

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Paul J. Callahan is partner with Brown & Kelly, LLP which is located in Buffalo, New York. His extensive experience includes the analysis and litigation of complex insurance coverage and contractual risk transfer issues. He also assists special investigation units on a statewide basis in the investigation, evaluation and litigation of suspicious first party claims. Paul's experience also includes the representation of insurance companies with respect to uninsured/underinsured motorists and no-fault claims, insureds with respect to various third-party matters, and appellate practice.

A former litigation claims adjuster, Mr. Callahan obtained his bachelor's and legal degrees from the University at Buffalo. He is a founding member of The Buffalo Intellectual Property Law Journal and served as its second Editor-in-Chief.

Admitted to practice in the courts of the State of New York and the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, Mr. Callahan has lectured and published materials on insurance and defense related matters for the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, as well as for regionally and locally-based insurance associations such as the New York Association of Independent Adjusters, Inc. and the Buffalo Claims Association. Since 2005 he has authored "Insurer's Avoidance of Policy Obligations for Material Misrepresentations" which can be found in the second edition of the New York State Bar Association's treatise *Insurance Law Practice*.

Mr. Callahan is a member of the New York State Bar Association and its Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section and the Bar Association of Erie County. He is also a member of DRI, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, New York State Chapter of Special Investigation Units, Buffalo Claims Association, and the Defense Association of New York.



John Condren

Partner
Insurance Defense Litigation
Products Liability

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John Condren is a trial attorney in our insurance defense litigation practice group. He concentrates his practice on insurance coverage and litigation, defending labor law, premises liability, products liability, automobile liability, UM/SUM, and no-fault claims.

He also provides counsel and representation to insurance clients on issues arising under various lines of coverage, including general liability, excess/umbrella, homeowners liability, and automobile liability.

John regularly appears in New York State and Federal District Courts at the trial and appellate levels.

EDUCATION

State University of New York at Buffalo, B.A.
University of Toledo College of Law, J.D.

ADMISSIONS

New York
United States District Court, Western and Northern Districts of New York
United States Bankruptcy Court, Western and Northern Districts of New York
Pro Hac Vice in a number of other jurisdictions

Jeffrey T. Culkin
Law Office of Gialleonardo & Rayhill
Nationwide Trial Division
950 New Loudon Road Suite 200
Latham, New York 12110
Telephone: (518) 783-4406
E-mail: culkinj@nationwide.com

Jeff Culkin has been a senior trial attorney for the Nationwide Insurance Trial Division since November 2006. He handles third-party insurance defense, including premises liability, motor vehicle accident, products liability, asbestos and Labor Law litigation. He also handles coverage litigation for Nationwide throughout the State of New York.

Prior to joining Nationwide, Jeff was with the staff counsel office of One Beacon Insurance and prior to that worked at several litigation firms in the Albany area practicing in the fields of personal injury, insurance defense and commercial litigation.

EDUCATION

Albany Law School May 1989
Juris Doctor, *cum laude*
Associate Editor Albany Law Review
Justinian Honor Society

State University of New York College at Oswego May 1983
B.A. English/Writing Arts

SELECTED REPORTED DECISIONS

Massa v. Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co., 74 A.D.3d 1661 (3d Dep't 2010)

Clayburn v. Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co., 58 A.D.3d 990 (3d Dep't 2009)

Gorman-Bakos v. Cornell Co-op Extension of Schenectady Co. 252 F.3d 545 (2d Cir. 2001)

Johnson City Cent. Sch. Dist. v. Fidelity & Deposit Co., 226 A.D.2d 990 (3d Dep't 1996)

Sena v. Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co., 224 A.D.2d 513, 637 N.Y.S.2d 485 (2d Dep't 1996)



Jennifer L. Dominelli

With a reputation in the legal community for successful conflict resolution, Jennifer has obtained consistently favorable results for her clients.

Jennifer's practice style has always concentrated on being prepared for whatever challenge clients may face while staying focused on their needs and objectives.

With a solid foundation as a litigator in the firm's insurance defense practice, Jennifer has built a matrimonial practice designed to serve the needs of clients with unparalleled expertise in the law and compassionate guidance through difficult situations.

Jennifer has enjoyed a rewarding relationship with Flink Smith, having joined on as the firm's law clerk in 1996, continuing as an associate in 1998 and being named partner in 2006.

Presently, Jennifer concentrates her practice in the areas of personal injury litigation, with an emphasis on toxic tort matters, and in matrimonial and family law and real estate. She also serves as general counsel to several business people and entities.

Jennifer is a 1995 magna cum laude graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York and a 1998 cum laude graduate of Albany Law School of Union University. Upon graduation from law school, Jennifer was presented the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Family Law. She is admitted to practice in all New York State Courts as well as the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Jennifer is a member of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law and Family Law Sections of the New York State Bar Association. She is a member of the Collaborative Divorce Association of the Capital District (CDACD) and founding member and officer of Adirondack Alternative Divorce Solutions (AADS), organizations committed to providing an alternative to litigation for divorcing couples. Jennifer is an active volunteer with Union College, participating as a class agent with the College's Annual Fund and serves on the Executive Committee of the Annual Business Campaign. Jennifer currently serves on the Board of Directors as Co-President of the not-for-profit organization Joan Nicole Prince Home, which provides 24 hour bedside care for two residents at a time in a homelike environment. Jennifer enjoys competitive ballroom dancing and currently serves as an officer of the Capital District Chapter of USA Dance, Inc. Jennifer and her family reside in Glenville.

