

ALBANY FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Nicholas E. Tishler has limited his practice to research, writing and appellate advocacy since joining the Appeals Bureau of the Office of the District Attorney of Suffolk County (New York) in 1982. He has continued to limit his practice to those areas as a solo practitioner in private practice since 1983. He has argued appeals in all of the appellate courts of the State of New York and in the Federal Courts of Appeal for the First, Second and Federal Circuits. He has also argued appeals in the highest courts of Vermont and Rhode Island. In addition to his work in the area of civil appellate practice, Nick does consulting, post-conviction and appellate work as an assistant district attorney and special prosecutor for the Office of the Saratoga County District Attorney and has been appointed in the same roles as a special assistant district attorney and special prosecutor for the Essex, Warren and Montgomery Offices of District Attorney. Nick is a member of the New York State Bar Association and serves on its Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and is a member of the Bar Associations of Albany, Rensselaer, Columbia, Saratoga, Schenectady, and Saratoga Counties. Nick is also a member of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association, the International Association of Prosecutors, the International Criminal Law Network and the National District Attorneys Association. Nick was an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Practice at Albany Law School in 2012 and was a panel contributor to Black's Law Dictionary (West, 9th edition) and to Garner's Modern American Usage (Oxford, 3rd edition).

Stuart M. Cohen returned to private solo practice in 2010 after a long period of employment in the appellate courts of New York, in which his positions included, among others, chief Clerk of the Court of Appeals and law clerk to a former Chief Judge. A graduate of Connecticut College and New York University School of Law, he has appeared as an advocate in the Court of Appeals and the Appellate Division on civil and criminal matters; his practice also includes consulting with other attorneys on appeals and litigated motions in appellate and trial courts. Contact information is available at www.smcappeals.com.

Justice John C. Egan Jr.



- Appointed to the Third Department effective February 4, 2010.
- Graduated from Bryant College in 1976.
- Graduated from Albany Law School in 1980.
- Admitted to the practice of law in 1981.
- Engaged in private practice from 1981 to 1996.
- Served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Albany from 1981 to 1996.
- Also served as part-time law clerk in Albany County Surrogate's Court.
- Served as Counsel, Third Department Judicial Screening Committee.
- Elected Albany City Court Judge in 1996.
- Elected Supreme Court Justice for the Third Judicial District in 2005.

CYNTHIA FEATHERS

Cynthia Feathers' practice is devoted to criminal and civil appeals. In 25 years, she has handled 400 appeals. She co-chairs the NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and chairs its Pro Bono Appeals Program, as well as the Pro Bono Committee of the ABA Council of Appellate Lawyers. She serves as Of Counsel to the Rural Law Center and Vice President of The Legal Project Board of Directors. She is a member of the OCA CLE Board and the Advisory Boards for the Third Department Civil Appeals Settlement Program and Attorney for Children Office and serves on the State Office of Indigent Legal Services Working Group that is developing statewide standards for appellate representation in assigned cases.

Feathers obtained a B.S.J. magna cum laude from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a J.D. with honors from Boston College Law School; clerked at the Appellate Division, Third Department; and served at the Appeals & Opinions Bureau of the New York Attorney General's Office in Albany and the Center for Appellate Litigation in New York City. For several years, she was an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Practice at Albany Law School. Before going to law school, for a decade, she was a corporate editor in Boston and Chicago.

Justice Elizabeth A. Garry



Appointed to the Third Department effective March 19, 2009.
Graduated from Alfred University and Albany Law School.
Served as Confidential Law Clerk to the Hon. Irad S. Ingraham, Justice of the Supreme Court, from 1990 through 1994.
Engaged in private practice with the Joyce Law Firm in central New York from 1995 through 2006.
Served on the Planning Board for the Town of New Berlin, Chenango County, 1999 to 2001
Elected as Town Justice in the Town of New Berlin in 2001 and reelected to a second term in 2005.
Elected Supreme Court Justice for the Sixth Judicial District in 2006.

