

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Christopher Baynes

Chris Baynes has been an Assistant Attorney General with the Oil Spill Unit of the Civil Recoveries Bureau since 2012. Prior to this position he was an Assistant District Attorney with Albany County for eighteen years, serving as bureau chief of the Narcotics Unit, then creating the Financial Crimes Bureau. He has had over fifty jury trials including mortgage fraud, arson, drug smuggling and murder. In addition to speaking at numerous CLE's, he was an adjunct professor in business law at Siena College. He is a graduate of Colgate University and Albany Law School.

Kristen M. Benson, Esq.

Kristen Benson is a partner in the law firm Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet P.C. in Syracuse NY. Kristen is a trial lawyer and appellate advocate involved in all areas of civil litigation. She spends most of her time defending matters involving automobile, trucking, Labor Law, premises liability, labor and employment, commercial, construction, breach of contract, bad faith claims, products liability, professional negligence, medical malpractice, and environmental and toxic tort. Kristen has tried numerous cases to verdict with an excellent record of success. Kristen has been honored with her inclusion in the New York Super Lawyers Upstate edition for 2013 for general litigation.

Daniel B. Berman, Esq.

Daniel B. Berman is the leader of the Litigation Practice. He has more than 25 years of experience litigating cases throughout New York. After a decade of trying personal injury cases, primarily as insurance defense counsel, Mr. Berman shifted his main area of practice to representing clients in business and commercial litigation matters. His practice is now focused on the litigation and resolution of business and professional disputes for clients ranging from global banking institutions to individuals operating local small businesses. With 23 years of experience as a member of the American Arbitration Association's Commercial Arbitration Panel, he is also able to provide clients with the resolution of even the most complex disputes.

Mr. Berman is a Fellow of Litigation Counsel of America, holds an AV rating from Martindale – Hubbell, and has been selected for inclusion in *Super Lawyers* since it began listing lawyers in Upstate New York.

Mr. Berman is a member of the Board of Directors and serves as First Vice President of the Legal Aid Society of Mid New York, Inc. and Legal Services of Central New York, Inc., and is a Trustee of Syracuse Stage. He is also a member of the Onondaga County Bar Association where he served as Past Co-Chair of the Trial Lawyers Section, as well as the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Northern District of New York Federal Bar Association, and is a former Adjunct Professor of Law, Syracuse University College of Law where he taught trial practice.

Mr. Berman's cases have included: an action on behalf of a regional hospital for breach of contract and declaratory judgment (regarding the interpretation of contract provisions governing the reimbursement rate due the hospital for services rendered to patients insured by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield) which resulted in additional revenues to the hospital in excess of \$9 million; the successful defense of a Big Four accounting firm in a putative class action alleging violations of federal securities law and New York law brought in by the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York; the defense of a § 1983 action alleging First Amendment violations which resulted in a jury verdict for his clients; service as lead litigation counsel for 17 banking institutions, defending fraudulent conveyance/avoidance actions brought by the Chapter 11 Trustee for the Bennett Funding Group, alleged at the time to be the largest Ponzi scheme in U.S. history; the successful defense of a corporate trustee in an accounting action in which the trust beneficiaries claimed violations of the Prudent Investor Rule; prosecution of the executor in an accounting action in which it was established that the executor had converted stock owned by the estate and invested the proceeds, in excess of \$300,000, on her own behalf; the prosecution and recovery of judgment together with attorney's fees in a fraudulent conveyance action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York; and, the recovery of damages for the willful exaggeration of a mechanic's lien.

Mr. Berman received his Juris Doctor degree (*cum laude*) from Syracuse University College of Law in 1982 where he was inducted into the Justinian Honor Society, and his Bachelor of Science degree from Michigan State University in 1979.

Patrick J. Brown is a founding member of LoTempio & Brown, P.C., and has practiced criminal and civil litigation since the date of his admission to the bar in 1977. Much of his practice is devoted to representing criminal defendants in federal court. He is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Erie County Bar Association as well as of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors of the Buffalo Legal Aid Bureau where he has served since 2004 and is a member of the Criminal Justice Act Selection Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Attorney Advisory Group and a member of The MultiMillion Dollar Advocates Forum. He is a 1976 graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School.



Janet D. Callahan

Partner



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jcallahan@hancocklaw.com

Janet D. Callahan is the Firm's Managing Partner. She was elected to the position in June 2010 after serving as head of the Firm's Litigation and Appellate Practices and as a member of the Executive Committee for eight years. Ms. Callahan is the first female Managing Partner in the Firm's 122-year history. As Managing Partner, Ms. Callahan heads the Executive Committee and oversees its business operations, providing guidance to its nearly 60 attorneys and 130 employees. Under her leadership, the Firm recently opened an Albany office.

Ms. Callahan has nearly 30 years of general civil litigation experience and has been a partner at the Firm since 1989. She has represented clients in a number of significant appeals to the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals. In addition to her appellate experience, she defends clients in lawsuits involving professional liability, products liability, premises liability, construction accidents, motor vehicle accidents and veterinary malpractice.

Prior to joining the Firm, Ms. Callahan served as Confidential Law Clerk to Hon. J. Robert Lynch, Supreme Court Justice and Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, and Hon. Thomas J. Lowery, New York Court of Claims.

EDUCATION

- Albany Law School of Union University, J.D., 1980
- State University of New York at Geneseo, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1976

ADMISSIONS

- New York
- United States Court of Appeals (Second Circuit)
- United States Court of Claims
- United States District Court (NDNY)
- United States District Court (WDNY)

ALAN W. CLARK, ESQ.

Born: Bronx, New York, 1952

Education:

University of Miami, B.B.A., 1973

New York Law School, J.D., 1977

Practice Areas:

Medical & Professional Negligence; Unsafe Products & Medications; Business Torts; Personal Injury

Membership:

Nassau County (Sustaining and Past Board Member) Bar Association;

Suffolk County Bar Association;

Sustaining Member American Association for Justice (formerly ATLA);

Sustaining and Board Member New York State Trial Lawyers Association
(also past President, Long Island affiliate of NYSTLA)

American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys;

New York State Bar Association

Admissions:

Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, 1978

United States District Court, Southern District of New York, 1978

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, 1978

United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 1985

Honors:

- Past President of Long Island Chapter and Member of Board of Directors New York State Trial Lawyers Association and sustaining member since 1978

- Sustaining member of AAJ since 1978

- Past Member Board of Directors Nassau County Bar Association

- Recognized in the New York Times as one of Long Island's Ten Leaders in Civil Trial Law

- AV Rated Martindale Hubbell

- Super Lawyers 2008-2013

- Frequent Lecturer and Speaker for NYSTLA, NCBA and NYSBA

- Member-Grievance Committee (NCBA); Vice-Chair Supreme Court Committee (NCBA)

- Past Chairperson-Medical Legal Committee (NCBA)

- Board Certified and Recertified in Professional Medical Liability by American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys

- Member and Board of Trustees-New York Law School

Work:

Founding Partner-The Law Firm of Alan W. Clark & Associates, LLC

Hobbies:

Golf, Reading, Music

Contact information:

awc@awclaw.com

Mike Colavecchio has represented clients for more than twenty years in all areas of casualty defense, including medical malpractice, construction accidents, premises liability, products liability, municipal liability, legal malpractice, copyright infringement and vehicular negligence. Mike represents a number of his corporate clients in employment practices cases, including claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment and breach of contract. He also represents individuals and corporate clients in a variety of other commercial litigation matters. In 2011, 2012 and 2013, Mike was selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers, New York Metro edition, which recognizes the top 5% of lawyers in the state. He has also received a [Martindale-Hubbell](#) Peer Review rating of AV Preeminent.