Alan C. Eagle



Alan C. Eagle is a Partner in the Firm's Insurance & Coverage Litigation and Litigation & Appeals Practice Groups. Mr. Eagle's practice includes representing insurance companies in insurance litigation and counseling them concerning insurance matters. Mr. Eagle is also retained by his clients to represent them in complex construction, toxic tort, commercial and general liability litigations.

Litigations directed by Mr. Eagle have resulted in judgments in favor of his clients and favorable law for the insurance industry in a number of precedent-setting cases, including the Liggett litigation in Delaware, Polaroid litigation in Massachusetts, F.L. Aerospace litigation in Michigan, Noranda litigation in Idaho, Howmet litigation in New Jersey, Texaco/Primerica litigation in Iowa and ISA litigation in New York.

Mr. Eagle frequently lectures and authors articles addressing emerging insurance, toxic tort and construction issues.

BAR ADMISSION

New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States District Court for the Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of New York

BAR AFFILIATIONS

New York State Bar Association - Insurance and Construction Sections, Co-Editor, Insurance Coverage Update

Nassau County Bar Association - Insurance (Chair) and Construction Sections

EDUCATION

St. John's Law School, Juris Doctor, Law Review

Long Island University, C.W. Post, B.A., summa cum laude

Elizabeth A. Fitzpatrick
General Counsel- Island Companies
Counsel-Gartner + Bloom PC

Ms. Fitzpatrick provides legal counsel for Island Companies and their affiliates throughout the Northeast on areas of the law impacting the business, including the preparation, review, and negotiation of contracts and other agreements, insurance and risk mitigation, cyber-liability and training of company managers on industry specific regulations.

She has significant experience representing insurers in defending and instituting declaratory judgment actions and assisting clients in analyzing, arbitrating, negotiating and providing coverage opinions on issues arising under a variety of insurance policies, including commercial general liability, OCIP, professional, directors' and officers', employment practices, premises, commercial and automobile liability policies, as well as focusing on environmental coverage, cyber liability and social media issues. She also has extensive appellate experience in both state and federal courts.

She is Vice Chair of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law section of the New York State Bar Association where she previously served as chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee, receiving the Chairperson of the Year award for 2012. Nationally, she is an active member of the highly selective, invitation-only Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel where she is a vice chair of the Property Insurance Section. She is also active with DRI, the largest organization of defense attorneys in the country. Ms. Fitzpatrick has been recognized as among the top ranked attorneys in the state and is listed in New York Super Lawyers Magazine. She is AV rated preeminent.

Also an active member of the New York City and Long Island community, Ms. Fitzpatrick was honored as a 2014 recipient of the Leadership in Law Award by the Long Island Business News for outstanding achievement in and service to the legal community. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Child Care Council of Suffolk. An adjunct professor of Insurance Law at Touro College, she is a graduate of St. John's University School of Law and Pennsylvania State University.

Ms. Fitzpatrick is a frequent lecturer and author on insurance coverage topics for a wide range of professional groups and regularly provides insurance coverage training throughout the country.

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Jean F. Gerbini

Of Counsel

JGerbini@woh.com

Areas of Practice:

Business, Corporate and Commercial
Insurance
International Trade and Business
Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation
Quebec-New York Practice

An attorney with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna since 1986, Jean Gerbini focuses her practice upon issues affecting consumers and providers of insurance. She has represented policyholders in complex, multi-party insurance coverage actions in federal and state courts. She advises companies, municipalities and public authorities on insurance and indemnity aspects of corporate and commercial transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, and contracts involving construction, supply, distribution and licensing. Additionally, she provides advice and advocacy in connection with group self-insurance, licensure of insurance agents and brokers, and domestic and international commercial transactions. Trained as a mediator, she also serves as a neutral to assist in the negotiated resolution of disputes.

Affiliations

Ms. Gerbini is Chair of the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section (2012 –). She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section. She is a Member of the Board of Directors of Capital District Community Gardens and was a founding Board Member of the Delmar Farmers Market, Inc.

Background

Mrs. Gerbini received her A.B. degree from Harvard University in East Asian Studies (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), and her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University (co-chair, International Law Society). She has studied Mandarin Chinese, French and Arabic and lived in India, Taiwan and China.



Rippi Gill is a senior associate at Lazare Potter & Giacobas LLP, where her practice focuses on commercial litigation and insurance coverage. Ms. Gill regularly represents major insurance carriers at the trial and appellate level, advising them on complex coverage disputes involving various liability and property damage issues. In addition to handling all aspects of litigation, Ms. Gill is frequently called upon to prepare coverage opinions and provide pre-litigation counseling. She has significant trial experience and is a regular author and lecturer on various coverage issues.

