives. Ms. Donohoe approaches each case as a unique problem solving exercise. Whenever possible, Ms. Donohoe attempts to find an agreed solution. She is able to achieve settlements in the vast majority of her cases. If litigation is the best course to achieve a client's goals, then Ms. Donohoe brings to bear a wealth of experience, agile strategy and unrelenting dedication.

Clients of note:

Ms. Donohoe represented the First Lady of the City of New York, Donna Hanover, in her highly publicized divorce from former mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. On appeal, she successfully defended the trial court's decision to bar Mayor Giuliani's paramour from the Mayor's official residence, Gracie Mansion. *See Anonymous v. Anonymous*, 286 A.D.2d 656, 734 N.Y.S.2d 115 (1st Dep't 2001).

ARTHUR D. ETTINGER, Esq.

Rottenstreich & Ettinger LLP
New York City

Arthur has extensive experience representing and advising clients in all aspects of matrimonial and family law, including negotiating and drafting pre and post nuptial agreements and separation agreements and litigating child custody and complex economic issues throughout New York State.

Arthur began his law career as an associate at Zeichner Ellman & Krause, a medium sized full service firm that focuses its representation of financial institutions, including creditors' rights and bankruptcy issues. In 1999, Arthur left the Zeichner firm and joined a prominent boutique matrimonial litigation firm and has focused his practice exclusively in the area of matrimonial and family law ever since. Prior to forming Rottenstreich & Ettinger LLP, Arthur was senior counsel at Cohen Lans LLP, one of the most highly regarded matrimonial firms in the country founded by the partners of the former matrimonial department of the firm Morrison Cohen Singer & Weinstein LLP.

Arthur received his undergraduate degree from the University of Vermont and his law degree from New York Law School, where he served as Executive Editor of the *Journal of International and Comparative Law*.

Arthur currently serves on the Matrimonial Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association, is a member of the Practice Management Subcommittee of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association and lectures on matrimonial and family law issues. Arthur is a member of the New York and New Jersey State Bars, and is admitted to practice in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Arthur currently resides in Manhattan.

KASOWITZ

KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES & FRIEDMAN LLP



Alan R. Feigenbaum

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Alan's practice focuses on disputes involving divorce, equitable distribution, custody, visitation, child and spousal support, and other areas of family and matrimonial practice before New York trial and appellate courts. He represents individuals in the negotiation and drafting of pre-marital and post-marital agreements, including separation agreements. Alan also has extensive experience in patent law and general commercial litigation.

RELATED INFORMATION

PRACTICE AREAS

Matrimonial and Family Law

EDUCATION

- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (J.D., 2003)
- Tulane University (B.A., 2000)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York, 2004

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, 2004
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, 2004
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit, 2004

R.J. FRIEDMAN, ESQ.

R.J. Friedman is an attorney at DENNIS C. GAUGHAN ATTORNEYS in Hamburg, New York. His practice is focused primarily on matrimonial and family law, criminal law, and real estate, and also includes estate planning and civil litigation.

R.J. is an alumnus of Saint Francis High School and graduated with honors from Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. He is a 2007 graduate of University at Buffalo Law School. R.J. worked as a law clerk at DENNIS C. GAUGHAN ATTORNEYS seven years, through college and law school, before he was admitted to practice in New York in 2008. He was admitted to the US District Court for the Western District of New York and the US Bankruptcy Court in 2011.

R.J. is a member of the New York State Bar Association, and is active on the Family Court Practice and Procedure Committee and Matrimonial Law Committee for the Erie County Bar Association. RJ sits on the Board of Directors of the Saint Francis High School Alumni Association, and is a former board member of the University at Buffalo Law School Alumni Association GOLD Group. He resides with his wife and daughter in West Seneca, New York.

DOLORES GEBHARDT, ESQ.

DOLORES GEBHARDT, ESQ. is a partner at McCarthy Fingar LLP in White Plains, New York (www.mccarthyfingar.com). Her practice is concentrated in matrimonial and family law and civil appeals.

Ms. Gebhardt received a BS degree from Cornell University in 1981 and a JD degree from Hofstra Law School in 1984.

She is a member of the NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and a member of the Section on Family Law.