A well-respected trial lawyer, Mike has tried in excess of one hundred cases throughout his career and continues to maintain a busy trial schedule. With a consistent history of achieving positive trial results for his clients, Mike has taken verdicts throughout the New York metropolitan area, including the New York State Supreme Courts located in New York City, Long Island and Westchester, as well as the federal courts in New York. He has taken verdicts in cases involving allegations of medical malpractice, dental malpractice, podiatric malpractice, legal malpractice, motor vehicle and trucking liability, elevator negligence, construction accidents, premises liability, products liability, employment discrimination, land use claims, environmental liability and commercial disputes. Mike has also successfully represented clients at alternative dispute forums, including non-binding mediation and binding arbitration and has defended professional clients before disciplinary bodies.

In addition to trial work, Mike has drafted and orally argued numerous appeals before the New York State and federal appellate courts, achieving a high rate of success. Mike has been invited to lecture locally and nationally to professional and legal organizations. A frequent contributor to Continuing Legal Education programs for the New York State Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association and other entities, Mike has lectured on Medical Malpractice Defense (2009 and 2012), Trial of Medical Malpractice Cases (2005 and 2012), Examinations of Hostile Witnesses (2013), Law School for Insurance Professionals (2008, 2011, 2012 and 2013), Trial Techniques in Damages Cases (2005), Products Liability (2004), The Importance of the Hiring Process (2013) and Insurance Underwriting (2003). He has also given in-house seminars to insurance and self-insured organizations on a variety of matters. He has served as chairman of a number of charitable committees and is active in his local community.

Mike was admitted to practice law in the State of New York in 1991. He is also admitted in the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association, the Suffolk County Bar Association and the Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association.

In 1990, Mike Colavecchio received his Juris Doctor Degree from Hofstra University School of Law, where he served as a Law Fellow and as Editor-In-Chief of the Hofstra Property Law Journal. In 1987, he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and History from State University of New York at Buffalo. He resides in Huntington, New York with his wife and kids.

Daniel D. Cassidy

Mead, Hecht, Conklin & Gallagher, LLP
925 Westchester Ave.
White Plains, New York

Practice Areas:

Civil Practice; Personal Injury; Insurance; Real Estate; Insurance Defense

Education:

University Boston University, B.A.

Law School Pace University, J.D.

Sean E. Cooney is an equity partner at Cantor, Dolce & Panepinto, P.C. Cantor, Dolce & Panepinto, P.C., is a full service plaintiff's personal injury law firm. Mr. Cooney focuses his practice in the areas of Labor Law, premises liability, and motor vehicle accidents. Additionally, Mr. Cooney has extensive experience litigating local election law issues. As a trial attorney, Mr. Cooney has achieved multiple million dollar verdicts. Mr. Cooney has worked at Cantor, Dolce & Panepinto as a trial attorney since 2008. He received his B.A. from Saint Louis University and his J.D. from SUNY at Buffalo Law School. He is a member of the American Association of Justice, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, Western New York Trial Lawyers Association, and the Erie County Bar Association. Outside of the law, Mr. Cooney, a board member of the Clean Air Coalition of Western New York, is an advocate for environmental and community justice.

Justin O'Connell Corcoran, Esq.

O'Connor O'Connor Bresee & First
PC Albany, NY

Justin Corcoran is a 1990 graduate of the State University of New York at Binghamton, where he was named the most outstanding student of American Politics and Public Policy. In 1994, Justin received his Juris Doctor degree from Albany Law School of Union University, where he was an associate editor of the Albany Law Review. Justin is admitted to practice in the State of New York, the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and is an officer of the firm.

Justin is a New York trial and appellate lawyer who focuses upon representing physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice cases, defending manufacturers in product liability cases and defending against other tort cases such as premises liability, automobile negligence, construction accidents, defamation and municipal liability. He also practices employment law, representing employers in state and federal courts and representing professionals facing disciplinary actions. In addition to representing clients at trial in state and federal courts, Justin regularly appears before appellate courts and has successfully argued appeals in several precedent-setting cases, particularly in the area of medical malpractice.

Justin's public service has included an appointment as a special prosecutor and services as the chairman of the Albany County Ethics Commission. He has also represented clients in election law proceedings and advised candidates for public office regarding various compliance issues.

Bar Admissions

New York, 1995

U.S. District Court Northern District of New York, 1995 U.S. District Court Southern District of New York, 2000 U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd Circuit, 1999

Education

Albany Law School Union University, Albany, New York, J.D. - 1994

Law Review: Albany Law Review, Associate Editor, 1992 - 1994

State University of New York at Binghamton, Binghamton, New York B.A. - 1990

Honors: Most Outstanding Student of American Politics & Public Policy Honors: Member, SUNY Athletic Conference All Academic Team Major: Political Science

Professional Associations and Memberships

New York State Bar Association, Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section, Member
Albany County Bar Association
Election Law Section, Member

W. RUSSELL CORKER, Esq.

Mr. Corker (Russ) graduated from Boston University School of Law in 1974. He has been a trial lawyer for 39 years. After 3 years as an Assistant District Attorney in Nassau County, he began his civil career representing doctors and hospitals in medical malpractice actions, before switching over to represent plaintiffs in medical cases. In 1980, he began lecturing on trial practice, and since that time has given numerous lectures on all aspects of litigation, as well as publishing numerous articles and chapters in several books on litigation. He was the senior litigation partner in a law firm before opening his own office in 2012.

William J. Croutier, Jr., Esq., 33 Judson Place, Rockville Centre, New York 11570

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of Law, J.D. - June 1978

Admitted to NY Bar 1979.

Admitted to Practice:

New York State Courts

US District Court, Eastern District

US District Court, Southern District

Iona College, New Rochelle, New York, B.A. - May 1975

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Hammill, O'Brien, Croutier, Dempsey, Pender & Koehler, P.C.

Syosset, New York - February 1979 – Present - Senior Partner - Trial Attorney

Verdicts in all facets of personal injury trials (liability and damages) including but not limited to:

Labor Law, motor vehicle, pedestrian knock down, trip and fall, commercial, products liability, commercial, products liability, homeowner cases.