Ms. Gill is a junior editor for IRMI's CGL Reporter, focusing on decisions in the area of property coverage. She is also a member of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section and has been a presenter at the Annual Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Midyear Program. She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee.

Ms. Gill previously served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, where she acquired substantial litigation experience concerning federal and state employment discrimination issues and equal opportunity litigation. Ms. Gill began her career serving as a judicial law clerk for the Staff Attorney's Office for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Ms. Gill received her B.A. from Fordham University and J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law.

Ms. Gill presently serves as the President of the South Asian Bar Association of New York (SABANY) and previously served as Chair of SABANY's Women's Committee. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Women's Initiatives in Law, New York Chapter, and as Co-Chair of the South Asian Women Attorney's Network (SAWAN) for the South Asian Bar Association of North America. Ms. Gill is also actively involved in the Women Rainmakers Committee of the American Bar Association, Law Practice Division and is a member of the Diversity Committee of the National Association of Women Lawyers.



Laurie Giordano-Vahey

Member

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716-849-8900

Education

University at Buffalo Law School

JD 1996 cum laude

University at Buffalo

BA 1993 summa cum laude

Laurie A. Giordano-Vahey is a Rochester native and founding member of Leclair Korona Giordano Cole LLP. She is a litigator, with a passion for justice and the courtroom. She is driven to win for her clients and meet their needs – including counseling them to avoid disputes before they happen.

As a partner in the law firm, Ms. Giordano-Vahey focuses her practice in the areas of insurance law, as well as commercial and personal injury litigation. In 2014, Ms. Giordano-Vahey was named Best Lawyers' 2014-2015 Rochester, New York Insurance Law "Lawyer of the Year." In multiple years, Super Lawyers has listed Ms. Giordano-Vahey as a "Top 25" Woman Attorney in Upstate New York. Ms. Giordano-Vahey's clients include large and small businesses, municipal corporations, insurers and individuals. She is proud to have consistently served the legal community in New York in leadership positions, including being a former Chair of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), as well being a Past President of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA).

In addition, her contributions and experience in the areas of personal injury and insurance law have garnered her many awards and recognitions from local, state and national organizations. Ms. Giordano-Vahey has consistently been included in The Best Lawyers in America Guide and Super Lawyers, Upstate and Corporate Counsel editions. Further, she is frequently asked to lecture to attorneys, judges and insurance professionals in her areas of practice and on trial skills. She will present on the topic of "Evidence at a Civil Trial" an upcoming institute for attorneys.

Ms. Giordano-Vahey is active in her community, believing that service is a way of life for her and her family. She lives in Webster and is happily married to her husband Mark, who currently serves in the military. Ms. Giordano-Vahey also believes in healthy living and fitness for fun. In 2013, Ms. Giordano-Vahey rode her bike 100 miles around Lake Tahoe to honor those who have battled cancer and to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with the help of her two amazing children. In addition, she is currently a spin instructor for a local gym in Rochester.



Joshua Gold

Shareholder

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Joshua Gold is a shareholder in Anderson Kill's New York office. He has represented numerous corporate and non-profit policyholders in various industries, with recoveries for his clients well in excess of \$1.5 billion. Mr. Gold is chair of the Cyber Insurance Recovery Practice Group. He is also co-chair of Anderson Kill's Financial Services Industry Group and a member of the firm's Hospitality Industry Group.

Mr. Gold's practice involves matters ranging from international arbitration, data security, directors and officers insurance, business income/property insurance, commercial crime insurance, and marine insurance disputes. He has been lead trial counsel in multi-party bench and jury trials, and has negotiated and crafted scores of settlement agreements including coverage-in-place agreements.

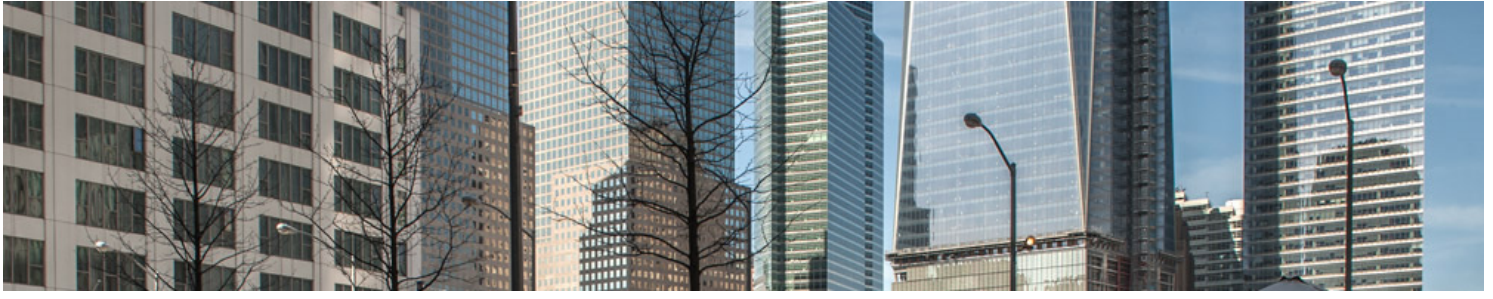
Mr. Gold won a multi-million dollar recovery in a landmark U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit decision, on behalf of a retailer that suffered a data breach as a result of a computer hacking scheme. In finding coverage for the retailer's losses stemming from the breach, the Sixth Circuit rejected the insurance company's "direct loss" defense, instead applying a proximate cause standard. Because the "direct loss" defense is commonly cited in such cases, the decision is of particular importance to businesses purchasing fidelity, crime and financial institution bond coverage.

