

Speaker Biographies

DAVID LOUIS COHEN, ESQ.

Biography

David Louis Cohen has been a well-known and respected criminal defense attorney for more than forty years. The thousands of cases he has handled include homicide, mortgage fraud, tax fraud, Medicaid fraud, insurance fraud, enterprise corruption, internet gambling, driving while intoxicated and most other major crimes. He has tried more than three hundred cases in Federal and State Courts.

David Louis Cohen obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree from the New York University School of Business and a Juris Doctor Degree from Brooklyn Law School. From 1971 to 1974, he was a Staff Attorney with the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society of the City of New York. In 1975, he opened his own private practice concentrating on the aggressive defense of those accused of crimes in both Federal and State Courts.

In 1980, David Louis Cohen was elected to the New York State Assembly. He served on the Codes Committee which has jurisdiction over all criminal justice legislation. He left the Assembly in 1982, and since 1995, has served as Counsel to Assembly member Joseph R. Lentol, chair of the Codes Committee.

David Louis Cohen is a Past President of the Queens County Bar Association and the Queens County Criminal Courts Bar Association. He was a founding member of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Currently he is a member at large of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association. David Louis Cohen is the Executive Committee's liaison to the New York State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section and was a member of the Task Force on Wrongful Convictions; and the Special Committee on Criminal Discovery. David has been designated by the New York State Bar Association to serve on the Board of Directors of Prisoners Legal Services. David Louis Cohen has also been appointed to the Chief Judge's Criminal Discovery Committee. David also serves as a member of the Grievance Committee of the Second, Eleventh, and Thirteenth Judicial Districts.

David Louis Cohen was an Adjunct Professor at the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program of the Hofstra University Law School. He is member of the faculty of the New York State Bar Association's Trial Advocacy Academy held at Cornell Law School. He has participated in training programs conducted by the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Division and the Office of the District Attorney of Queens County. He has also lectured on various criminal defense issues before numerous bar associations.

David Louis Cohen is admitted to practice in New York State, the United States District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of New York, the Supreme Court of the United States and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

ROBERT S. DEAN, ESQ.

Biography

Robert S. Dean is the Attorney-in-Charge of the Center for Appellate Litigation, a 40-lawyer not-for-profit group representing indigent criminal defendants on appeal and in post-conviction proceedings. He has also taught appellate advocacy and post-conviction remedies at the NYU School of Law and Brooklyn Law School. A graduate of NYU Law School, with over 40 years of experience as an appellate public defender, he has personally briefed and argued over 350 cases in New York's intermediate appellate courts, more than 35 cases in the New York Court of Appeals, and one winning case in the United States Supreme Court (*Cruz v. New York*). He is a principal author of the West Book New York Pretrial Criminal Procedure, first and second editions. He was most recently chair of the Committee on Criminal Courts at the New York City Bar Association. He is Chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the State Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section Executive Committee, and Vice Chair of the State Bar's Committee on Mandated Representation. He is on the board of the Chief Defenders Association of New York. In January 2013 he received the State Bar Criminal Justice Section's Award for Outstanding Appellate Practitioner.

HON. MATTHEW J. D'EMIC

Biography

Judge Matthew D'Emic was appointed to the bench in 1996. In 2014 he was appointed Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters in Kings County Supreme Court. In addition to his administrative duties, Judge D'Emic presides over the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court and Brooklyn Mental Health Court.

Judge D'Emic is a member of the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts and the New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice. He is a past chair of the Brooklyn Supreme Court Gender Fairness Committee and a past chair of the Alternatives to Incarceration and Diversion Committee of the American Bar Association. Judge D'Emic served on the Steering Committee of Mayor Bloomberg's Citywide Justice and Mental Health Initiative and Mayor DeBlasio's Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Task Force. He is a commissioner of the New York City Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform.

Judge D'Emic has been recognized for his work in domestic violence and mental health and frequently lectures on these topics. He is also an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School.

MICHAEL C. GREEN, ESQ.

Biography

In March of 2012 Governor Cuomo appointed Mr. Green to the position of Executive Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. From this post Green leads the agency responsible for many key parts of the criminal justice system in New York, including the State's DNA database, Criminal History Repository and Sex Offender Registry. Green's duties also include serving as chair of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science, and as a member of the New York State Sentencing Commission and the New York State Justice Task Force. Major initiatives Green is leading at DCJS include GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) working with local law enforcement to address shootings with evidence based strategies and an emphasis on procedural justice, the redesign of ATI funding to incorporate evidenced based principles to the delivery of ATI services funded by the state, expansion of the state's network of Crime Analysis and Real Time Crime Centers and implementation of Raise the Age legislation. Under his leadership in 2017 DCJS was named the number one large employer to work for in the Capital Region by the Albany Times Union based on employee surveys.