Special Prosecutor for the Village of Rockville Centre 1992 - 2007

Deputy Village Attorney for Village of Rockville Centre 1992-2007

Village Justice for Village of Rockville Centre – Elected June 2007

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

New York State Bar Association

Nassau County Bar Association

Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association

New York State Trial Lawyers Association

Association of Trial Lawyers of America

Defense Association of New York

Defense Research Institute

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Lecturer for Nassau County Bar, Association on Litigation, Trial Strategy

Lecturer for New York Business

Institute on Litigation Topics, Trial of a Case, Jury Selection, Openings & Summations, Cross Examination of Experts and defending damages

Lecturer for Nassau Academy of Law on Litigation and Trial Strategy

Lecturer for defendants and plaintiffs round table at Nassau County Bar Association

Lecturer on litigation and discovery for Touro Law School

Lecturer for St. John's University School of Law on Litigation Tactics

Moot Court Judge for St. John's Law School Moot Court Competition

Moot Court Judge for Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute

Judge for National Civil Rights Trial Competition

Prepared written outlines, pamphlets, contributed chapters to seminar books and materials as part of lecture presentations

Speaker for New York State Bar Association on various topics including: Practical skills-basic civil practice; The Trial - how to handle the trial of neck and back injury cases; Preparing and defending damages; Practical skills - civil practice.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Chairman Nassau - Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association

Director Nassau -Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association

Judiciary Committee Member - Nassau County Bar Association

Supreme Court Committee – Nassau County Bar Association – Chairman 2007- 2008; 2008-2009

Public Relations Committee Nassau County Bar Association

Jurisperitus Award Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County, 2004

Distinguished Service St. John=s Civil Trial Institute Award

Certificates of Appreciation - St.-John=s Civil Trial Institute

David J. Dean, Esq.

Sullivan Papain Block McGrath & Cannavo P.C.
New York, NY

David J. Dean is a senior trial attorney on all matters in the Firm's practice. Mr. Dean was the Chief Trial Counsel for the plaintiffs in the Agent Orange Class Action, representing more than two million Vietnam Veterans in their claims against seven chemical companies. His work was described in published Federal Court decisions as "extraordinary" and of "exceptional quality." David's exceptional trial skills were evident in the civil trial of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, where, as the lead trial attorney, he obtained an unprecedented verdict against the Port Authority for its failure to take steps to prevent the terrorist attack. In a suit against the City of New York, Mr. Dean obtained a \$92 million verdict. David won a \$25 million verdict for a laborer injured at a worksite, and a \$24.5 million verdict for a man who tripped on the stairs of an apartment building causing him to become a paraplegic. He obtained a verdict against the Transit Authority for \$28.5 million for a woman whose leg was severely injured when she was struck by a train. He recently won a \$10.5 million verdict in a medical malpractice case. Such results are only a small sample of his work, which has earned him a respected and feared trial reputation. David has been named in Super Lawyers magazine as one of New York's top lawyers, and has also been listed in The Best Lawyers in America. A national legal publication recently named David as "one of America's great trial lawyers." David has also received the highest rating (AV®) from Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings.* A 1961 graduate of Georgetown Law Center, David joined the firm in 1997 and has been a Member since 1999. He has often lectured at various law schools and bar associations on all aspects of trial practice.

Areas of Practice

- Plaintiff's Personal Injury
- Negligence
- Litigation
- Medical Malpractice

<http://www.triallaw1.com/Attorneys/David-J-Dean.shtml>

John P. DePaolo has been Special Counsel the Bouvier Partnership's Litigation Department since 2001. During the past 23 years, Mr. DePaolo has litigated over 300 jury trials. He has experience in all areas of complex civil and personal injury litigation, appellate practice, labor law, commercial litigation, real estate, and wills and trusts. Mr. DePaolo frequently appears in New York State Supreme Court on behalf of defendants in personal injury lawsuits. In addition, Mr. DePaolo serves as trial counsel to various municipalities. From 1990 to 2001, Mr. DePaolo practiced exclusively in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In Massachusetts, Mr. DePaolo served as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting major felonies, including sexual assaults, shaken baby injuries, and narcotics trafficking cases. He worked with law enforcement officials in violent criminal apprehension protocols and undercover operations. Mr. DePaolo worked with the International Longshoremen's Association in Houston, Texas before law school during a time when the Union was undergoing racial integration. Mr. DePaolo was a strong advocate during the desegregation in Houston, Texas. Mr. DePaolo has been recognized in "Super Lawyers" for Upstate New York and has also been nominated Who's Who in Law, Buffalo Business First and Buffalo Law Journal.

Education:

- J.D., University of Dayton School of Law, 1990 – During law school, Mr. DePaolo worked for United States Bankruptcy Judge William A. Clark in Dayton, Ohio. During the summers, he worked for the Erie County Surrogate Judge, Joseph S. Mattina, in Buffalo, New York. While in law school, Mr. DePaolo served as chairman for the National Administrative Law Moot Court competition. Mr. DePaolo also served on the Honor Code Committee and was a Moot Court Board Member. Mr. DePaolo was elected to a two (2) year term as a Student Liaison to Federal Bankruptcy Court Practice Symposium.
- B.A., State University of New York College at Buffalo, 1987 – Mr. DePaolo served for four (4) years in the Student Government's Judicial Council. Mr. DePaolo's major was English Literature and he minored in Religious Studies.

Admitted to:

- Massachusetts Bar, 1990
- New York State Bar, 1991
- United States District Court, Massachusetts, 1991
- United States District Court for the Western District of New York, 2001

Member:

- Defense Trial Lawyers Association (DTLA) (Director 2008-2011; President 2013)
- New York State Bar Association (Mediation Committee Section and Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section)
- Erie County Bar Association (Negligence Committee)
- Western New York Trial Lawyers Association

Professional & Civic Activities:

- Board of Trustees, St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Chairman, Marketing and Development Committee, www.smsdk12.org
- Board Member, Buffalo Sunrise Rotary Club, www.rotary.org Mr. DePaolo was President of the Club in 2008-2009, at which time the International Rotary motto was "Make Dreams Real". The Club received the International Rotary Presidential Citation under Mr. DePaolo's leadership. Mr. DePaolo also served as a leader of the Rotary Outdoor Leadership Expedition, which is a subarctic experience offered through the Rotary District Youth Exchange Program.
- Volunteer, Kevin Guest House www.kevinguesthouse.org

Awards:

- New York Super Lawyers, 2012, 2013
- Who's Who in Law, Buffalo Business First, Buffalo Law Journal, 2012

Glenn W. Dopf, Esq.
Kopff Nardelli Dopf, LLP
440 9th Ave,
New York, NY 10001-1620

Education

LL.M., International Law, New York University School of Law, 1983
J.D., Fordham University School of Law, 1979
B.S., Fordham University, cum laude, 1975

Professional

Member, Bar of the State of New Jersey, 1979
Member, Bar of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, 1979
Member, Bar of the State of New York, 1980
Member, Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, 1980
Member, Bar of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, 1980
Member, Bar of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, 1980
Member, Bar of the United States Court of International Trade, 1981
Member, Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1983
Biographee, Who's Who in American Law, Sixth through Fourteenth Editions
Biographee, Who's Who in America, Fifty-Fourth through Sixty-First Editions
Biographee, Who's Who in the World, Twentieth through Twenty-Third Editions

Legal Employment History

>Kopff, Nardelli & Dopf
February 1982
>Martin Clearwater & Bell
Associate, January 1980 - September 1981

Legal Associations

Member, American Bar Association, Litigation Section
Member, Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Litigation Background

While employed by the New York County District Attorney's Office and Martin Clearwater & Bell, Mr. Dopf obtained extensive experience in civil and criminal litigation. He has litigated major actions to conclusion in both State and Federal Court as a partner at Kopff, Nardelli & Dopf LLP.