Mr. Gold has a regular column in Risk Management Magazine and has been published in numerous business and legal periodicals, covering a variety of insurance, commercial and consumer issues. He has been quoted on insurance coverage issues in Forbes magazine, CFO magazine, Business Insurance, National Underwriter, Computerworld, Best's Insurance News and various other trade and business periodicals catering to the risk management, computer, medical and technology professions. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Insurance Law at Brooklyn Law School.

Additionally, Mr. Gold is a frequent lecturer on insurance coverage issues, speaking at conferences nationwide and internationally, including conferences convened by the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS), the Practising Law Institute (PLI), the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters Society (CPCU) and the College of Insurance, New York City.

EDUCATION

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University, J.D.
University of Massachusetts, at Amherst, B.A.



HOME › ATTORNEYS › JARED T. GREISMAN



Jared T. Greisman

Partner

Jared Greisman joined White Fleischer & Fino in 1997 and handles many aspects of civil litigation, including insurance coverage and subrogation, and litigation of matters involving business disputes (hedge fund advisors, collateral managers, partnerships) torts, construction defects, faulty products and equipment. Jared has appeared in numerous state and federal courts, at the trial level and the appellate level, throughout the United States on behalf of domestic and foreign insurers and businesses. Jared speaks at continuing legal education programs and at court sponsored seminars. He has been quoted in law industry journals including the New York Law Journal, Law360, and the National Law Journal.

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News

[WF&F Partner to Speak at ICPS \(DRI Symposium\) on Super Storm Sandy and Catastrophic Storm Coverage Issues, Litigation and Industry Response](#)

[THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, APPOINTS JARED GREISMAN AS DEFENDANTS' LIAISON COUNSEL FOR HURRICANE SANDY CASES](#)

[JARED GREISMAN SUCCESSFUL IN ARGUING IN NEW YORK'S HIGHEST COURT AGAINST OPEN-ENDED EXPOSURE FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTORS](#)

Practice Areas

[Insurance Coverage](#)

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[Liability Defense](#)

Memberships

Florida Bar Association
New York State Bar Association

Bar Admissions

New Jersey 1998
New York 1999
Florida 2001
U.S.D.C., S.D.N.Y.
U.S.D.C., E.D.N.Y.
U.S.D.C., D.N.J.

Education

Cornell Law School
J.D., 1997

Rollins College
B.A., 1992



Christine Malafi

Partner

cmalafi@cmmllp.com

(631) 738-9100 ext. 338

Christine Malafi chairs the firm's Corporate department, one of the most robust teams in the New York region. Her practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, routine and complex transactions, labor and employment issues, and other business matters, as well as municipal, insurance coverage, and fraud issues. She routinely represents buyers and sellers in multimillion dollar transactions (from technology companies to manufacturers to healthcare businesses) and serves in a general counsel role for many of the firm's internationally-based clients.

Prior to joining the firm, Christine was senior corporate counsel to Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc., where she handled a variety of national and international corporate matters. In 2004, Christine was appointed Suffolk County Attorney, serving as the chief legal officer of the County for eight years and supervising a team of over 65 attorneys. The first woman and youngest person ever appointed to the position, Christine focused on obtaining jury verdicts in favor of the County, making fewer settlements, enforcing anti-discrimination laws, and protecting children from harm. Prior to that role, Christine was a partner at a large Long Island insurance defense firm.

Christine has taught both undergraduate and law school classes on litigation, legal research, and writing at Long Island University, C.W. Post, and Touro Law Center. She has also lectured extensively on municipal issues, insurance coverage issues, and claim handling.

Education

Dowling College, B.A.

Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, J.D., Magna Cum Laude

Admissions

New York

Connecticut

United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York



Kevin T. Merriman

Partner

Kevin T. Merriman practices in the area of insurance law, handling a broad range of commercial, professional and surplus/excess lines issues. He provides coverage counseling and represents litigants in complex coverage disputes, including environmental and mass tort, advertising injury, additional insured, bad faith/extra-contractual, employment practices, public entity, construction defect, product liability, and priority of coverage issues. Mr. Merriman currently represents a Fortune 500 company in coverage litigation for nationwide environmental and asbestos-related claims, and in related bankruptcy proceedings involving the formation of a Section 524(g) trust. He also counsels clients on foreign and domestic insurer insolvencies and schemes of arrangement.

