

Hon. Leonard B. Austin

New York State Supreme Court
Appellate Division, Second Department



Justice Leonard B. Austin is a graduate of Georgetown University in 1974 and Hofstra University School of Law in 1977. Justice Austin engaged in the private practice of law until his election to the Supreme Court Bench in the Tenth Judicial District in 1998.

In his private practice, Justice Austin focused primarily on complex commercial litigation, matrimonial and family matters, personal injury and real estate matters. In 1980 and 1981, he served as counsel to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly. In that capacity, he was assigned as counsel to the Agriculture and Commerce and Industry Committees.

Since his elevation to the Bench, Justice Austin has been assigned to a Dedicated Matrimonial Part in Suffolk County (1999) and a Dedicated Matrimonial and Commercial Part in Nassau County (2000). In 2009, Justice Austin was elevated to his current position as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department.

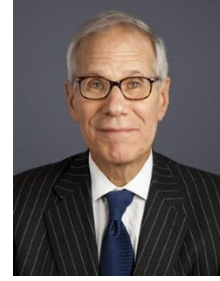
Justice Austin currently serves on the Office of Court Administration's Matrimonial Practice and Commercial Division Curriculum Committees. He is a member of the New York State, Florida, Nassau County, Suffolk County, and New York State Women's Bar Associations.

Over the years, Justice Austin has authored several articles dealing with Equitable Distribution and New York City's Forfeiture Law. Recently, he authored an article in the Banking Law Journal entitled The Impact of New York Commercial Division on Bank Litigation. Justice Austin is a member of the Pattern Jury Instruction Committee, is the Presiding Member (President) of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association, and is the President of the Theodore Roosevelt American Inn of Court. He is a frequent lecturer in the fields of commercial and matrimonial Law and practice and is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Hofstra Law School. In addition, Justice Austin has been a regular lecturer and panelist at Bar and Court CLE programs on topics including electronic discovery, ethics, commercial law and civil practice.

Justice Austin served as the Presiding Member of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association from 2007 to 2008. He is currently a member of the House of Delegates of the NYSBA. In addition, Justice Austin has been a regular lecturer and panelist at Bar and Court continuing legal education programs on topics including electronic discovery, ethics, commercial law and civil practice.

John M. Brickman, Esq.

McLaughlin & Stern LLP



John M. Brickman, head of litigation in the Firm's Long Island office, practices primarily in the areas of commercial litigation and trust and estates disputes. He has tried more than 100 cases before federal and state courts and arbitration tribunals, and has argued more than 100 appeals. He devotes particular attention to contract, corporate, partnership, employment, trusts and estates, intellectual property, unfair competition, civil racketeering, franchise, real estate, and construction cases, and frequently represents parties in disputes between principals of professional practices and substantial closely-held businesses.

Mr. Brickman combines legal practice with public service. From 2007 until 2011, he was a Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity, the agency that enforced state lobbying and public employee ethics laws and regulations. He was a Director of the Nassau Health Care Corporation, which operates the Nassau University Medical Center, from 2005 to 2009. From 2005 to 2008, he served as Chairman of the Correctional Association of New York, an organization founded in 1844 that visits prisons and does research and advocacy in criminal justice issues. He remains a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Brickman serves as a Director of several charitable foundations, including The Levitt Foundation (from 2011 to 2014 he was also its President) and the Long Island Medical Foundation, and was a Director of the Nassau Health Care Foundation. From 1992 to 1994 he served as a Trustee of The Johns Hopkins University and President of The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association. Since 2006, he has been a member of the National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitrators Association, and regularly serves as Arbitrator in AAA cases.

Mr. Brickman is pro bono legal counsel to the Manhasset-Great Neck Community Service Center, and is active in bar association, educational, and community activities. Annually, he chairs a Continuing Legal Education program on lawyers' ethics and civility, presented by the New York State Bar Association. From 1991 to 2006, he was Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where he taught the course in Pre-Trial Litigation to senior law students. He writes and speaks regularly on public issues, including government and legal ethics and the administration of correctional and criminal justice agencies.

Mr. Brickman received his undergraduate degree from The Johns Hopkins University and

his J.D. degree cum laude in 1969 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and Dean's List Scholar and served as Revision Editor of the Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems. From 1971 to 1975, he served as Executive Director of the New York City Board of Correction, the agency of New York City government that oversees the operation of the New York City jail system and issues reports and recommendations for change.