Awards

New York Area's Best Lawyers, *New York Magazine*, 2006-2009
New York Super Lawyers, 2006-2009
The Best Lawyers in America, 2006-2009

Sam Elbadawi, Esq. | Partner, Sugarman Law Firm, LLP, Syracuse & Auburn



(315) 362.8917
selbadawi@sugarmanlaw.com

Sam Elbadawi, has been a Partner with Sugarman Law Firm, LLP since 2000. He focuses on the representation of individuals, families, and estates in personal injury and wrongful death claims. He has successfully handled hundreds of personal injury claims arising from motor vehicle accidents, boating accidents, crane accidents, construction site accidents, dog bites, property defects, defective road design claims, slip-and-fall accidents arising from snow and ice, and accidents caused by defectively designed products. He has represented clients in personal injury claims against school districts, villages, towns, cities, counties, the State of New York, and the United States. He has also represented individuals in claims against insurance carriers for breach of contract, wrongful denial of disability insurance benefits, and ERISA matters. He is admitted to practice before all New York State courts, U.S. District Court for the Northern and Western Districts of New York, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Elbadawi is a member of the Onondaga County and Central New York Women's Bar Associations. His other professional memberships include the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute, New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, of which he is a charter member and a member of the board of directors.

Mr. Elbadawi is a graduate of St. Lawrence University (B.A. Government and Economics) and Syracuse University, College of Law. He also studied international law at Georgetown University Law Center. While in law school he was Notes and Comments Editor of the Syracuse Law Review where he won the Distinguished Service Award and the Robert M. Anderson Publication Award in recognition for excellence in writing and legal scholarship.



Ryan M. Finn Esq.
Hacker Murphy, LLP
7 Airport Park Blvd
Latham, NY 12110

Ryan provides a high level of personal service and commitment to understanding his clients' legal and business needs. Ryan prides himself on giving each client the close, personal attention necessary to resolve problems creatively and efficiently, while still maintaining the highest level of skill and expertise.

Ryan represents clients in a wide variety of corporate matters and litigation. He is involved in all aspects of trial court practice and appeals for clients ranging from individuals to Fortune 500 corporations. Ryan has tried bench and jury trials in state and federal court, and regularly appears before administrative agencies. Clients choose Ryan because of his reputation for developing creative and effective solutions to their legal problems.

Bar Admissions

- New York, 2005
- U.S. District Court Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court Southern District of New York

Education

- **Albany Law School Union University, Albany, New York**
 - J.D. *summa cum laude* - 2005
 - Honors: Justinian Honorary Law Society
 - Honors: Salutatorian
 - Law Review: Albany Law Review, Member
- **Siena College**
 - B.A. - 2002
 - Major: Political Science

Professional Associations and Memberships

- Justinian Honorary Law Society, Member
- New York State Bar Association (Trial Lawyer Section and Commercial and Federal Litigation Section), Member
- Albany County Bar Association (Vice Chair Commercial/Appellate Practice Committee), Member
- Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association, Member
- New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, Member
- Defense Research Institute (Trucking Law Committee; Commercial Litigation Committee; Product Liability Committee; Trial Tactics Committee; Construction Law Committee; and Employment Law Committee), Member
- Transportation Lawyers Association, Member

LUCILLE A. FONTANA

Lucille has been at Clark, Gagliardi & Miller since graduating first in her class from Pace Law School in 1981. She has represented hundreds of injured plaintiffs, with individualized attention which is the hallmark of CG&M. She has obtained many million dollar plus results at trial and settlement.

In 2001 Lucille was the recipient of the New York State Bar Association Award for Attorney Professionalism. The Award cited her "superb representation" of her clients and her "zealous advocacy, integrity, civility, and sensitivity."

Lucille also received the Pace University School of Law Distinguished Service Award in November, 2000.

Lucille lectures frequently on various aspects of personal injury litigation.

In her 32 years at Clark, Gagliardi & Miller, she has achieved an outstanding track record for successfully prosecuting and resolving the claims of injured plaintiffs.

Education

- **J.D., Pace University School of Law, 1981**
Magna Cum Laude
- **B.A., Wheeling College, 1968**
Cum Laude
- **M.S.W., Fordham School of Social Work, 1970**

Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

- **State of New York, 1982**
- **U.S. Supreme Court, 1991**
- **U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, 1982**

Professional & Bar Association Memberships

- **Office of Court Administration**
Civil Practice Rules and Law Advisory Committee
- **Volunteer Mediation Panel, Federal Court, SDNY**
- **New York State Bar Association**
Member of the House of Delegates
Past Co-chair Committee on the Tort System
Attorney Professionalism Committee
- **Westchester County Bar Association**
Judicial Screening Committee
Gagliardi Award Committee
- **Westchester County Bar Institute**
Past President
- **Westchester Women's Bar Association**
Past Vice President
- **Westchester Women's Bar Foundation**
Past Vice President
- **American Bar Foundation**
Life Fellow
- **New York Bar Foundation**
Fellow
- **American Bar Association**
- **New York State Trial Lawyers Association**



ALAN J. FUMUSO

Partner

Fumuso, Kelly, Deverna, Snyder, Swart & Farrell

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afumuso@fkdssf-law.com

Alan J. Fumuso is a partner and a senior trial attorney at FKDSSF. Since joining the Firm in 1976, he has had more than 36 years of experience representing physicians, oral surgeons, dentists, hospitals, nursing homes, podiatrists and other health care providers in high exposure medical malpractice litigation.

As a trial attorney, Mr. Fumuso has taken close to 100 cases to verdict, achieving successful results across a wide spectrum involving every medical specialty. Many of his defense verdicts have been reported in the New York Law Journal and featured as the "Verdict of the Month" in the New York Jury Verdict Reporter.

He has expertise in representing physicians and oral surgeons in licensure and disciplinary investigations, and at Department of Health Proceedings. He has also represented numerous general liability defendants, including the City of New York in Municipal Liability actions.

Mr. Fumuso has lectured extensively on the subjects of trial advocacy and medical malpractice litigation at various programs sponsored by the New York State Bar Association, the Academies of Law for both the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations, the Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association and the New York State Medical Defense Bar Association. He has also presented programs to students at St. John's University School of Law, and for many years was an annual guest lecturer for the Legal Medicine course taught at that school.

He has presented numerous risk management seminars at many Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Medical Societies, Medical Schools, and Insurance Companies. Mr. Fumuso has also been a member of the Editorial Board of Medical Malpractice Law and Strategy, and has been published widely in various legal and medical periodicals on the subject of Trial Tactics and Techniques.

He has been active in leadership roles for local Bar Associations, serving as Chairman of the Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association and as a member of the Judicial Screening Committee of the Suffolk County Bar Association.

Mr. Fumuso has been selected multiple times by his peers as a "New York Super Lawyer", a distinction awarded to only 5% of New York attorneys. He has also been listed in the New York Times Magazine as one of the top attorneys in the New York Metropolitan area.