Prior to joining DCJS, Green served for 25 years in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, including eight years as the elected District Attorney. In 2007 Governor Spitzer appointed Green to the Sentencing Reform Commission. In 2008, Green was appointed to the New York State Juvenile Justice Task Force by Governor Paterson. Mr. Green was named 2009 Prosecutor of the Year by the New York Prosecutors Training Institute. In 2011 the District Attorney's Association of the State of New York awarded District Attorney Green their Distinguished Service Award and in 2012 he received the prestigious Hogan award from the association recognizing a "lifetime of distinguished and honorable service."

Mr. Green has served as an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Rochester Institute of Technology. He has served as faculty for the National College of District Attorneys at the National Advocacy Center and has lectured for the New York Prosecutors Training Institute.

SEAN HILL, ESQ.

Biography

Sean Hill joined the Katal Center as a Senior Legal Fellow in the Summer of 2017, to address and advance speedy trial and bail reform across New York. Prior to joining Katal, Sean was a Senior Staff Attorney with the legal non-profit, Youth Represent, where he represented formerly-incarcerated youth in both the criminal and civil matters interfering with their successful re-entry. Through a 2013 Equal Justice Works Fellowship, he also started Youth Represent's Family Stability Project, which expanded the law office's legal practice to various Family Court matters.

Sean is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Family Law Section, and was awarded its annual fellowship in 2015. He has been a member of the Law4BlackLives Steering Committee since 2015, and the co-chair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers - New York Chapter since 2016. Sean is a 2012 graduate of Harvard Law School, where he was an active member of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and student government.

HON. J. ANTHONY JORDAN, ESQ.

Biography

Tony Jordan received his Bachelor's Degree in Business with a concentration in Finance from the University of Notre Dame in 1986. After graduation Tony worked in Banking in Corporate Lending before going to Law School. Tony earned his law degree, graduating Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law in 1995. He was a partner in Jordan & Kelly LLC until December 2013. He is admitted in New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

Tony from the Town of Jackson was first elected Washington County District Attorney in November 2013 and was re-elected to a second term in November 2017. Tony was elected to serve on the District Attorneys Association of the State of New York's Board of Directors in January 2017 and elected Vice-President in July 2017. In December of 2017 Tony was appointed by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore to serve as a member of the New York State Permanent Commission on Sentencing.

Additionally, he has been appointed to assist the New York State Association of Counties in developing a plan for all Counties to address challenges and recover costs associated with implementation of the Raise the Age initiative and was recently appointed to assist the Governor's Office in exploring changes to the Pre-sentence incarceration of individuals charged with crimes in New York by exploring differences between Counties upstate and New York City.

Prior to being elected as District Attorney, he served as a New York State Assemblyman since January 2009 serving as Minority Leader Pro Temp.

Tony resides in Jackson with his wife Wendy and their 4 children.

HON. BARRY KAMINS

Biography

The Honorable Barry Kamins is a retired Supreme Court Judge. Before his retirement he was Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court of New York City, Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters for the Second Judicial District and Chief of Policy and Planning for the New York Court System. He was appointed a Criminal Court Judge by Mayor Michael Bloomberg on September 11, 2008 and was elevated to Acting Supreme Court Justice on May 6, 2009. Judge Kamins was elected a State Supreme Court Justice on January, 1, 2013.

Judge Kamins is an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn Law School where he teaches New York criminal practice. He is the author of New York Search and Seizure and writes the Criminal Law and Practice column for the New York Law Journal.

From 1969 to 1973, Judge Kamins served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County where he was Deputy Chief of the Criminal Court Bureau. Before serving as a judge, he was a partner in Flamhaft Levy Kamins Hirsch & Rendeiro LLP

Judge Kamins is former President of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and formerly chaired the Advisory Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure for the Chief Administrative Judge of New York. He is a past Chair of the New York State Permanent Sentencing Commission. Judge Kamins is past Chairman of the Grievance Committee of the 2nd and 11th Judicial Districts. In addition, he is a former member of the New York State Continuing Legal Education Board. He is currently a member of the New York Law Journal Board of Editors and a member of the Board of Trustees on the Historical Society of the Courts of New York State. He chaired the State Bar's Task Force on Wrongful Convictions and a former member of the Justice Task Force dealing with wrongful convictions.

Judge Kamins lectures extensively on criminal law for the Office of Court Administration and to prosecutors and defense attorneys. Over the years, he has been appointed by the courts to serve on several committees dealing with problems in the criminal justice system; the Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services; the Commission on Drugs and the Courts; the Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System; the Committee on Guidelines for Representation of Indigent Defendants' the New York Task Force on Procession Civilian Complaints by the New York City Criminal Court; and the Assigned Counsel Plan Advisory Committee of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

He received a B.A. from Columbia College and a J.D. from Rutgers University Law School.