Denise A. Hartman

Denise A. Hartman is an Assistant Solicitor General in the Office of the New York State Attorney General. In her tenure at the Solicitor General's Office, Denise has briefed and argued hundreds of cases in the state and federal appellate courts. The subject matter of her cases includes constitutional law, tort law, administrative law and environmental law. In addition to briefing and arguing her own cases, Denise oversees appellate briefs written by other attorneys in her office and their preparation for oral argument. Before serving in her current position, Denise clerked in the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. She graduated magna cum laude from the Syracuse University College of Law in 1983, and from the Cornell University School of Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1977.

**George J. Hoffman, Jr., Esq. - Of Counsel
Allen & Desnoyers, LLP, Albany**

Practice Areas:

Appeals
Criminal Defense
Environmental/Toxic Tort
Insurance & Accident

Experience:

George J. Hoffman, Jr. concentrates his practice on appellate advocacy, environmental/toxic tort litigation; insurance coverage; premises liability; class action litigation and criminal law. For over 16 years, George has handled all aspects of civil litigation, including perfecting and arguing appeals in the Appellate Division, Second, Third and Fourth Departments. He serves as a member of the Appellate Division Third Department's Assigned Counsel Plan. Prior to entering private practice in 1998, George gained extensive trial and appellate litigation experience while serving as an Assistant District Attorney in the Columbia County District Attorney's Office.

George is a 1993 graduate of State University of New York at Plattsburgh where he was elected to Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Sigma Alpha. George received his Juris Doctorate in 1996 from the University of Dayton School of Law. While at Dayton, George received the American Jurisprudence Award for his achievements in legal research and writing.

Admissions:

Mr. Hoffman has been practicing law for more than sixteen years. He is an attorney admitted to practice law in New York State and in the United States District Court, Northern District of New York and in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. George is a member of the New York State, Albany County and American Bar Associations. George has been appointed to the New York State Bar Association Committee on courts of Appellate Jurisdiction.

Education:

Mr. Hoffman received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1993, and a Juris Doctorate from University of Dayton School of Law in 1996.

Michael J. Hutter is a Professor of Law at Albany Law School, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1976. He is also Special Counsel to the Albany law firm of Powers & Santola, LLP. Professor Hutter is the current President of the Albany County Bar Association.

Professor Hutter is an honors graduate of Brown University, receiving scholarships during his four years of matriculation, and Boston College Law School. In law school he was the Editor-In-Chief of Boston College's law review (*Annual Survey*), and was elected to the Order of the Coif. After graduation, Professor Hutter served as law clerk to Judge Matthew J. Jasen, an Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals. From 1979-1984, he was the Executive Director of the New York State Law Revision Commission. He also served as Chair, NYS Capital Defender Office from 2005-2008. In 1999, Professor Hutter was selected as one of seven nominees to the Court of Appeals by the State Commission on Judicial Nomination. He presently serves as a Commissioner on the New York State Law Revision Commission.

Professor Hutter's teaching areas include Evidence, New York Practice, Conflict of Laws, Trial Practice, and Unfair Competition. He authors a bi-monthly "Evidence" column for the New York Law Journal wherein he comments on and discusses recently decided court decisions raising evidence issues. In his practice,

Justice William E. McCarthy



- Appointed to the Third Department effective January 30, 2009.
- Graduated from State University College of New York at Potsdam and Albany Law School.
- Served as confidential law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Edward Conway (1990-1993), Supreme Court Justice Joseph Harris (1994-1997) and Court of Claims Judge Edward Sheridan (1997-1998).
- Served as Senior Assistant Counsel to Governor George Pataki (1998-2004).
- Appointed to the Supreme Court for the Third Judicial District in June 2004 and elected to a 14-year term in November 2004.
- Appointed an Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department in December 2006.
- Served as the Justice-in-charge, Commercial Division, Supreme Court, Albany County (2006).
- Served as a member on the New York State CPLR article 81 Guardianship Committee.
- Former adjunct professor at Siena College.