Ms. Gebhardt is a Director of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY) and a co-chair of WBASNY's Matrimonial Law Committee.

Ms. Gebhardt is a past president of the Westchester Women's Bar Association (WWBA). She currently serves the WWBA as co-chair of its Matrimonial Law and Programs Committees. Previously, she served as WWBA Vice President, Treasurer, Chair of its Annual Dinner, and was a member of the Judicial Screening Committee.

Ms. Gebhardt is a Director and the Treasurer of the White Plains Bar Association, and a member of the American Bar Association, the Westchester County Bar Association's Family Law Section and the Bar Association of the City of New York.

Ms. Gebhardt is an adjunct professor at Hofstra Law School, where she has taught Collaborative Family Law since 2010.

Ms. Gebhardt was recently named a 2013 New York-Metro Super Lawyer.

Ms. Gebhardt is an active member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals (www.collaborativelawny.com), a practice group of lawyers, mental health professionals and financial professionals dedicated to collaborative divorce.

NANCY E. GIANAKOS, ESQ.
PARTNER

Ms. Gianakos concentrates her practice exclusively in family and matrimonial matters, litigating in the New York metropolitan area. She brings years of negotiating experience to her practice from a diverse legal background:

- municipal work on environmental issues
- as counsel to the former maritime firm of Chalos & Brown (NYC) in the Exxon-Valdez litigation
- advisor to a private commodities fund, CT insurance brokerage firm and NY commercial real estate firm

Admissions/Licenses

Western New England University,
School of Law, J.D. (1981),
Admitted: Connecticut State Bar (1981),
New Jersey State Bar (1992), New York State Bar (1993) and
the U.S. Supreme Court (1999), U.S. Court of Federal Claims (1999),
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (1999),
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (1999),
U.S. District Courts for the E. District of New York (1999) and
District of Connecticut J.D. (1981).

Lecturer

Ms. Gianakos frequently lectures to civic organizations,
for the Nassau County Bar Association
Academy of Law, Queens County Bar Association,
and the American Family Law Inns of Court.

Memberships and Associations

Family Law Committee, the New York State Bar Association;
Matrimonial Committee, Nassau County Bar Association;
the American Family Law Inns of Court; and former member
of the International Association and New York
Association of Collaborative Professionals.

Former Chair of the Publications Committee
Nassau County Bar Association; Editor, *Nassau
Lawyer* (2009-2011), and currently the Matrimonial Focus
Editor of the *Nassau Lawyer*.

She serves on the Board of Directors of the Nassau County
Bar Association and Advisory Board of the Academy of
Law, former Board of Director for Foundation
Grow, and Mediator for the Matrimonial Alternative Dispute
Resolution Program (Nassau County).

Narrative Biography for Elena L. Greenberg, Esq.

Elena L. Greenberg, Esq., is a partner in the Garden City law firm of Fass & Greenberg, LLP. Ms. Greenberg has concentrated her practice in practices matrimonial and family law for the past 31 years. She is a certified divorce mediator, and has written articles in the New York Law Journal, Nassau Lawyer, New York State Bar Association Family Law Section. She is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association Matrimonial Committee, New York State Bar Association Family Law Section, New York State Women's Bar Association, and served as Past Chair of the Nassau County Bar Association Technology and Practice Management Committee. She is has been selected as a Super Lawyer by Thompson Reuters for the New York Metropolitan Area, and has been honored to serve as a Master and Secretary/Treasurer of the New York State American Family Law Inns of Court. Ms. Greenberg has lectured in matrimonial and family law for the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association, and at Foundation for Accounting Education events. Ms. Greenberg can be reached by email at Egreenberg@fglaw.net.

PETER SIMON GRENIS, ESQ.

Peter Simon Grenis, Esq., is a 1993 graduate of Albany Law School. He is a proud member of the New York State Bar Association, and is pleased and honored to serve as the Chair for the Practical Skills CLE on behalf of the Family Law Section. Mr. Grenis began practicing law in Syracuse, New York in 1993, working as an Associate for a small personal injury firm, which he tolerated for a mere two years, leaving that position voluntarily in August, 1995. In or around September, 1995, Mr. Grenis preliminarily pursued the path of self-employment, and then formally rented his first office, in March, 1996. He practices law in that same office, to date, having specialized in Matrimonial and Family Law litigation as of in or around 1999, to present. Mr. Grenis presently focuses his practice representing litigants in Matrimonial and Family Law matters in Supreme and Family Courts in upstate New York, predominantly in Onondaga County but also working in Oswego, Madison, Oneida and Cortland Counties. From time to time, Mr. Grenis will also handle an Appeal for a client in the area of Domestic Relations and Family Law.