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of Law, J.D. 1976

Queens College of the City of New York, B.A. 1973

ADMITTED

New York

Colorado

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

United States District Courts, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York

MEMBERSHIPS

Nassau-Suffolk Trial Lawyers Association

Diplomate, American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys

New York State Bar Association

Suffolk County Bar Association

Robert B. Gibson is a partner at Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP and manages its White Plains office. His trial practice focuses on the representation of major teaching hospitals and individual physicians in medical malpractice actions. Mr. Gibson has been selected for inclusion in *New York Super Lawyers*® and has earned Martindale-Hubbell's highest rating, AV Preeminent®, in the field of Medical Malpractice.

Mr. Gibson frequently lectures and writes on various risk management issues facing both institutional and individual clients in medical malpractice litigation. In addition to regularly speaking at Grand Rounds at hospitals throughout the New York area, he has been invited to lecture at conferences sponsored by the Association for Healthcare Risk Management of New York, Willis, the Crittenden Medical Insurance Group, the New York State Neurosurgical Society and the American Cancer Society. His articles have been featured in publications distributed by the New York State Bar Association, the Physician Insurers Association of America, the Defense Research Institute, and the Association for Healthcare Risk Management of New York.

Mr. Gibson is a member of the firm's Executive Committee. After graduating from Pace University, he received his Juris Doctor degree from New York Law School. Mr. Gibson is a member of the New York State, Bronx and Westchester County Bar Associations.



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Dennis Glascott is a partner in the firm's Litigation Department. He is an active trial attorney, with more than twenty-five years of trial experience in state and federal courts across New York State. Dennis devotes his practice to complex and catastrophic personal injury litigation; and has successfully defended self-insured and insured clients in a variety of areas, including products liability, premises and construction site personal injury litigation (New York State Labor Law), municipal liability and police misconduct (42 USC Section 1983) civil rights litigation.

Dennis is a member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI), the New York State Bar Association, Bar Association of Erie County, and Western Trial Lawyer's Association and Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York. He has served on the Executive Committee for the New York State Bar Association's Tort, Insurance and Compensation Law Section, and he was recognized as the Section Chairperson of the Year for his work. He served as the Planning Chair for a state wide program entitled, "How to Litigate a Products Liability Case: The Fundamentals" which was co-sponsored by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law and Trial Lawyers Sections of the New York State Bar Association.

Dennis is a frequent writer and lecturer on various topics, including trial techniques, construction site personal injury, premises liability and ethics. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Post Trial Practice and Procedures in New York, a publication recently released by the New York State Bar Association to assist the bench and bar on the post verdict procedures under NY Law.

Dennis is a former member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Navy, having obtained the rank of Lieutenant Commander before entering private practice in New York City. After returning to his hometown of Buffalo, New York, Dennis has become an active member of the Western New York community, including extensive community service.

Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating: AV Preeminent
- Best Lawyers in America 2013–2014 (Personal Injury Litigation — Defendants and Product Liability Litigation — Defendants)
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America, Trial Lawyer Honorary Society
- Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition
- Upstate New York Super Lawyers (Personal Injury Defense: Products); Top 50 list
- Recipient, New York State Bar Association Torts Insurance and Compensation Law Section Chair of the Year Award, 2006

Professional Affiliations

- Defense Research Institute
- American Bar Association, Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section
- New York State Bar Association: Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section; Trial Lawyers Section
- Western New York Trial Lawyers Association
- Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York
- Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter
- Bar Association of Erie County
- New York State Magistrates Association
- Diversity Law Institute
- Institute of Trial Presentation

Admitted to Practice

- New York
- U.S. District Courts for the Western, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York
- York U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Education

Naval Justice School, 1986
University of Toledo College of Law, J.D., 1985
State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A., 1982

Michael Glass has been litigating personal injury and medical malpractice cases for more than 30 years. He has been involved in many cases resulting in million and multimillion-dollar recoveries. Michael graduated magna cum laude from St. John's University. He thereafter attended St. John's University School of Law on a full academic scholarship. Michael has been a partner with Rappaport, Glass, Levine & Zullo, LLP since 1988 and concentrates in the prosecution of complex personal injury and medical malpractice cases. He is a Director of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and is regularly featured on the list of New York Super Lawyers and has been named to the New York Times list of Top Lawyers in the Metro Area. He is also the recipient of the New York State Trial Lawyers Louis Harold award for excellence in torts. He frequently lectures on a variety of personal injury topics for the New York State Bar Associations and has published many seminar pieces for the New York State Bar Association on trial-related subjects.

Terence S. Hannigan, Esq.

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Terence S. Hannigan is a 1982 graduate of St. Bonaventure University, where he was a member of Delta Epsilon Sigma. He received his J.D. in 1985 from Albany Law School of Union University.

He is a frequent speaker at New York State Bar Association continuing legal education seminars and is a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department.

Mr. Hannigan practices primarily in the field of civil litigation, including actions involving personal injury, construction accidents, construction law, products liability, and insurance coverage. As a New York State Emergency Medical Technician and Volunteer Firefighter, his practice also includes litigation and regulatory matters involving EMS providers, fire departments, municipalities, and hospitals.

Bar Admissions:

- New York State
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Education:

Albany Law School of Union University, 1985
J.D., Doctor of Jurisprudence
St. Bonaventure University, 1982

Professional Associations and Memberships:

- New York State Bar Association
- Albany County Bar Association
 - New York State Appellate Division, Third Department (Committee on Character and Fitness)

ELIZABETH M. HECHT, born, Bronx, New York, April 6, 1955; admitted to the bar: 1984, New York, U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. Education: Fairfield University (B.A., 1977); The Catholic University of America (M.A., 1979); Pace University School of Law, (J.D. *Cum Laude*, 1983). Adjunct Professor of Law: St. John's University School of Law (New York Practice); Thompson Reuters "Super Lawyer (2013); Chairperson, New York State Bar Association, Practical Skills Seminar and How to Commence a Civil Lawsuit; Trial of the Automobile Accident Case, Speaker, New York State Bar Association: The Direct and Cross Examination of Expert Witnesses; Challenging the Verdict: Post-Trial Motion Practice; The Art of Summation; Effective Pleadings. National Law Institute, Tort Litigation Strategies; New York City Bar Association, Deposition Fundamentals. Member: New York State Bar Association and Westchester County Bar Association. 2013 Chair: New York State Bar Association-Executive Committee, Trial Lawyers Section. Practice Areas: Personal Injury Litigation, Civil Trials and Appeals, Insurance Litigation, Coverage Assessments and Declaratory Judgment Actions.

Timothy J. Higgins

Tim Higgins is a partner at Lemire Johnson, LLC, in Malta, where he established his personal injury practice in December 2011. Before joining Lemire Johnson, Tim did personal injury litigation with Powers & Santola, LLP, in Albany.

Tim graduated from Albany Law School in 1994, and since that time has practiced in state and federal courts throughout New York. Tim is a member of the New York State, Albany and Saratoga County Bar Associations, and a former member of the executive committee of the Trial Lawyers Section of the State Bar.

Tim authors a monthly “Torts and Civil Practice” review column for the Saratoga County Bar Association, and has served as a speaker and moderator at more than 40 county and state bar seminars since 1999.