Mr. Merriman is a prolific writer and lecturer on insurance law issues, and participates in the National Insurance Law Forum (www.insurancelawforum.com), a blog designed to facilitate discussion and an exchange of ideas and information among industry professionals, risk managers, attorneys, policyholders, and students with an interest in the development of American insurance law. Members of the forum include prominent attorneys from several jurisdictions who concentrate their practice in insurance and bad faith law and litigation.

In addition to insurance coverage disputes, Mr. Merriman has defended toxic tort claims for multiple clients throughout New York State, and has represented litigants in mass tort, multi-district, and class action litigation.

Education

State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, J.D., 1992

Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, B.S., 1989

– Fellow, Cornell Tradition

Bar Admissions

New York, 1993

Pennsylvania, 2007

Court Admissions

U.S. District Courts of New York (Western and Northern)

United States Bankruptcy Court

– Western District of Pennsylvania, Pro Hac Vice



Steven E. Peiper

Member

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Mr. Peiper focuses his practice in insurance coverage analysis and coverage litigation of both first and third party claims. Co-Chair of the firm's Insurance Coverage Practice Group and head of the firm's First Party team, he authors a bi-weekly column entitled "Peiper on Property" on recent developments in first party coverage disputes for the firm's electronic newsletter Coverage Pointers.

He routinely provides strategic advice on insurance related issues and risk management on a national basis and has successfully litigated cases throughout New York State, as well as in all Federal District Courts in New York. In addition to his coverage practice, Mr. Peiper also handles litigated matters primarily involving construction law.

He is a member of the Defense Research Institute's Insurance Law Committee and a member of the subcommittee on First Party Property where he previously served as a liaison to DRI's newsletter Covered Events. He is also a member of the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section, where he previously served as chair of the subcommittee on first party property coverage issues.

Mr. Peiper has authored and co-authored multiple articles on insurance coverage and ethics issues. A frequent speaker at continuing education programs, he has lectured on hot-button coverage issues at DRI, American Bar Association and New York State Bar Association programs, as well as at a litany of other local, state, national and international events.

Mr. Peiper was awarded the prestigious Sheldon Hurwitz Young Lawyer of the Year Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field by the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. The award, named for the co-founder of Hurwitz & Fine, P.C., is a distinct honor awarded to a lawyer admitted ten years or less who has made a significant impact in the industry.

Mr. Peiper earned his J.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, where he later returned as a judge in the Charles S. Desmond Moot Court Competition. He received his B.A. with a major in political science and a minor in criminal justice from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania.

Robert J. Permutt currently serves as a Lead Assistant General Counsel for Nationwide Insurance. In this role, he supervises a team of attorneys that provide legal support to the Personal Lines Casualty Claims Organization for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. He also individually provides legal support to the New York Personal Lines Casualty Claims Organization.

Robert graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1991, with a Bachelor's Degree in History. Robert then attended Brooklyn Law School, obtaining a Juris Doctorate in 1996.

Following his graduation from law school, Robert worked in the Orange County District Attorney's Office for four years, ending his tenure in the office's Violent Felony Unit.

Upon leaving the District Attorney's Office, Robert worked for two New York State insurance defense law firms, handling a varied case load including products liability, Labor Law, premises liability, municipal liability and automobile liability cases.

Robert then joined the House Counsel operations for Progressive Insurance Company, handling large loss exposures throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island.

Robert is a frequent presenter at New York CLE programs having presented for the New York State Bar Association, the New York State Judicial Institute and the New York State Board of Law Examiners.

Robert is a member of the Executive Committee of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. On January 29, 2014, the Section honored him with the Committee Chairman of the Year award.



Anthony J. Piazza

Partner

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Tony Piazza's primary practice focuses on matters involving insurance, appellate law and commercial litigation; he also represents clients in a number of different industries with varied legal needs. Tony's experience in handling insurance matters has prompted national insurance companies to retain him on a regional, statewide and national basis. Tony's practice in this field includes preparing hundreds of coverage analyses and actively litigating declaratory judgment actions, including suits involving extracontractual claims. He is also a seasoned attorney who has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict.

Additionally, Tony frequently advises insurers, third-party administrators, self-insured entities and other parties in claims handling procedures and practices, addresses complaints with state Insurance Departments, and litigates matters arising out of claims handling practices. He is also called upon to counsel individuals and companies within the insurance industry – such as agents, brokers, adjusters, consultants, and related entities – on licensing, formation of companies, compliance, and disciplinary issues. Tony is Chair of the firm's Insurance Coverage & Regulation Practice Area. He has also demonstrated his leadership abilities by serving on the firm's Management and Compensation Committees.

Education

Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1982

State University of New York at Binghamton, B.A., 1979

Admitted to Practice

New York, 1988

Pennsylvania, 1982

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

U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit

Rona L. Platt, Esq.