Mr. Grenis is a firm believer in the collegiality of the practice of law, particularly in the area of Domestic Relations, and encourages any colleague with a question or practice dilemma in this area to feel free to contact him at any time to discuss the same.

Sharon T. Hoskins, Esq. has practiced matrimonial and family law since 1999. She recently formed the law firm HOSKINS LLP, located in New York City, which focuses on matrimonial and family law, and divorce mediation. Her work includes: the negotiation of marital settlement agreements; separation agreements; prenuptial agreements; child custody disputes; child support proceedings; enforcement and modification actions; and the negotiation and litigation of contested matrimonial matters involving substantial marital estates with complex equitable distribution issues as well as issues of spousal maintenance, valuation of assets including businesses and licenses, and enhanced earning capacity. She previously worked with the matrimonial law groups at Katsky Korins, LLP, Herman, Sloan, Robarge & Sullivan, LLP and Flemming, Zulack and Williamson LLP. Ms. Hoskins currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, where she is a delegate to the House of Delegates and Chair of the Diversity Committee. She is also a member of the Matrimonial Practice Advisory Committee. Ms. Hoskins formerly served on the Executive Board of the Young Lawyers' Section of the New York State Bar Association and recently completed two appointed terms on the Matrimonial Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. She has presented at the Judicial Institute and several Continuing Legal Education Seminars on matrimonial law and ethics topics. Ms. Hoskins earned her B.A. from Dartmouth College and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.

Keith I. Kadish, Esq.

Kadish & Fiordaliso, Buffalo, NY

Mr. Kadish was born and raised in Western New York. He graduated from Williamsville North High School, received his B.S. from Fredonia State College and obtained his Juris Doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in 1985.

Mr. Kadish was admitted to practice law in New York State in 1986 and is distinguished as a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, where he belongs to its Matrimonial and Family Committee, the Erie County Bar Association, where he belongs to the Matrimonial Committee and the Erie County Family Court Practice and Procedure Committee. Mr. Kadish also teaches an undergraduate Family Law course at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Mr. Kadish practices in the areas of family law including the areas of divorce, property distribution, custody and support.

Contact Mr. Kadish at kkadish@kf-attys.com or call directly at 1-716-634-6111 ext. 202.

Erik Kristensen, Associate

Bodnard & Milone LLP

White Plains

Erik Kristensen graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1996 and was admitted to the New York bar in 1997. He has represented matrimonial litigants in the counties of Westchester, New York, Bronx, Richmond, Kings and Queens, in both the Supreme and Family Court, and in the Appellate Divisions of the First and Second Departments. He is a member of the Family Law Sections of the New York State and Westchester County Bar Associations and has lectured for the New York State Bar Association. In the course of his representation of matrimonial litigants, Mr. Kristensen has successfully prosecuted, or opposed, appeals in the Appellate Division, Second Department, resulting in the following holdings in which the positions he advanced were adopted:

Boster-Burton v. Burton, 73 A.D.3d 671, 900 N.Y.S.2d 375 (2nd Dept., 2010), wherein the Appellate Division determined that, with regard to equitable distribution of a non-transferable membership in a country club, "the Supreme Court providently exercised its discretion and achieved equity between the parties by awarding the plaintiff a distributive award equal to the cost of a 'house membership.'"

Szekely v. Szekely, 73 A.D.3d 1158, 902 N.Y.S.2d 129 (2nd Dept., 2010), wherein the Appellate Division reversed the denial by the trial court of a request for counsel fees to which the movant was entitled pursuant to the default provision in the parties' settlement agreement.