Kevin T. Hunt, Esq. is a civil trial attorney who has conducted hundreds of matters with over 50 to verdict. He is a partner in the Fayetteville, N.Y. firm of Gale Gale & Hunt, LLC. He attended Washington & Lee University and the Syracuse University College of Law. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Academy of Trial Attorneys and Super Lawyers 2010-present. He is a frequent lecturer at CLE seminars and has published numerous articles on HIPPA, Dram Shop, continuous treatment tolling of the statute of limitation, Good Samaritan Law and tort reform to name a few. He is a past board member of the Central New York Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Syracuse Meals on Wheels and the Town of Onondaga Board of Assessment Review. He lives on Onondaga Hill with his wife Kathleen and their three children. He coaches little league baseball in the Town of Geddes.



Janet M. Izzo

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Janet started her career in the legal field after receiving an Associates Degree in 1988 as a secretary in a one lawyer firm. Within her first year, she realized law school would be in her future. She attended SUNY Oswego part-time, at night to earn her bachelors while still working for the same firm. While continuing to work as a paralegal, she attended Syracuse University School of Law where she was an editor of the Syracuse University Law Review.

Janet was admitted to practice law in 2000. Janet is actively involved in a number of professional organizations including the American Association for Justice, the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Onondaga County Bar Association and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. She has served on various committees of the Central New York Women's Bar Association and was their President during 2005 - 2006. She continues to serve on the Judicial Screening Committee interviewing individuals seeking election to the courts in Onondaga and the surrounding counties.

Janet takes the obligations of her profession seriously and has served as a volunteer lawyer for Vera House helping those affected by domestic and sexual violence and represents clients free of charge through the Say Yes Pro Bono Law Clinic.

Janet lives in Baldwinsville, New York with her husband and three children. Her practice is dedicated to serving the men, women and children injured by the negligent and careless acts of others.

CHARLES E. KUTNER is the principle and managing partner of LAW OFFICES OF CHARLES E. KUTNER, LLP, a Manhattan firm engaged primarily in the defense of professional liability claims on behalf of hospitals, physicians, dentists, nurses; physician assistants and attorneys. Mr. Kutner is a 1981 graduate of Albany Law School and has lectured frequently on a wide variety of subjects related to civil litigation.

Hon. Lewis J. Lubell, J.S.C.

Graduated from Fordham University in 1977 and prior to entering law school in 1991, Justice Lubell had an extensive and successful business career in sales and corporate management. He had also interned for the NYC Office of the Corporation Counsel and the Office of the Nassau County Attorney specifically handling tort and civil rights litigation. Upon graduation and admission to the New York and New Jersey bars, Justice Lubell spent his career as a trial attorney litigating medical malpractice, products liability and aviation disaster cases. He continued this role until his election to the bench in November, 2005.

Prior to his election Judge Lubell served as the Acting Village Justice in Ardsley from April, 2003 until his election to the Supreme Court Bench. He was then assigned to Orange County Supreme Court until June, 2006 when he was transferred to the Matrimonial Part handling strictly matrimonial matters until January, 2009, when he was reassigned back to Orange County as a full time IAS judge handling all civil matters and trials. In January 2011, he was transferred to Putnam County where he sits in a trial part and has been appointed by the 9th Judicial District Administrative Judge as the backup Trial Judge for the Supreme Court for the 9th Judicial District since January 2010. He continues to actively lecture at CLE's and participate in Moot Court and mock appellate arguments and trials for various law schools.

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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RICHARD R. MAGUIRE, ESQ.

Rich Maguire is the founding partner of Maguire Cardona, P.C., a law firm with a specialty in civil litigation. For the last twenty-three (23) years, Rich has successfully tried civil cases in Supreme Court throughout New York State.

To share his knowledge and experience, Rich has spoken at many other CLE programs including Trial Tactics for Experienced Litigators, Medicine in the Courtroom, Expert Testimony and Cross-Examination. He has also been published in the New York State Bar Journal and the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section Journal.

In addition to volunteering his time to speak to lawyers at CLE programs, Rich has also volunteered as a coach and advisor to mock trial teams at Albany Law School, Siena College, Cohoes High School and Bethlehem High School.

For the last eight (8) years, Rich has also proudly served as a part-time City Court Judge in the City of Cohoes.

BIOGRAPHY OF MICHAEL P.J. MCGORRY

Michael P.J. McGorry has been a partner in The McGorry Law Firm, LLP since its inception in 2008. During the past thirty years Mr. McGorry has limited his practice to representing injured persons in the area of motor vehicle law, labor law and insurance claims. Mr. McGorry frequently appears in New York State Supreme Court on behalf of Plaintiff's in personal injury lawsuits. Prior to becoming a founding member of The McGorry Law Firm, LLP, Mr. McGorry was a partner in the law firm of Silverberg, McGorry, Sellers & Silverberg.

Mr. McGorry is the former President of the Western Affiliate of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, an organization that exclusively represents Plaintiffs' in personal injury claims. He is also a former adjunct professor teaching trial technique at the University at Buffalo School of Law and was formerly a member of the Erie County Bar Association Judiciary Committee.

Mr. McGorry is a 1983 graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Law, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

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Hon. Douglas E. McKeon

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Judicial Offices

- Administrative Judge for Civil and Criminal Matters, Twelfth Judicial District, Appointed by Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti, 2013 to Present
- Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, Twelfth Judicial District, Appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau, 2011 to 2013
- Presiding Justice, Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, First Department, Appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman, 2006 to 2010
- Justice, Supreme Court, Bronx County, Elected, 1990 to 2003, Re-elected, 2004 to 2017
- Judge, Civil Court of the City of New York, Appointed by Mayor Edward I. Koch, 1988 to 1989

Admission to the Bar

- NYS, Appellate Division, First Department, 1976

Education

- J.D., New York University School of Law
- B.A., City University of New York, Hunter College



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Associate

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Education

Syracuse University College
of Law (J.D., *summa cum
laude*, 2006)

University of Scranton (B.S.,
magna cum laude, 2001)

Bar/Court Admissions

New York
U.S. Court of Appeals for the
Second Circuit
U.S. District Court for the
Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the
Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the
Western District of New York

Suzanne M. Messer

Suzanne M. Messer is a Litigation attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King who litigates in both federal and state courts. She represents and counsels a wide variety of clients throughout New York State as both plaintiffs and defendants, including individuals, colleges and universities, health care institutions, manufacturers, municipalities, school districts, professionals, not-for-profit organizations and small business owners.

In addition to handling personal injury, breach of contract, and non-competition and trade secret matters, Ms. Messer has experience litigating complex class actions and collective actions involving claims brought under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act ("ERISA"), the Fair Labor Standards Act ("FLSA") and New York State law. Additionally, she has handled complex environmental litigation, encompassing the defense of property damage claims arising from the contamination of soil and groundwater.

Ms. Messer also has a wide array of experience in handling matters involving Group Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Trusts ("GSITs") formed under the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, and has assisted a variety of parties, including participating employers, third party administrators and trustees, navigate through the intricate statutes and regulations that govern GSITs.

In addition to trying suits in diverse venues in New York federal and state courts, Ms. Messer has extensive experience resolving disputes through alternative dispute resolution procedures, including mediations and arbitrations.