Rona L. Platt is a Vice President and Corporate Counsel at the Enstar Group, where she is the head of licensing for the United States operations of the international insurance holding company system. She is the former Chief Legal Officer of The Wright Insurance Group, LLC, where she oversaw all legal operations of the business, including representing the various members of the group before insurance regulators, managing outside counsel, preparing insurance policy forms for group members and their outside partners, and providing legal support to the organization. She joined the legal department of Wright Risk Management Company, a member of The Wright Insurance Group in 2009 as Associate General Counsel. Previously, Ms. Platt was a partner at Congdon, Flaherty, O'Callaghan, Reid, Donlon, Travis & Fishlinger, where she was the supervising attorney of the Insurance Law Group. While at Congdon Flaherty, Ms. Platt represented the interests of carriers in all aspects of insurance coverage litigation, from pretrial matter through appeals, and assisted carriers in reaching coverage determinations. Her practice also included reinsurance, commercial litigation and legal malpractice defense.

Ms. Platt received her bachelors degree and juris doctorate from Hofstra University. She is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel, the New York State Bar Association, the Nassau County Bar Association, and the Theodore Roosevelt American Inns of Court. She is also a member of the Amicus Committee of the Defense Association of New York. Prior to moving to an in-house role, Ms. Platt was named as a New York Metro Area Super Lawyer[®] in the insurance coverage area for three consecutive years.

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Eric A. Portuguese, Partner

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1978)
Albany Law School (1980)

Mr. Portuguese is the head of the firm's insurance coverage litigation practice group. He handles a broad spectrum of insurance coverage matters relating to general liability, personal and commercial auto, homeowner's, excess and umbrella, toxic torts and environmental, construction accident and defect, employment practices, intellectual property, products liability, directors and officers, professional liability and bad faith. He is a former Law Secretary to the Hon. Leon Lazer of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

He was admitted to practice in New Jersey in 1980 and in New York in 1981, as well as the Federal Districts in New York and New Jersey. He is also admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Third and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Portuguese has represented clients in courts throughout the country and in private coverage arbitration proceedings. He has regularly lectured on a variety of insurance coverage topics.

1855869



Joanna M. Roberto

Partner

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Joanna Roberto concentrates her practice in complex insurance coverage and commercial litigation. She serves as coverage counsel for multi-national insurance carriers in numerous matters pending throughout the country. Joanna has litigated all phases of declaratory judgment actions and arbitrations. She has counseled large insurers on underwriting procedures and policy rewriting and claims practices.

She also focuses her practice on professional liability claims, including errors and omissions; property claims; life, health, and disability; construction liability coverage; Coverage B litigation; and products liability.

Joanna is multi-lingual and has attained a degree in linguistics in Florence, Italy. She has a familiarity with and appreciation for international claims handling practices as a result of her experience handling claims arising in Mexico, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and France.

Joanna is currently the editor of the TICL Insurance Coverage eNews, published by the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section, and an editor of Goldberg Segalla's Environmental Coverage Report newsletter. She is also a commentator for Mealey's Litigation Report: Insurance Bad Faith.

Admitted to Practice

New York

U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Eastern, and Northern Districts of New York

U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut

U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second and Tenth Circuits

Connecticut, 1997

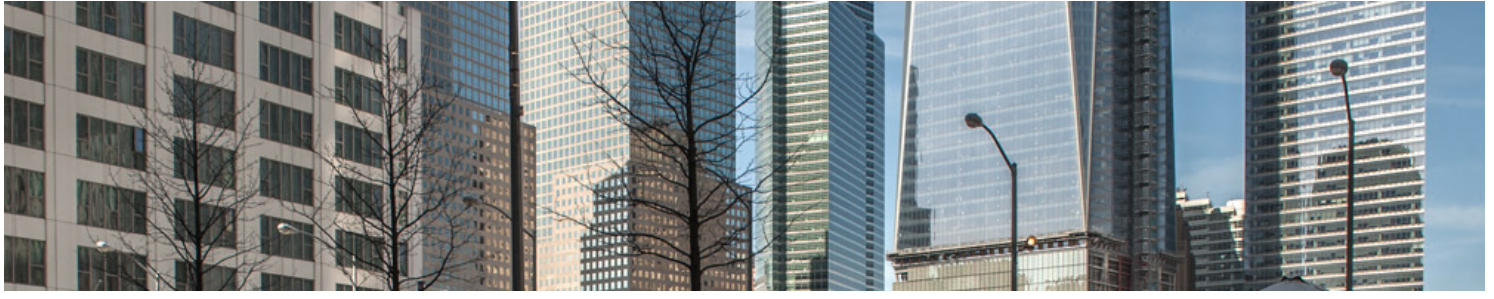
Pennsylvania

Education

Pace University School of Law, J.D., 1997

Diploma di Conoscenza, Centro Linguistico, Florence, Italy, 1997

Hofstra University, B.A., 1994



HOME › ATTORNEYS › MIRNA M. SANTIAGO



Mirna M. Santiago

Of Counsel

Mirna Martinez Santiago joined White Fleischer & Fino in 2010 and focuses her practice on national coverage matters and litigation. She has over 18 years of experience working with or on behalf of insurance companies in a variety of capacities, handling a range of matters including tort, professional liability, coverage and regulatory affairs. Mirna also lectures on an array of topics and has published articles on legal, as well as non-legal, subjects.