Milone v. Milone, 51 A.D.3d 643, 857 N.Y.S.2d 673 (2nd Dept., 2008), wherein the Appellate Division reversed the direction by the trial court that the mother ought comply with the visitation provisions of a Judgment of Divorce, holding that "[t]he Supreme Court should have denied that branch of the defendant's motion which was to direct the plaintiff to comply with [the] visitation provisions [of the Judgment of Divorce]. It might be appropriate to direct a custodial parent to comply with such visitation provisions when that parent is interfering with the noncustodial parent's visitation rights. Here, however, the defendant failed to offer any evidence showing, or even tending to show, that the plaintiff was 'estrang[ing] the children from' him. In fact, the evidence actually shows that the plaintiff was encouraging the children to have a relationship with the defendant. Accordingly, there was no need to direct the plaintiff to comply with the visitation provisions in question since the evidence demonstrated that she was already doing so."

Gross v. Gross, 15 A.D.3d 442, 789 N.Y.S.2d 447 (2nd Dept., 2005), wherein the Appellate Division affirmed the trial court, holding that "[a]bsent a showing of an unanticipated and unreasonable change in circumstances, the support provisions of the agreement should not be disturbed."

Mr. Kristensen is a member of the Ethics Committee for the Village of Pleasantville.

Gerald Leary Esq

Balzer & Leary, PLLC, Albany

Gerald P. Leary was raised in Albany, New York. Mr. Leary graduated from Fordham University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Science Degree, with a concentration in accounting, and he was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant by the State of New York in 1988. Prior to attending Law School, Mr. Leary was employed in New York City by one of the "Big Eight" International Public Accounting Firms, and eventually accepted a position with KeyCorp Mortgage Corporation as Vice President in charge of Accounting Operations until he enrolled in Albany Law School.

Mr. Leary is a graduate of Albany Law School (*cum laude*). While attending Albany Law School, Mr. Leary was inducted into the Justinian Society, Albany Law School's academic honor society, and he was one of ten students in his class to be inducted into the National Order of Barristers for his accomplishments in the moot court program at Albany Law School. From 1996 through 1999, Mr. Leary served as a Member of the Board of Trustees at Albany Law School.

Mr. Leary limits his practice to the areas of Matrimonial and Family Law. Mr. Leary has extensive experience in the negotiation and preparation of Marital Settlement Agreements, Prenuptial Agreements, Domestic Relations Orders, and in litigating complex divorce actions. Mr. Leary also has extensive experience litigating support and custody matters in family courts throughout the Capital District.

Mr. Leary is currently a Member of the New York State Bar Association and Albany County Bar Association, and he has lectured at Continuing Legal Education Programs offered in upstate New York on Family Law topics and the negotiation and drafting of Prenuptial Agreements. In 2011, Mr. Leary was appointed by the Supreme Court Appellate Division Third Judicial Department as a Member of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Third Judicial District. Mr. Leary is a Level 3 Certified USA Hockey coach and he coaches youth hockey at the Bethlehem Youth Hockey Association where he also serves on the Association's Board of Directors.

Hon. Robert J. Meyer, Esq.
Support Magistrate
Albany County Family Court
Albany

Bob Meyer is a 1981 graduate of Albany Law School, admitted to practice in 1982. From 1982 until his appointment as a Support Magistrate in 2004, he was in private practice with a concentration on matrimonial law, criminal defense and real estate transactions. He has served as a Support Magistrate in Albany, Rensselaer and Columbia County since June of 2004. In 2010, Mr. Meyer was a participant in the quadrennial review of New York State Child Support Guidelines."

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Tamara A. Mitchel

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Tamara A. Mitchel practices in all aspects of matrimonial and family law. She graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, after receiving her B.A. *magna cum laude* from Harvard College, where she was elected a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She also graduated from the Family Law Trial Advocacy Institute of the American Bar Association, Family Law Section.



Ms. Mitchel is a partner at Berman Frucco Gouz Mitchel & Schub p.c., having worked at the firm since 2002. She has represented clients in negotiating and drafting agreements and litigating complex financial, child custody, domestic violence, and post-divorce enforcement matters. She previously worked at the Pace Women's Justice Center, where she was one of the original supervising attorneys of the Family Court Legal Program, in which she represented, and taught law students to represent, hundreds of domestic violence victims in order of protection, custody and support proceedings in the Westchester County Family Courts. Ms. Mitchel previously worked as an associate in matrimonial and family law for a sole practitioner and local court judge in Westchester County, and as an associate in litigation at a large general practice law firm in New York City.