David G. Brock, Esq.

Kavinoky Cook, LLP



Mr. Brock is senior counsel in the Firm's Litigation practice group. Over the past four decades, Mr. Brock has practiced principally in the defense of tort and insurance-related litigation. Prior to joining Kavinoky Cook LLP, he was a partner in Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP, which he joined in 1977 after five years as a staff attorney at Liberty Mutual Insurance Company. Mr. Brock's practice has included broad experience in municipal liability, legal ethics and malpractice, as well as product liability and premises liability litigation. He has defended liability, product and vehicle cases for both insurance carriers and self-insureds, including public utility, transit, waste disposal and numerous manufacturing companies. He is New York State counsel to an international heavy truck and road equipment manufacturer as well as a regional waste disposal company. He has actively defended municipalities throughout New York State in various tort litigation, and counsels attorneys in professional liability and disciplinary matters. In addition, he is a certified Federal Court Mediator for the Western District of New York.

Howard B. Cohen, Esq.

Gross, Shuman, Brizdle & Gilfillan, P.C.



Howard represents his clients in trials including personal injury and wrongful death, claims arising from motor vehicle accidents, construction/workplace and premises accidents; Howard also represents a wide range of business clients involved in business disputes and whom are involved with securities claims.

Howard has been recognized for his outstanding service to his clients. He has been selected as Legal Elite by Buffalo Business First, selected for SuperLawyers of Upstate New York and Best Lawyers of America and has received an AV peer-review rating from Martindale Hubbell, the highest rating available for a lawyer, for both ability and legal ethics.

Howard serves as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Buffalo Law School, where he instructs Trial Techniques.

Howard believes in service to the community and is very active in service to the community, serving upon the Board of the United Way of Erie County, Compass House and Headway Inc. of Western New York, and has received a number of community service awards. In addition, Howard is involved with the American Association for Justice, the New York State Trial Lawyers Academy, Erie Bar Association (Ethics committee) and the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association.

Hon. Mae A. D'Agostino

United States District Court,
Northern District of New York



Mae Avila D'Agostino is a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At the time of her appointment in 2011, she was a trial attorney with the law firm of D'Agostino, Krackeler, Maguire & Cardona, PC. Judge D'Agostino is a 1977 magna cum laude graduate of Siena College in Loudonville, New York. At Siena College Judge D'Agostino was a member of the women's basketball team. After graduating from College, she attended Syracuse University College of Law, receiving her Juris Doctor degree in May of 1980. At Syracuse University College of Law, she was awarded the International Academy of Trial Lawyers award for distinguished achievement in the art and science of advocacy.

After graduating from Law School, Judge D'Agostino began her career as a trial attorney. She has tried numerous civil cases including medical malpractice, products liability, negligence, and civil assault.

Judge D'Agostino is a past chair of the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association and is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge D'Agostino has participated in numerous Continuing Legal Education programs. She is an Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School where she teaches Medical Malpractice. She is a past member of the Siena College Board of Trustees, and Albany Law School Board of Trustees. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association and Albany County Bar Association.

Scott N. Fein, Esq.

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP



Scott Fein serves as Co-chair of the Corporate and Public Agency Regulatory Compliance Practice Group at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna where he has been an attorney since 1983. Since joining the Firm, Mr. Fein has devoted his time almost exclusively to regulatory compliance, internal investigations, litigation and the defense of civil and criminal enforcement matters.

Bruce D. Feldman, Esq.

NYS Office of the Attorney General

Bruce D. Feldman is an Assistant Attorney General and Special Counsel in the Office of New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. His practice focuses on contract litigation in the New York State Supreme Court and Court of Claims, principally in the areas of architectural design and construction, and on issues pertaining to access to governmental records. Mr. Feldman served for twelve years as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Litigation Bureau (in Albany) for two Attorneys General, defending the State of New York, its agencies and employees in a broad range of litigation in State and Federal courts.

From 2007 - 2011, Mr. Feldman served as Chief Counsel to the New York State Department of Transportation and Director of the Department's Division of Legal Affairs, providing policy guidance and legal counsel in areas affecting the development, financing and delivery of New York's multi-billion dollar transportation program.

Mr. Feldman graduated from Northwestern University with Highest Distinction and from Boston University School of Law. Born and raised in Haverhill, Massachusetts, he is a member of Congregation Gates of Heaven, where he has served as Vice President of the Board of Trustees and legal advisor to the Board.