Honors and Affiliations

- New York State Bar Association
- Onondaga County Bar Association
- Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association
- Central New York Women's Bar Association
- Justinian Honorary Law Society, Secretary, 2005-2006
- Order of the Coif
- Executive Editor, Syracuse Law Review, 2005-2006

Elizabeth M. Midgley, Esq.

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Experience

Elizabeth is a 2006 graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law where she was Managing Editor of the Buffalo Environmental Law Journal and President of the Buffalo Criminal Law Society, and President of the Herbert J. Wechsler Moot Court Board.

Throughout her career, Elizabeth has successfully defended a number of cases, both prior to and after trial. Additionally, Elizabeth has been the associate attorney assisting in successfully defending multiple medical and dental malpractice matters at trial.

Education

B.A., State University of New York College at Geneseo, 2003.
J.D., University at Buffalo School of Law, 2006.

Memberships

National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel; Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter; Bar Association of Erie County; Bar Association of Erie County – Chair, Young Lawyers Committee; Defense Trial Lawyers of WNY, 2013-2015 Director, 2013 Nominations Chair; Bar Association of Erie County Judiciary Committee Member 2013-2014.

Elizabeth was appointed as Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee of the Bar Association of Erie County for the 2012-2013 year, after having being appointed co-chair for 2011-2012. Her appointment as Chair was confirmed again for the 2013-2014 term. In 2013, Elizabeth was also nominated and appointed as a member of the Bar Association of Erie County's Judiciary Committee for 2013-2014. She was also nominated and elected as Director of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York for 2013, and appointed Nominations Chair for 2013-2014.

Elizabeth is also active in the Mentoring Program for First Year Law Students through the University of Buffalo Law School.

Elizabeth is licensed to practice in New York and the U.S. District Court, W.D.N.Y. Elizabeth was selected to the Super Lawyers Upstate New York Rising Stars list for 2013.

HENRY G. MILLER

Henry G. Miller, a graduate of St. John's College (1952) and St. John's Law School (1959), is Past President of both the Westchester County Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He is a Past Regent of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a Past Director of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of both the American and New York Bar Foundations and a Past Director of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Henry is presently the senior member of the White Plains, New York law firm of Clark, Gagliardi & Miller, P.C. Henry's trial work has usually been for plaintiffs in civil cases. He has frequently appeared on television and radio. He is the author of **Settlements** in the Art of Advocacy series as well as the editor of the **New York Practice Guide on Negligence**, both published by Matthew Bender and most recently, **On Trial: Lessons from a Lifetime in the Courtroom**, published by ALM (Incisive Media) Publishing.

Mackenzie Curtin Monaco, Esq.
Carter, Conboy, Case, Blackmore, Maloney & Laird, P.C.
Albany, NY

Mackenzie C. Monaco is a litigation attorney concentrating her practice in the fields of personal and premises liability, medical malpractice, labor law, product liability, and environmental law. Ms. Monaco also provides clients with insurance coverage analysis and litigates coverage disputes. She represents physicians, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, as well as commercial retailers, contractors, and private individuals. She has achieved successful results for her clients at the trial and appellate levels and has extensive experience in motion practice. Ms. Monaco has lectured on topics related to insurance coverage, indemnification issues, and construction work-site litigation.

Ms. Monaco graduated *cum laude* from St. Lawrence University in 2001 with a BA in History and Government. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Albany Law School in 2004. While in law school, Ms. Monaco served as both a member and the Executive Editor for Research and Writing of the Albany Law Review, was awarded a Sponsler Fellowship, and was listed in *Who's Who in American Law Schools*. In addition, Ms. Monaco is a member of the Justinian Society. Ms. Monaco is also a member of Carter Conboy's Hiring Committee and is the firm's Paralegal Supervisor.

EDUCATION

Albany Law School of Union University, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2004
St. Lawrence University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2001

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York State, 2005
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, 2005

MEMBERSHIPS

Albany County Bar Association
Capital District Trial Lawyers Association
New York State Bar Association
Justinian Society

APPOINTMENTS

Capital District Trial Lawyers Association, member, Board of Directors
Albany Law Review, former Executive Editor for Research and Writing

HONORS/AWARDS

Albany Law School, Sponsler Fellowship
"Who's Who" in American Law Schools

RECENT APPEARANCES/PUBLICATIONS

Speaker: "*Keeping Current with Automobile Litigation*", New York State Bar Association, 2010.
Speaker: "*Construction Site Accidents: Key Issues Between Defendants and their Carriers*", New York State Bar Association, 2010, 2009



Ben B. Rubinowitz

Partner

Gair, Gair, Conason, Steigman, Mackauf, Bloom & Rubinowitz

80 Pine Street

34th Floor

New York, NY 10005

Throughout his 30-year legal career, Ben Rubinowitz has made his mark as a leading trial lawyer combining hard work and dedication with his remarkable courtroom skills and presence. Mr. Rubinowitz began his career as a prosecutor, where he honed the trial skills that would become his hallmark. From there, he began serving as a trial lawyer representing severely injured plaintiffs in personal injury cases, eventually joining GGCSMB&R in 1989. For the past 10 years Mr. Rubinowitz was featured in New York Magazines' article on "Best Lawyers in New York" and was recently named "Best Lawyers, Lawyer of the Year". For the past 6 years Ben has been recognized in the New York Times as one of the "Top 100" lawyers in the New York Metro area, as evaluated by New York Super Lawyers. Ben was honored by being elected to be a member of the prestigious Inner Circle of Advocates. The Inner Circle of Advocates is limited to 100 members considered among the best plaintiff's attorneys in the United States and also to be "lawyers of excellent character and integrity."

Ben's meticulous approach to the preparation and trial of cases has produced 20 verdicts and over 100 settlements in excess of one million dollars in cases arising out of car accidents, premises accidents, construction accidents, medical malpractice, civil rights violations and products liability.



Hugh M. Russ III

Partner
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Areas of Practice: Trial work, business litigation, products liability law, insurance law, employment law, personal injury law

Professional Experience: Mr. Russ was appointed by the U.S. District Court to be plaintiffs' liaison counsel in the Continental Flight 3407 multi-district litigation. Aside from being lead counsel for all plaintiffs, he also represents seven families of victims killed in the crash. An active trial lawyer, Mr. Russ concentrates his practice in business litigation, insurance litigation, personal injury actions, products liability cases, toxic torts, and employment discrimination litigation. He has represented a major insurer in one of the largest environmental insurance coverage litigations in the nation, and he has also represented international businesses in product liability cases. In addition, Mr. Russ has substantial trial experience on insurance cases involving arson and fraud, on personal injury cases, in employment litigation, and in business disputes. He also has extensive experience in pro bono and civil rights work.

Professional Associations: Mr. Russ is a co-chair of the New York Eighth Judicial District Pro Bono Committee and a member of the Bar Association of Erie County Professional Ethics, Judiciary, and Pro Bono Endowment Fund Committees. He also serves on committees for numerous nonprofit, civic, state, and national organizations. He is a board member and former president of the Harvard Club of Western New York, Neighborhood Legal Services, and Compass House, and he has served as regional director of the Harvard Alumni Association.