Mirna is an active member of the New York State Bar Association, through which she has held a number of leadership roles. As of February 1, 2015, Mirna will assume the position of Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law ("TICL") Section. Mirna is the first Black woman and the first Latina to ever hold the Chair position in TICL. Mirna is also passionate and actively involved in championing diversity and is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the Committee on Tort, the Committee on Continuing Legal Education and the Committee on Membership.

Mirna's many honors include the 2012 New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Award for Outstanding Chair (Diversity) and the 2010 New York State Bar Association Sheldon Hurwitz Young Lawyer Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Practice of Law in the Field of Insurance. Mirna has also written numerous articles for a variety of publications, including many for the New York State Bar Association.

Mirna is fluent in written and spoken Spanish and spoken Garifuna.

News

[WFF's Mirna Santiago, Chair of the NYSBA Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section, Profiled in the New York State Bar News](#)

[AVOIDING CONFLICTS IN THE TRIPARTITE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INSURER, INSURED AND DEFENSE COUNSEL](#)

Practice Areas

[Insurance Coverage](#)

Memberships

New York State Bar Association Officer, Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Executive Committee; Member, Committee on Diversity and Inclusion

Bar Admissions

New York 1996
 U.S.D.C., W.D.N.Y.
 U.S.D.C., S.D.N.Y.
 U.S.D.C., E.D.N.Y.

Education

Columbia University School of Journalism Certificate in Magazine and Book Publishing, 2001

State University at Buffalo School of Law J.D., 1995
 Robert J. Connelly Award of Excellence in Trial Advocacy

New York University
 B.A., 1992

Email: msantiago@wff-law.com
 Phone: (914) 509-2910
 Location: White Plains, NY

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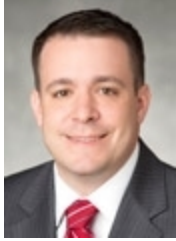
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Arthur J. Smith



Arthur Smith is an experienced trial lawyer in both state and federal courts in the areas of negligence, labor law, toxic torts, products, premises and automobile liability. Mr. Smith is admitted to the United States Supreme Court, various Federal Appellate Courts including the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, as well as the state and federal courts in New York. He serves on the Executive Committee for the Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. Additionally, Mr. Smith lectures extensively.

Most recently, he served as Chair of the Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law (TICL) Section of the New York State Bar Association for their semi-annual meeting, which was held in Killarney, Ireland. Previously, he has served as the Chairperson of a New York State Bar Association Seminar on Labor Law and Construction Accidents, and as a speaker for the New York State Bar Association on topics including Construction Accidents, Premises Liability, Evidence, Trial Tactics, Insurance Coverage and Ethical Obligations of Counsel. Mr. Smith was also a lecturer on “Serious Injury “ and “Negotiation Strategy” at the Buffalo Claims Association’s (BCA); Premises Liability at the 2005 Annual Convention, served as “trial counsel” for the mock trial presentation at the BCA 2003 Convention, and lectured on “Grave Injury” at the 2002 B.C.A. Convention and on Labor Law at the B.C.A.’s 2000 Annual Convention. Mr. Smith addressed the 2007 New York State Association of Independent Insurance Adjusters Annual Convention and has lectured for the New York State Trial Lawyers Institute, The New York State Trial Lawyers, The Bar Association of the City of New York and served as judge at Fordham University’s Moot Court and Trial Advocacy contests.



Matthew D. Stockwell

Counsel | Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Tel: 212.858.1075

Email: matthew.stockwell@pillsburylaw.com

Matt Stockwell is a counsel in the law firm's Litigation practice and is located in the New York office. He focuses on counseling and civil litigation in the insurance recovery and construction arenas. He is experienced in litigating insurance coverage disputes, with a particular focus on property insurance, general liability coverage, business interruption, cyber insurance, and products liability. Mr. Stockwell represents commercial policyholders in claims against their insurance companies, and has handled high profile property damage and business interruption claims arising out of natural disasters and construction defects. He is also committed to a wide range of pro bono efforts, including assisting homeowners affected by Superstorm Sandy recover from their insurance policies, and representing victims of domestic violence.

Mr. Stockwell also represents construction companies, owners and developers in all aspects of insurance coverage disputes, contract negotiations, payment disputes and litigation. He focuses on avoiding potential conflict in the contract stage, but has recovered more than \$100 million for his clients on a broad range of litigated matters, from simple payment disagreements to more complex disputes such as delay and inefficiency claims. Mr. Stockwell is also experienced in numerous matters that companies face in their day-to-day operations, including OSHA contested matters, MBE/WBE compliance, surety claims, bond and financing procurement, and bid protests. Matt is an experienced litigator and has conducted jury and bench trials in New York and New Jersey.

Matt spends his time outside the office coaching ice hockey and little league baseball.