Ms. Mitchel is the Editor-in-Chief of the Domestic Law Review, published by the Westchester County Bar Association Domestic Relations and Family Law Section. She serves by appointment on the Executive Committee and also as 2nd Vice Chair of that Section. Ms. Mitchel serves by appointment on the Executive Committee and Committee on Legislation of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section. Ms. Mitchel is also a member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, certified to practice collaborative law. Ms. Mitchel is a member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She is admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Ms. Mitchel frequently lectures for and chairs Continuing Legal Education programs for attorneys on many different topics in matrimonial and family law. Among the organizations for which she lectures are the New York State Bar Association, Pace University School of Law Center for Continuing Legal Education, the Westchester Women's Bar Association, the Ninth Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts, and the Pace Women's Justice Center Survivor's Law Project/Moderate Means Panel. She has also frequently lectured on topics in matrimonial and family law to financial organizations and community service providers such as Citigroup's Women & Co. and the Family Law Lecture Series of the Westchester Division of the Pace Women's Justice Center. Ms. Mitchel has authored numerous accredited continuing legal education materials on various topics in matrimonial and family law, co-authored a law review article on the constitutional rights of domestic violence victims, and wrote an in-service police training manual on domestic violence published by Westchester County. Ms. Mitchel has also recently appeared on television and radio, as well as authored a newspaper article, on various topics in divorce law.

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- Bar admissions: 1986, Massachusetts; 1987, New York; 1989, New Jersey, U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey and U.S. Supreme Court.
- Professional memberships: New York State Bar Association, and Domestic Relations subsection; Westchester County Bar Association, and Domestic Relations subsection; Westchester County Civil Arbitration Panel; United States Bankruptcy Court Mediation Panel; Academy of Family Mediators; American Arbitration Association; New York State Council on Divorce Mediation; American Bar Association, and Alternative Dispute Resolution subsection; Paralegal Advisory Committee at Berkeley College; New York State Law Guardian Panel, New York State Certified in marital collaboration; a referral attorney for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; recently inducted into the prestigious International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Association.\

Areas of Practice

- Matrimonial law, domestic relations, family court, commercial law, construction law, international law, arbitration and mediation law

Jennifer Powers Rutkey, Esq.

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Jennifer Powers Rutkey is a partner in our family law, custody, matrimonial, and divorce law firm and was born in Schenectady, New York. Ms. Rutkey graduated from Union College in 1992 with a B.S. degree, with honors, and from Albany Law School in 1995 with a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude. As one of our valued attorneys, Ms. Rutkey is admitted to the New York Bar and is a member of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section and Schenectady County Bar Association. Since 2009, Ms. Rutkey has served on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section as the district delegate from the Fourth Judicial District. She serves on the Schenectady County Bar Association's Matrimonial Committee. In 2002, she was named "Young Lawyer of the Year" by the Schenectady County Bar Association. Ms. Rutkey has lectured on divorce, custody, and family law for numerous continuing legal education programs sponsored by the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section, throughout the Capital District and New York State. Ms. Rutkey has also lectured to Supreme Court and Family Court confidential court attorneys at a training program sponsored by the New York State Office of Court Administration. She has also lectured at a continuing legal education program for the Fourth Judicial District Federated Bar Association. She has also lectured to the Schenectady County Legal Professionals and to the Schenectady County Bar Association. In addition to handling divorce, family law, custody, support matters, trials and appeals, Ms. Rutkey also represents both biological and adoptive parents in New York adoptions, interstate adoptions and international adoptions.

Contact Ms. Rutkey or another of our family law, divorce, and custody attorneys in the Albany, Schenectady and Saratoga region for a confidential consultation.

**Sherri Sharma**

Phone: 212.521.3560
Email: sharma@amsllp.com

Sherri represents individuals in all aspects of matrimonial law, including equitable distribution of assets, custody, spousal support, child support and pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements. She understands that each case and each client is different, and takes pride in helping her clients achieve their particular goals.

Sherri graduated from Yale University summa cum laude and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received her law degree from Columbia University Law School in 2003.