Lenora B. Foote, Esq.

New York State Supreme Court,
Appellate Division, Fourth Department



Lenora B. Foote, Chair of the Diversity Committee, is a Buffalo native and a graduate of Williamsville East High School. She obtained her Juris Doctorate Degree from SUNY Buffalo School of Law. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and Pre-Law Studies from Canisius College, and was distinguished as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar.

Lenora is the Executive Assistant to Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen. She is the first African-American and Buffalonian to serve in this position. She is the Chief of Staff for the 4th Department, and handles various court management responsibilities including the analysis of complex court operations, monitoring personnel issues, preparing necessary reports, assisting with budget preparation and allocations, managing and/or overseeing special projects, and monitoring the operations and efficiencies of the three judicial districts encompassing the fourth department. She is also an adjunct professor in the paralegal department at Hilbert College, and teaches family law.

Previously, Ms. Foote served as a Support Magistrate with Erie County Family Court for 10 years. Magistrates are responsible for hearing and deciding child support, paternity and spousal support petitions. In addition, she spent 8 years working for the city of Buffalo. During this time she served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel, and was assigned to the housing court and the Buffalo Common Council. She also served as the first Director of the Save Our Streets Program, an initiative that united federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to tackle the illegal and social problems of drug activity in urban neighborhoods. Ms. Foote also served as General Counsel for the Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency.

Hon. Frank P. Geraci

United States District Court,
Western District of New York



Hon. Frank P. Geraci, Jr. is the chief judge for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. He joined the court in 2012 after being nominated by President Barack Obama. On December 13, 2012, the United States Senate confirmed Frank P. Geraci, Jr. to an Article III post for the United States District Court for the Western District of New York with a voice vote. At the time of nomination, he was a judge for the Monroe County Court and an acting justice for the Monroe County Supreme Court in New York. Judge Geraci became the chief judge of the court in 2015. Judge Geraci received his B.A. degree in political science from the University of Dayton in 1973 and his J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1977.

Guy C. Giancarlo, Esq.

Supreme Court of the State of New York
Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department

Guy C. Giancarlo has been Associate Counsel to the Eighth Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee since 2005. In this position, he has been responsible for the investigation of complaints against attorneys alleging professional misconduct and for the presentation of serious matters of misconduct to the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department.

Prior to 2005, Mr. Giancarlo was Confidential Law Clerk to the Honorable Salvatore R. Martoche, J.S.C., and, prior thereto, was a Senior Associate at Hiscock and Barclay where he practiced in public finance and commercial litigation. Earlier in his career, Mr. Giancarlo was a New York State Assistant Attorney General, serving in the Investor Protection and Consumer Frauds Bureaus.

Mr. Giancarlo received his B.S., cum laude, M.B.A., and J.D. from SUNY Buffalo, studying engineering, accounting and finance, and law.

Curtis A. Johnson, Esq.

Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC



Curtis concentrates his practice on complex corporate litigation. He has experience in the area of large-scale, multi-party litigation and effectively counsels business clients as they navigate protracted disputes. Curtis was counsel to a large commercial and investment bank in *Adelphia Recovery Trust v. Bank of America, N.A., et al.* and represented one of two ownership groups in *Ferolito v. Vultaggio* in their dispute over control of AriZona Iced Tea.

As an experienced creditors' rights attorney, Curtis has represented creditors and debtors in and out of bankruptcy. Representative matters in which Curtis has played a significant role include: *In re Cornerstone Homes, Inc.*, *In re Elmira Downtown Arena, LLC* and *PACA Creditors of Lenny Perry's Produce, Inc. v. Genecco Produce, Inc.*

Curtis has counseled consumer debt collection agencies on matters relating to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and Telephone Consumer Practice Act, and defended debt collectors against large scale, bet-the-company, class actions.

Curtis has successfully represented parties in disputes arising out of construction work, including general- and sub-contractors in pay disputes and defense of a regional bank against claims of lien law diversion.

When representing municipalities and property owners in real property tax assessment matters, Curtis has worked closely with appraisers and tax assessors.

Curtis is knowledgeable about e-discovery and the ever-changing landscape of preserving, producing and utilizing electronically stored information. He has written on the expansion of federal e-discovery guidelines in New York State courts.

E. Stewart Jones, Esq.

E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy



E. Stewart Jones, Jr. is an exceptional attorney that is recognized for professional excellence as well as community service, volunteerism and philanthropy.