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Alan J. Pierce has 28 years of litigation experience, concentrating on appellate practice, insurance coverage, and defamation. He served as Confidential Law Clerk to Hon. Richard D. Simons of the New York Court of Appeals (1984-1986). He has handled over 150 appeals and motions for leave to appeal in his career, appearing before all of New York's State appellate courts, the United States Supreme Court, and in the First, Second, Fourth and Eleventh Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Mr. Pierce is a former Adjunct Professor of Appellate Advocacy at Syracuse University College of Law (199-2006), and has authored several publications and frequently speaks on appellate advocacy and insurance coverage litigation for the ABA and NYSBA. He has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the "Best Lawyers in America" and as a New York "Super Lawyer" in the area of Appellate Practice since 2007. He is a member of the 5th Judicial District's Character & Fitness Committee, and the Board of Directors of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers.

James S. Ranous, Esq.
Deputy Clerk of Appellate Division, Third Dept.

Graduated LeMoyne College: 1972

Graduated Albany Law School: 1975

Admitted to New York State Bar: 1976

In private practice in Rome, New York: August 1975 - March 1976

Law Research Assistant, Appellate Division, Third Department: April 1976 - July 1976

Confidential Law Clerk to Hon. Michael E. Sweeney, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department: August 1976 - August 1983

Chief Motion Attorney, Appellate Division, Third Department: September 1983 - November 2010

Deputy Clerk of the Appellate Division, Third Department: November 2010 - Present

ROBERT A. RAUSCH is a partner at the Albany law firm of Maynard, O'Connor, Smith & Catalinotto, LLP, and has been a member of the firm since 1997. Prior to joining the firm, Rob served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Irad S. Ingraham, Supreme Court Justice for Chenango and Otsego Counties. Through that experience, he obtained an intense exposure to trial practice and the intricacies of New York civil practice rules and regulations. Rob divides his practice between both appellate practice and civil litigation, and has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide variety of personal injury matters, including premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, construction site litigation, medical malpractice, and municipal law. He is admitted to practice in New York State courts, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Western Districts of New York, the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Rob has also been a lecturer and published materials for use in numerous Continuing Legal Education programs. In 2012, he was acknowledged by Super Lawyers magazine for achievement in the field of Personal Injury Defense. Rob is a member of the New York State Bar Association and its Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, and Albany County Bar Association, and is a former president of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association. He earned his B.A. degree from LeMoyne College and his J.D. degree from Albany Law School. He is currently president-elect of the Albany Law School National Alumni Association. Rob is also an avid runner and has completed five marathons.

RICHARD A. REED
Deputy Clerk of the Court
New York State Court of Appeals

Richard Reed is the Deputy Clerk of the New York State Court of Appeals. Mr. Reed was engaged in the private practice of law from 1984 to 2000. He also has served as Deputy Commissioner and Counsel to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles; Deputy Commissioner and Counsel to the New York State Office of General Services; and law clerk to the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, and Hon. Richard D. Simons, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Elliott Scheinberg, whose practice is limited to matrimonial appeals, serves on the Board of Managers of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and co-chairs its Amicus Curiae and CLE Committees. He is a member of NYSBA's Committee of Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and CLE Committee. He has authored a two volume treatise, *Contract Doctrine and Marital Agreements in New York*, in its second edition, a variety of chapters for Matthew Bender's *New York Civil Practice, Matrimonial Actions*, and is the author of "Grandparental Visitation: Its Evolution in New York State," which traces the history and evolution of grandparental visitation in New York, published by the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He has written numerous articles for the *New York Law Journal*, the *New York State Bar Association's Family Law Review*, and the *New York Family Law Monthly*.

Mr. Scheinberg has written seven amicus curiae briefs to the New York State Court of Appeals, having been cited in one decision, with others adopting arguments advanced in the briefs. Mr. Scheinberg lectures regularly at the Appellate Division, Second Department, and for Bar Associations. He is a member of NYSBA's Executive Committee of the Family Law Section and is the co-chair of NYSBA's Amicus Committee.

A graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Mr. Scheinberg, prior to entering law school, was a doctoral candidate in Romance Philology at the University of Chicago, and a Teaching Fellow in the French Department, Romance Linguistics Program, at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and French from Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, N.Y.

He is in "Who's Who in American Law" and in "The Best Lawyers in America." He is also rated AV Preeminent 5.0 out 5.0 in Martindale-Hubble.