Sherri began her legal career at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP where she practiced trusts and estates law. While there, she gained invaluable experience developing wealth transfer plans for high net worth individuals and families. She joined the firm in February 2007 and has been exclusively practicing matrimonial law since then.

Sherri was named a 2013 NY Metro Rising Star by New York Super Lawyers. She has lectured at various professional seminars on the topic of Equitable Distribution and Maintenance, including to the New York State Bar Association.

Sherri and her husband, Matthew, live in Manhattan with their two children.

ADMITTED

New York, 2004

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, J.D., 2003

Yale University, B.A., 1998

Michael S. Simon Biographical Form

Name: Michael S. Simon
Address: 5266 Seneca Street
West Seneca, New York 14224

Phone: 716-674-4443
Fax: 716-674-4214
E-mail lawsimon123@gmail.com

Areas of Practice: Matrimonial and Family Law

Description of Practice: My practice encompasses all areas of matrimonial and family law litigation including custody, visitation, support, equitable distribution, post divorce enforcement and modification proceedings, anti-nuptial agreements, separation agreements, relocation proceedings and grandparent/sibling visitation proceedings.

Courts Admitted/Date: New York State February 17, 1984, United States of America-Western District of New York-April 9, 1984, United States Bankruptcy Court-April 10, 1984.

Education: Juris Doctor- State University of New York at Buffalo Law School – 1983
Bachelor Arts- The Canisius College of Buffalo – 1981
High School- Calasanctius Preparatory School - 1977

Memberships: American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, Erie County Bar Association, member of each Bar Association's Family Law related divisions/sections.

Presentations: Speaker and participant at Erie Law Institute Seminar/Mock Trial regarding Child Support proceedings, lecturer at Erie Institute of Law CLE seminar "How to Get It, How to Use It; Elements of Discovery in Family Court and Matrimonial Court Practice", April 2007; lecturer New York State Bar Association CLE Program "Practical Skills Family Court Practice" Spring 2006, lecturer New York State Bar Association CLE Program "Practical Skills- Basic Matrimonial Practice" Fall 2006 and Fall 2007; Fall 2010, 2011, 2012, lecturer National Business Institute – Advanced Matrimonial Practice 2012, Erie Institute of Law- Trial Evidence "What They Didn't Teach You in Law School" April 2013.

Publications: Authored numerous articles on Matrimonial & Family Law for The Daily Record and Erie County Bar Association Bulletin.

Daniel J. Sperrazza, Esq. Buffalo

Daniel Sperrazza, one of the most experienced and respected **divorce attorneys in Buffalo** and founder of Daniel J. Sperrazza, Esq. Attorney at Law, is ready to provide existing and new clients with personable, excellent family law services. If you or a loved one requires the skills of an experienced divorce attorney, contact Daniel J. Sperrazza, Esq. Attorney at Law, today.

In my professional career as a divorce attorney in Buffalo, I have assisted many clients and achieved numerous successful outcomes. I am a divorce attorney and trained mediator, and I have spoken at seminars on family law on the advantages of collaborative divorce and mediation. I have taken an active role in several legal organizations, holding offices in the Western New York Collaborative Law Professionals Organization, where I served as president in 2009. The accomplishments I am most proud of as a **Buffalo divorce attorney** are the amicable resolutions I have reached for my clients through collaborative divorce law and mediation.

Please read more about my experience and education as a Buffalo divorce attorney below, then [contact the firm](#) to speak with me about how I can help you with your case.

Admitted to bar

New York, 1984

Education

State University of New York at Buffalo

- **J.D., 1983**
- **B.A., *cum laude*, 1980**

Member

Erie County Bar Association

- **Member, Matrimonial & Family Law Committee, 2000–2010**
- **Member, Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Committee, 1991–2010**

Commercial Law League of America

Western New York Collaborative Law Professionals

- **President, 2009**
- **Vice President, 2008**
- **Director, 2006–2007**

Peter R. Stambleck, Esq.

Aronson Mayefsky & Sloan LLP
485 Lexington Avenue
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New York, NY 10017

Peter earned his B.S. in finance and accounting from Indiana University and his Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School. He is admitted to the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut State Bars. He is also a Certified Public Accountant.