E. Stewart Jones, Jr. is the 3rd generation attorney to lead the highly acclaimed law firm that bears his name. His commitment to excellence is matched by his compassion to serve, as demonstrated by his professional success and tireless contributions to the community in which he lives and works. Recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America, E. Stewart Jones, Jr. has been represented countless individuals and families, won high-profile cases, major civil and criminal cases, and obtained record number of million-dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of his clients. At one time or another throughout his career, he has earned the distinction of being the attorney who had won the largest verdicts in a number of counties across Upstate NY.

A life-long resident of the Capital District, Mr. Jones always knew he would be a lawyer. He joined the family practice in 1966, the same year he began practicing law. However, his Grandfather Abbott Jones founded the law firm in 1898 and his father, E. Stewart Jones, Sr. carried on the same legacy that E. Stewart Jones, Jr. is so very proud of. The firm began and has continued as a family practice, embracing the attorneys, staff and clients as extended family, which is why he and the award-winning team have earned such a sterling reputation with clients and the community. He may have inherited his grandfather and father's work ethic, but the compassion, sincere desire to win, and commitment to providing his very best to each and every client are a product of his own values and desire to serve.

Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy

New York State Supreme Court,
County of New York



The Honorable Tanya R. Kennedy is a Supreme Court Justice and former Supervising Judge of Civil Court, New York County. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law where she taught a Juvenile Justice seminar course from 2006 to 2016.

She is the President-Elect of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and former Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Vice President of Publications, Vice President of Districts, Secretary and New Judges' Committee Chair of NAWJ. She is also a board member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Justice Kennedy received her law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She is a member of Cardozo's Alumni Association Executive Committee, where she served as Corresponding Secretary and Activities Committee Chair. She is also a member of Cardozo's Black Asian Latino Law Student Alumni Association, the Dean's Advisory Council, as well as the Dean's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and has served as an instructor for Cardozo's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program in the winter 2012 and 2013 sessions.

Her various honors include the 2012 Pat Irvin Personal Service Award from the Association of Black Women Attorneys; the 2014 Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association Civil Court Practice Section; the 2015 Alumni of the Year Award from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; and the 2017 Diversity Leadership Award from Penn State Law.

Danielle C. Lesser, Esq.

Morrison Cohen LLP



Danielle serves as the Co-Chair of the Business Litigation Department. Danielle is an experienced trial attorney whose diverse practice involves all phases of litigation, from pleading through verdict and appeal. Danielle's practice includes both litigating and advising transactional clients with respect to litigation risk and litigation avoidance strategies.

Danielle has successfully handled a broad range of litigations in state and federal court as well as in arbitrations and is often retained on the eve of trial. Danielle's representations include public companies, multi-million dollar private companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, investment bankers, start-ups, developers, real estate companies, information and technology companies, high net worth individuals, and partnerships in all types of business disputes, ranging from restructuring, hotel and hospitality, real estate, and contract disputes to enforcement of restrictive covenants.

Hal R. Lieberman, Esq.

Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP



Hal Lieberman is the co-author of “New York Attorney Discipline,” and the former Principal Trial Attorney and Chief Counsel for the Departmental Disciplinary Committee in New York’s First Department. During the past 17 years, he has defended hundreds of lawyers and law firms before disciplinary and grievance committees in connection with lawyer discipline complaints, formal disciplinary prosecutions, reciprocal discipline proceedings, post-conviction disciplinary proceedings, reinstatements, and matters related to bar admissions before the several New York character and fitness committees. Mr. Lieberman is a regular columnist for the New York Law Journal on the subject of Professional Discipline. He also publishes a blog, NYLegalethics.attorney.

In addition to attorney discipline defense, Mr. Lieberman has been a lecturer in law at Columbia Law School teaching legal ethics, has lectured widely, and published numerous articles on the subjects of legal ethics and professional discipline. He has testified as an expert in legal ethics in approximately 45 civil and criminal adjudications since 1998, including, among others, disqualification motions, legal malpractice cases, partnership disputes, fee disputes, and numerous issues involving interpretation and application of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Mr. Lieberman joined Emery Celli Brinckerhoff & Abady LLP in 2014. He is the past partner-in-charge of the New York office of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, and was the subject of an exclusive interview in the March 23, 2011 issue of the New York Law Journal. The article, “Q&A with Hal R. Lieberman,” focused on Mr. Lieberman’s long and unique experience handling New York attorney disciplinary cases and legal ethics matters more generally, and his views on the state of New York’s lawyer discipline system from the perspective of a former Chief Counsel to the Departmental Disciplinary Committee.