Bar Admissions

-New York, 1969

Education

-Rutgers School of Law - Camden, Camden, New Jersey - J.D.

-Columbia College - B.A.

ANDREW KOSSOVER, ESQ.

Biography

Andrew Kossover, a partner in Kossover Law Offices (New Paltz), is Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Mandated Representation and a member of the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Section. He is immediate Past-President and current Legislative Co-Chair of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is also Ulster County's part-time Chief Public Defender. Andy attended SUNY Buffalo and Vermont Law School. He began the practice of law under the auspices of the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society of New York (Kings County).

In 1984, Andy relocated from New York City to the Hudson River Valley. He was appointed by the late Governor Mario Cuomo to the Board of Visitors of the Hudson River Psychiatric Center. Mr. Kossover is the former law clerk for then Ulster County Family Court Judge Karen K. Peters (recently retired as Presiding Judge of the Appellate Division, Third Department). Mr. Kossover is a former President of the Ulster County Bar Association and former member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Defenders Association.

Mr. Kossover is also a member of the adjunct faculty at the State University of New York at New Paltz where he has taught such courses as Criminal Law and Introduction to Law. He has lectured at Bard College and the United States Military Academy at West Point. From 2003 to 2013, he served as a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Third Judicial District.

Immediate Past-Chief Judge of New York's Court of Appeals, Jonathan Lippman, appointed Mr. Kossover to the New York State Justice Task Force on Wrongful Convictions. Chief Judge Lippman, in appointing Mr. Kossover, referred to "Mr. Kossover's experience, insight, and expertise as valuable attributes that will assist the Task Force in achieving its important goals."

ROBERT J. MASTERS, ESQ.

BIOGRAPHY

After graduating from St. John's University and St. John's University School of Law, Bob Masters worked as a law clerk for various Judges of the Criminal Term of the Supreme Court in both Queens and Kings Counties. Since 1990, Bob has been an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, and has worked primarily on homicide cases since 1992.

Since 1993, Bob has held various administrative posts within the District attorney's Office and since 2012, he has been the Executive Assistant District attorney for Legal Affairs, supervising all appellate matters, as well as office training. Bob is the Chair of the District Attorney's Committee on Professional Standards and is the District Attorney's liaison to all law enforcement agencies.

During his tenure in the District Attorney's Office, Bob has handled dozens of homicide cases, as well as long term investigations into narcotics enterprises and their related murders. Additionally, Bob has specialized in handling homicides in which psychiatric defenses are interposed.

Among the high-profile cases handled by Bob was the trial of Patrick Bannon for the murder of Police Officer Paul Heidelberger, the trial of serial-killer Heriberto Seda, the "Zodiac Killer" of the 1990's as well as the prosecutions of the infamous "Wendy's Massacre," in which five fast food employees were murdered and the capital trial of John Talor resulted in the jury's imposition of the death penalty. The prior prosecution of Taylor's mentally retarded accomplice, Craig Godineaux, resulted in the imposition of five consecutive life sentences. Bob is currently assigned to the prosecution team for the accused murderer of NYPD Detective Brian Moore.

Bob has also been designated as a Special Assistant District Attorney in both Franklin County and Suffolk County to assist those offices in conducting complex litigation. He is also a founding member of the District attorneys' Association Of New York's Best Practices Committee and its Ethics Advisory Group, as well as its Legislative and Mutual assistance Committees.

Bob has previously served as an adjunct faculty member at St. John's University School of Law and has lectured frequently throughout the state on many trial practice and ethical issues.

INSHA RAHMAN, ESQ.

Biography

Insha leads Vera's work on bail reform, pretrial justice, and jail reduction in New York. She has led research on the use of bail in New York City criminal court arraignments, jail trends across New York State, and regularly presents to advocates, judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors on bail reform, pretrial justice, and reducing jail incarceration. From 2016-2017, Insha served as staff to the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice & Incarceration Reform, a blue ribbon commission chaired by former Chief Justice Jonathan Lippman of the Court of Appeals to study Rikers Island and criminal justice reform in New York City. She has been quoted as an expert on bail reform in the *Nation*, *City and State*, *New York Times*, NPR, and PBS's MetroFocus, among other outlets. She serves as a board member of the New York Civil Liberties Union and the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund.

Prior to joining Vera, Insha was a public defender at The Bronx Defenders for five years, where she tried numerous bench and jury trials and led trainings for incoming lawyers on trial practice. Insha also worked at the Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services, a Vera spin-off that provides alternatives to incarceration for youth and people with mental illness, and, prior to law school, at Vera's Center on Immigration and Justice. She holds a J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law and a B.A. in Africana Studies from Vassar College.