Since Peter's graduation from law school he has concentrated his practice in the area of matrimonial and family law exclusively. Peter has considerable experience advising clients in all aspects of matrimonial and family law, including pre and post nuptial agreements, custody and access, divorce negotiation and litigation, equitable distribution, and spousal and child support issues.

Peter lives in Westchester County with his wife, Stacey, a publishing executive, and their two daughters.

ADMITTED

New York, 2004
New Jersey, 2004
Connecticut, 2005
United States Supreme Court, 2007

EDUCATION

Brooklyn Law School, JD., 2003
Indiana University, B.S., 1998

LECTURES

Bridging the Gap: Consultation with the Client and Moving the Matrimonial Case Through the System, New York State Bar Association, Summer 2010.

Moderator: Interview Skills 101: How to Bridge the Gap from Law School to the Start of Your Career, New York State Bar Association, Winter 2011

Moderator: Mining Individual, Corporate, & Partnership Tax Returns, American Bar Association, Summer 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding New York's O'Brien Decision and its Progeny (with Allan E. Mayefsky), Valuing Professional Practices and Licenses, Third Edition, Aspen Publishers (2010)

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Jenifer M. Wharton is a partner in our family law, custody, matrimonial and divorce law firm and was born in Schenectady, New York. Ms. Wharton graduated from the State University of New York at Albany with a B.A. degree in 1991 and from Albany Law School with a Juris Doctor degree in 1994. Ms. Wharton is admitted to the New York Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. Ms. Wharton is a member of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section and the Schenectady County Bar Association and presently is Vice President of the association. Ms. Wharton has lectured on matrimonial, family and divorce law for continuing legal education programs sponsored by the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section and also the Schenectady County Bar Association. She has been an attorney advisor for the Schenectady County Bar Association mock trial program, has been a judge for the Albany Law School family law moot court competition and taught trial techniques for mock trial participants. Ms. Wharton serves on the Board of Directors of Family and Child Services of Schenectady, Inc. Ms. Wharton is a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She is also a member of the Collaborative Divorce Association of the Capital District. In addition to handling all divorce, matrimonial and family law cases, and in addition to trial work, Ms. Wharton is also trained in handling Collaborative Divorce cases.

Contact Ms. Wharton or another of our family law, divorce, and custody attorneys in the Albany, Schenectady, and Saratoga region for a confidential consultation.

Howard J. Woronov

Melvin & Melvin, PLLC, Syracuse, NY

Mr. Woronov, a Member of the firm since 1989, has been a practicing attorney for over forty-five years. He is a fellow of the prestigious American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and manager of the New York Chapter. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. He practices exclusively in the area of Family Law, including custody, support, pre-nuptial and separation agreements, divorce, and divorce taxation.

He has written and lectured extensively in the area of Family Law, both to attorney and lay audiences.

His interests include professional discipline, and he has served on the 5th District Attorney Grievance Committee and currently serves on the State Bar Committee on Professional Discipline.

Mr. Woronov has been named to the Best Lawyers in America from 2008 to 2011. He was also named an Upstate Superlawyer for Family Law from 2007 to 2011.

Susan G. Yellen, Esq., Johnson & Cohen, LLP, Pearl River, NY

Susan is a member of the firm Johnson & Cohen, LLP. She was admitted to practice law in the State of New York in 1991. She is also a member of the Maryland (1987) and District of Columbia (1988) Bar Associations. Her practice is devoted exclusively to matrimonial and family law.

Susan is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Family Law Section as well as the Rockland County Bar Association, Family Law Section and Rockland County Women's Bar Association, where she is an Officer and executive board member and holds the position of Recording Secretary. She is also a former member of the judicial screening committee. Susan is a member of and the treasurer for the Association of Collaborative Lawyers Rockland-Westchester. She has authored and co-authored articles and has also spoken at CLE lectures for the New York State Bar Association.

Bar Admissions

- Maryland, 1987
- New York, 1991
- District of Columbia, 1988

Education

- **Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, District of Columbia**
 - J.D. - 1987
 - Honors: American Jurisprudence Award Juvenile Law 1986
- **Catholic University of America, Washington, District of Columbia**
 - Masters - 1986
 - Major: Social Work
- **American University, Washington, District of Columbia**
 - B.A. - 1983
 - Honors: Dean's List
 - Major: Psychology