Andrew J. Luskin, Esq.

McLaughlin & Stern LLP



Andrew J. Luskin received his law degree from Hofstra University School of Law, with distinction, in 1985. He was graduated from the State University of New York at Albany cum laude in 1982. He served as Managing Editor of the Hofstra Labor Law Journal, a law review dedicated exclusively to the field of labor and employment law.

Before joining the firm in 1988, Mr. Luskin served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County, New York, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony criminal cases from inception through trial. He now practices general commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts, and works on matters involving contracts, arbitrations, employment-related claims, franchise disputes, intentional torts, landlord and-tenant disputes, and zoning.

Chris McDonough, Esq.

McDonough & McDonough LLP



Chris McDonough, Esq. is an experienced defense attorney for lawyers facing the grievance committees for all New York judicial districts or disciplinary proceedings in all New York judicial departments. Chris has represented hundreds of law students and former lawyers seeking admission or readmission before the Character and Fitness Committees and the Appellate Divisions.

Chris McDonough is admitted to practice in New York (1988) and Colorado (1990). Juris Doctorate awarded 1988, cum laude.

- Assistant Counsel to the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District from 1989 through 2002.
- Adjunct professor of Legal Ethics.
- Author of numerous articles, texts, law reviews, etc. on the subject of grievances, disciplinary proceedings and professional ethics.
- Regular lecturer for bar associations, law firms, bar groups, law school classes, alumni associations, etc.
- Practice limited to attorney discipline, disciplinary defense, grievance defense, criminal charges, and all aspects of professional ethics and character and fitness matters.

Michael J. Murphy, Esq.

Carter, Conboy, Case,
Blackmore, Maloney & Laird, P.C.



Michael J. Murphy is a trial attorney handling complex litigation with an emphasis on Labor and Employment Law, Municipal Law, and Professional Liability Law. He maintains an active trial practice in State and Federal courts as well as before the EEOC and New York State Division of Human Rights. He is regularly retained by leaders in business, government, community organizations, and the professions to represent their interests in sensitive, high profile litigation and investigations. Mr. Murphy is currently the Chair Emeritus of ALFA International, The Global Legal Network, and Past President of the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association.

Mr. Murphy is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Fellowship into the American College of Trial Lawyers is extended only by invitation, after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Membership in the College cannot exceed one percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province.

Hon. Jeffrey K. Oing

New York State Supreme Court,
County of New York



Justice Jeffrey K. Oing was elected to Supreme Court of the State of New York on November 2, 2010, and took office on January 1, 2011. Justice Oing presides over a general IA Part with a case inventory of approximately 500 cases. He handles jury and nonjury trials involving personal injury, commercial, and governmental matters. On April 7, 2011, Justice Oing was assigned to the Commercial Division. In addition to his responsibilities in the Commercial Division, he will continue to preside over his current IA Part inventory. Prior to his election to Supreme Court, Justice Oing was an elected New York County Civil Court Judge from 2004 to 2010. On June 18, 2009, Justice Oing was appointed Supervising Judge of the New York County Civil Court, and was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. As Supervising Judge, Justice Oing was responsible for the day-to-day Civil Court operations at 111 Centre Street. In addition to his supervisory duties, Justice Oing presided over jury and nonjury trials, as well as conferencing and mediating cases.

In 2002-2003, Justice Oing served as Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, The Council of the City of New York, overseeing litigation and legal matters involving the City Council. During that year, he was appointed by Speaker Gifford Miller to the post of Deputy Director for the New York City Districting Commission, where he was responsible for assisting the Districting Commission in redistricting the City's fifty-one City Council districts, and for obtaining from the United States Department of Justice preclearance under the Voting Rights Act for these council districts.

Justice Oing has over twenty years of legal and administrative experience, the majority of which has been in public service. Between 1993 and 2002, he held various positions in the NYS Supreme Court. From 1993 to 1995, Justice Oing served as Court Attorney in the NYS Supreme Court (New York County). He also served as Law Secretary to Justice Marilyn G. Diamond (1995-1998) and to Justice Walter B. Tolub (2000-2002). Between 1998 and 2000, Justice Oing was a Principal Appellate Court Attorney in the Appellate Division, First Department. In those positions, he had the opportunity to assist in authoring major decisions ranging from contract law to constitutional law.