Media: ["WNY Lawyers Super, Says National Group," Buffalo Law Journal](#), September 10, 2012

Community Activities: Board of directors, Roswell Park Cancer Institute; member, Roswell Park Alliance; board of trustees, Nichols School

Honors/Awards: Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2013 Top 10 Upstate New York Super Lawyers, 2012 and 2011 Top 50 Upstate New York Super Lawyers, New York Area's Top Lawyers, and *Buffalo Business First's* Who's Who in Law; articles editor, *Buffalo Law Review*; past recipient, Pro Bono Award given by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York; recipient, NCCJ Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award

Admitted to Practice: New York, U.S. District Courts for the Western and Northern Districts of New York, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, U.S. Tax Court

Education:

A.B., cum laude, Harvard University
J.D., magna cum laude, SUNY Buffalo Law School



Alice Spitz is a principal in the firm of Molod Spitz & DeSantis, P.C. in New York City, where as a trial attorney with more than 20 years of experience trying cases to verdict, she concentrates in defense work primarily for the insurance industry. Her areas of concentration are premises liability, construction and environmental litigation.

She lectures extensively on trial techniques and insurance defense, providing insight into dozens of areas - from admissible expert testimony to ways to critically assess a damages claim - for the benefit of insurance claims professionals, other attorneys, and even law students.

Ms. Spitz is the immediate past president of the Harmonie Group (www.harmonie.org), an international network of independent law firms whose members defend lawsuits and try cases as part of the broad array of high-quality legal services they provide to corporations, insurance carriers, captive insurance companies, risk retention groups, purchasing groups and third-party administrators.

At the invitation of her peers, Alice has been elected to membership into the American Board of Trial Advocates and the International Association of Defense Counsel.

She has also earned an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell - the highest peer review rating, based on legal ability and ethical standards.

Ms. Spitz received her B.A. in History from the University of Maryland and her J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.





RICHARD M. STEIGMAN

Partner

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Richard Steigman's affiliation with the firm began nearly a quarter century ago with his work as a paralegal. After attending Franklin and Marshall College and graduating "With Distinction" from Hofstra University School of Law, where he was a member of the Hofstra Law Review, he joined the firm as an attorney in 1997.

As a partner at GGCSMB&R, he performs all facets of personal injury litigation, including preparing complex cases from start to finish, serving as a trial attorney, and submitting appellate briefs. He has tried cases throughout the metropolitan area and argued appeals in both State and Federal Courts. He is known to those who work with him on a day to day basis as a "problem solver" whose insights and innovative ideas greatly contribute to the successful results obtained by the firms' clients.

He has lectured to fellow members of the bar for the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and the Practicing Law Institute, and law students at law schools such as Hofstra and Cardozo School of Law. His knowledge in the field has not gone unnoticed by lawyers throughout the State – he has been called on to field questions and solve difficult problems by many members of the bar. He is widely recognized as one of the most knowledgeable attorneys in the State.

EDUCATION

J.D., Hofstra University, 1997

with distinction

Member, Hofstra Law Review

Bachelor of Arts, Franklin & Marshall College, 1989

JURISDICTIONS ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

New York, 1998

U.S. District Court, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, 1998

U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 2009

His memberships in professional associations include the New York State Bar Association, the American Association for Justice and the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.



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PLLC



Christopher G. Todd Associate

Areas of Practice

Commercial litigation, product liability defense, construction law and professional liability

Bio

Mr. Todd joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC in April 2008 as an associate in the Litigation Department. His practice is primarily in the area of civil trial law with a focus on commercial litigation, product liability defense, construction law and professional liability. In the commercial litigation field, Mr. Todd represents clients in a variety of matters involving contracts, warranties, frauds and other business related disputes. He has also represented clients in post-judgment enforcement actions, including the successful recovery of fraudulent conveyances.

Mr. Todd previously practiced in the trial departments of Phillips Lytle, LLP in Buffalo, New York and Hancock & Estabrook, LLP in Syracuse. He is a 1999 cum laude graduate of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and received his juris doctorate from the University at Buffalo School of Law in 2002 where he was an editor of the Buffalo Law Review. Before attending college, he served in the United States Army as a forward observer and is a veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

Mr. Todd is admitted to practice before all State and Federal District Courts in New York. He is a member of the Onondaga County, New York State and American Bar Associations. Recently, he was named to serve on the Board of Directors for the March of Dimes, CNY Division, having previously served as a WalkAmerica committee member in 2006.

Evan Torgan, Esq.
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Evan Torgan concentrates his practice on plaintiff's personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. In a specialty measured by monetary awards, he has to his credit numerous multimillion dollar verdicts including \$90 million for a brain-injured child resulting from neonatal malpractice, \$30 million for a child struck by a truck causing orthopedic injuries, \$17 million for a nurse with spinal column injuries from an automobile accident, \$9.5 million for a pedestrian injured by a major power company, and \$64 million for a brain-damaged child caused by obstetrical malpractice. Mr. Torgan also has many settlements in the multi-million dollar range including \$14 million for obstetrical malpractice, \$14 million for spinal injuries sustained in a major store, \$7 million for a child struck by an intoxicated driver and \$7 million for medical malpractice.

Mr. Torgan is an adjunct professor at Cardozo School of Law where he teaches courses in Trial Techniques and Litigation. He has been a frequent lecturer for the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the New York County Lawyers' Association, the Queens County Bar Association and the Kings County Bar Association. He has also been a frequent instructor at the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. He has written and lectured on all areas of trial practice including direct examination, cross examination, opening statements, summation, economic testimony, medical testimony, vocational testimony and jury selection.

Mr. Torgan is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Hofstra University School of Law where he was an Associate Editor of the Law Review. He continues to co-author a column in the New York Law Journal entitled "Trial Advocacy."

Mr. Torgan is listed in the Best Lawyers in America.



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Sherry Levin Wallach is a Principal and Partner with the law firm of Wallach & Rendo, LLP of Mount Kisco, New York. Ms. Wallach founded the law practice with her partner in 2003. The practice is primarily dedicated to criminal defense, personal injury and general civil litigation.

As a former Assistant District Attorney of Bronx County, Ms. Wallach concentrates her practice on criminal defense in state and federal courts throughout New York, Bronx, Westchester, Putnam and Rockland Counties. She serves on the Westchester and Putnam County 18B panels providing criminal defense for indigent people. Ms. Wallach cases range from handling basic misdemeanor matters in local courts and all level felonies in supreme/county and federal courts, to defending white collar cases in both state and federal courts.

Ms. Wallach received her Juris Doctor Degree from Hofstra University School of Law and a Bachelor's of Business Administration from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. She is admitted to practice in New York, U.S. District Courts for New York's Southern and Eastern Districts and the United States Supreme Court.

Bar Admissions

- New York, 1996
- U.S. District Court Southern District of New York, 1999
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of New York, 1999
- U.S. Supreme Court, 2003

Education

- **Hofstra University School of Law, Hempstead, New York**
 - Juris Doctor - 1995
- **George Washington University, Washington, District of Columbia**
 - Bachelor of Business Administration - 1992

Professional Associations and Memberships

- American Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce
- National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys
- New York State Defenders Association
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Northern Westchester Bar Association
- Westchester County Bar Association
- Westchester County Women's Bar Association
- Westchester County 18 B Panel - appointed 2003
- Putnam County 18 B Panel - appointed 2007