Affiliations

New York County Lawyers Association; New Jersey State Bar Association, Construction Law Section

Courts

U.S. District Courts for the Districts of New Jersey; Northern, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; Eastern and Western Districts of Pennsylvania

Admissions

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Education

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law, 2005

B.A., Rowan University, 2002



Cheryl P. Vollweiler

Traub Lieberman New York

Tel: 914.347.2600

Fax: 914.347.8898

Email: cvollweiler@traublieberman.com

Education

J.D., Hofstra University School of Law, 1988

B.A. in Politics, Brandeis University, 1985

Ms. Vollweiler's practice concentrates in all aspects of insurance coverage and defense. Her areas of expertise include complex insurance disputes, reinsurance, bad faith litigation, international arbitration, products liability, general liability, premises and hotel liability, property damage and first-party coverage and toxic torts (including pharmaceutical and herbal/homeopathic products, chemical exposure, latent injuries, environmental, lead and mold). She has acted as coverage counsel, defense counsel to U.S. and foreign insurers in U.S. litigation nationwide and international arbitrations, and has supervised defense counsel on a nationwide basis on diverse books of business. Ms. Vollweiler also has extensive experience drafting insurance policies. Ms. Vollweiler, a frequent lecturer on insurance coverage-related issues, punitive damages, e-discovery, toxic torts, pharmaceutical products liability and other topics, was admitted to the bar in 1989 and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law in 1988. In 1985, Ms. Vollweiler received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics from Brandeis University. She is proud to join Traub Lieberman after many years as a partner at a prominent, large insurance defense firm.

Admissions

New York

United States District Court, Eastern District of NY

United States District Court, Southern District of NY

Noteworthy

Ms. Vollweiler sits on several prominent industry association Boards including: the Association of Professional Insurance Women; the Financial Women's Association of New York, where she also co-chairs the Directorships & Corporate Governance Committee; and the New York State Bar Association, where she co-chairs the Toxic Tort Committee of the Environmental Law Section.

Ms. Vollweiler also sits on the Board of Directors of Wingspan Arts, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that brings arts education to diverse student groups in the New York Metropolitan Area in the performing, visual, media and literary arts.



Dennis M. Wade

Partner

Email: dwade@wcmlaw.com

Phone: 212-267-1900

Dennis M. Wade is a founding partner of WCM.

Dennis conducts a diverse defense practice that calls upon his trial and advocacy skills in courts across the country and in international arbitral forums. Dennis focuses his practice on complex commercial and insurance law defense. Dennis tries high exposure casualty cases, complex insurance, errors and omissions, and professional indemnity matters.

Dennis enjoys the highest legal rating, "AV Preeminent," reflecting confidential opinions solicited from the Bar and Judiciary. Dennis was also elected to membership in the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC). FDCC is composed of leaders in the legal community who have achieved professional distinction as recognized by peers and clients in a highly selective nomination process.

For more than 20 years Dennis has handled fine art and specie matters for domestic and international insurers. His cases have taken him across the United States and to many parts of the world. Recently, for example, Dennis successfully defended a major art insurer against a 42 million dollar claim. That defense took Dennis from a New York Trial Court, to the Appellate Division, to the Court of Appeals (New York's top Court), and ultimately, to the United States Supreme Court. Beside defense and coverage work in these areas, Dennis has recovered stolen art and diamonds throughout the United States and has collaborated with counsel to achieve recoveries in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

Because of his specialized expertise and professional background, Dennis is also frequently called upon to investigate and advise clients in matters in which fraudulent activity is suspected. He is an experienced trial and appellate attorney in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Dennis enjoys the highest legal rating, "AV Preeminent," reflecting confidential opinions solicited from the Bar and Judiciary. Dennis was also elected to membership in the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC). FDCC is composed of leaders in the legal community who have achieved professional distinction as recognized by peers and clients in a highly selective nomination process.

Before entering private practice, Dennis devoted his energies to the investigation and prosecution of organized crime cases as the Deputy Chief of the Rackets Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. During his six years as an ADA, Dennis prosecuted high-level members of the Gambino and Bonnano crime families, violent felons from gangs such as The Ghost Shadows and Flying Dragons and corrupt public officials.

Education

J.D. Fordham University

B.A. Hobart College, magna cum laude



Melanie Slaughter Wolk

Melanie's reputation as a widely experienced and thorough trial attorney extends across Upstate and Western New York. Her expertise is substantial, and includes commercial, products liability, municipal, professional liability, and toxic torts, with a focus on trials, liability and exposure analysis, mediations, and pre-trial proceedings. Part of what makes Melanie such a sought-after attorney is that, through her extensive community

involvement, she is able to fully appreciate the needs and understand the goals of her clients, which leads to positive outcomes for them.

EDUCATION

Pace University School of Law, J.D. (1998)

Manhattanville College, BS Political Science and Sociology (1995)

ADMISSIONS

New York; Southern, Eastern and Western District of New York

AREAS OF FOCUS

Products Liability

Commercial Litigation

Labor Law

Professional Liability

Construction Law

Contract Disputes

Toxic Torts

Appellate Practice