Before coming to the NYS Supreme Court, Justice Oing spent several years in private practice concentrating on commercial litigation. In the midst of private practice, he served a brief stint as Assistant Counsel to New Jersey Governor Jim Florio. Prior to entering private practice, Justice Oing began his legal career as judicial law clerk to Chief Justice

Robert N. Wilentz of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. During his clerkship, he worked on *Abbott v. Burke*, a major education funding case in which the Court held that New Jersey's education funding formula was unconstitutional because it denied poorer urban school districts a "thorough and efficient" education as mandated by the state's constitution.

Justice Oing received his B.A. in English from Columbia College (1986), and his J.D. from New York University School of Law (1989). At NYU, he was a staff editor for the *Journal of International Law and Politics*. Justice Oing serves on the board of directors of The Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc., a not-for-profit social services, educational and planning organization serving the City's Asian communities. Other memberships include: The Association of the Bar of the City of New York; New York State Bar Association; New York County Lawyers' Association; Asian American Bar Association of New York; NYS Women's Bar Association; Jewish Lawyers Guild; and The Brehon Law Society.

Hon. Erin M. Peradotto

New York State Supreme Court
Appellate Division, Fourth Department



Hon. Erin M. Peradotto, is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in 1981 and her Juris Doctor degree in 1984. For nearly two decades before her election to the State Supreme Court in 2003, Justice Peradotto practiced as a trial attorney in the Supreme Courts throughout the Eighth Judicial District, and in other parts of the State, and handled appeals before the Appellate Division, Fourth Department and the New York State Court of Appeals.

She was appointed to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department by Governor Pataki on December 22, 2006. From 1997-1998, Justice Peradotto served as the Assistant Attorney General in Charge of the Buffalo Regional Office of the New York State Attorney General's office. She served as President of the Bar Association of Erie County from 1997-1998. She also served on the State of New York's Attorney Grievance Committee for the 8th Judicial District from 2001-2003. She has served as a delegate to the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates, a director of the Women Lawyers of Western New York, a director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project, and a director of the SUNY at Buffalo Law Alumni Association.

In 1997, she was recognized among the "40 Under 40" in Business First of Buffalo. She received the M. Dolores Denman Lady Justice Award for lifetime achievement from the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Western New York Chapter in 2011, the Distinguished Alumna award from the SUNY at Buffalo Law Alumni Association for her "conscientious and diligent performance in the Judiciary" in 2010, and the "Outstanding Jurist" award from the Bar Association of Erie County's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee in 2006.

Victor J. Rocco, Esq.

Herrick Feinstein LLP



Victor Rocco is the chair of Herrick's White Collar Defense & Investigations Practice. Vic has extensive trial and appellate experience in federal and state courts and regularly represents U.S. and foreign corporations in internal corporate investigations, criminal, civil and regulatory matters, arbitrations and complex commercial disputes.

Vic defends individuals and corporations in private securities actions, enforcement and regulatory proceedings, derivative lawsuits, civil antitrust matters and RICO actions. He has extensive experience in cross-border investigations and prosecutions, extradition matters, bankruptcy litigation, insurance coverage disputes and in complex commercial litigation involving licensing, business torts and breach of contract claims.

Vic has represented a broad spectrum of clients who have been sued, investigated, and/or charged with violations of securities statutes and regulations including the federal RICO, Sherman and Clayton Acts, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Taft-Hartley Act, Hobbs Act, and Lacey Act, in addition to statutes involving money laundering; mail and wire fraud; bank, tax and bankruptcy fraud; smuggling, and export controls.

Prior to entering private practice, Vic was Chief of the Criminal Division for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and, prior to that, Chief of the Office's Narcotics section. He also served as law clerk to the Honorable John F. Scileppi, Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals.

Vic has been cited by Thomson Reuters' New York Super Lawyers as one of the outstanding white collar criminal defense lawyers in New York. He also frequently lectures on RICO, complex litigation tactics, legal ethics, and trial strategies and techniques; and has taught trial advocacy at the Attorney General's Advocacy Institute, The National Institute for Trial Advocacy, the Practising Law Institute and before a number of professional groups.

Robert T. Schofield, Esq.

Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP



Robert Schofield is a partner in Whiteman Osterman & Hanna's Labor and Employment Law, Education, and Litigation, Arbitration and Mediation Practice Groups. His areas of expertise include public sector labor and employment issues, education law, and general litigation, as well as State Court practice. Mr. Schofield has been with Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP since 2000.

Mr. Schofield is a past President of the Albany County Bar Association and the Albany County Bar Foundation. He is a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association, and a past member of the State Bar's Committee on Attorney Professionalism. He has served as the President of the NY Capital Chapter of the Labor and Employment Research Association, an organization of practitioners and arbitrators in the labor-management community. He is a member of the New York State School Boards Association Council of School Attorneys.

Prior to joining the Firm, Mr. Schofield was the law clerk to the Hon. Justices Bernard J. Malone, Jr. and Joseph Harris of the New York Supreme Court, and previously served as an Appellate Court Attorney for the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department. Mr. Schofield graduated, magna cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law, where he was an editor of the Syracuse Law Review. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree from Plattsburgh State University. He is admitted to practice in New York and in the United States District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. He has been listed in the upstate editions of Best Lawyers in America and New York Super Lawyers.

Sheldon K. Smith, Esq.

Nixon Peabody LLP



Sheldon Smith handles business disputes in federal and state courts and before arbitration tribunals for manufacturers, financial institutions, health care providers, energy companies, municipalities, real estate developers, and professional organizations.

Jamie B.W. Stecher, Esq.

Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP



Jamie Stecher's practice consists of a wide range of business-related litigation and counseling matters involving: contracts, such as stock purchase agreements, employment agreements, and other business arrangements; business torts; trade secrets; and trust and estate litigation. He regularly appears in state and federal trial and appellate courts in New York, and various arbitral and other ADR forums. He has handled litigations throughout the United States, and has consulted on litigations and arbitrations in foreign countries.

Jamie's most significant representations include: an international battle (in Stockholm, London, New York and Houston) over the enforcement of an international arbitration award against a Russian oil company; obtaining specific performance of a contract to purchase a collection of rare violins, and then obtaining substantial monetary sanctions against the defendant and her attorney (Southern District of New York and Second Circuit); serving as appellate counsel and securing the reversal of a multi-million dollar indemnification award arising from a major corporate transaction (Appellate Division, First Department); several successful dealer termination litigations; and recovering millions of dollars from corporate officers who had violated duties of trust and loyalty (various courts in New York and New Jersey).

Jamie has been selected for inclusion in New York Super Lawyers for 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 as well as for inclusion in ALM's New York Area's Top Rated Lawyers for 2012.

Vincent J. Syracuse, Esq.

Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP



Vincent J. Syracuse joined Tannenbaum Helpert during the summer of 1979 and founded the firm's litigation department and is currently its Co-Chair. As a general litigator for over 40 years, Vince has earned a reputation as a problem-solver, strategist, tactician and aggressive advocate for his clients. Recognized by Super Lawyers as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in the New York Metro area, he represents a variety of clients in commercial litigation in all New York State and Federal Courts on the pre-trial, trial and appellate levels and in various alternate dispute resolution forums including mediation and arbitration. He is also a mediator in the Commercial Division of the New York County Supreme Court.

Vince has been active for many years in numerous bar association activities and frequently chairs or participates as a faculty member in continuing legal education programs on various commercial litigation subjects, including the New York State Bar Association's extremely successful program on ethics and civility in litigation which he has chaired for over fourteen years. Vince has been a member of the NYSBA's House of Delegates. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the NYSBA's Commercial and Federal Litigation Section since 1994. He was the Section's Chair in 2009-2010, having previously served as Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair and three terms as the Section's Treasurer. The Section honored Vince with its nominations in 2007 and 2012 for the NYSBA's Attorney Professionalism Award recognizing him as a "tireless advocate for ethics and civility in New York." In March 2010, Vince was appointed by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to the Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System which monitors the annual financial disclosure statements within the judicial branch of the New York State government. Vince is also a member of the NYSBA's Committees on Attorney Professionalism and Continuing Legal Education. He writes the monthly Attorney Professionalism Forum in the NYSBA Journal.

As a member of the Advisory Committee for the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and a former Chair of the Commercial Division Committee, Vince has helped shape the development of the Commercial Division since its inception in New York and Monroe Counties, and subsequent expansion to several counties throughout the State of New York. The Advisory Committee acts as liaison between the bar and the Commercial Division and has created a mechanism that allows practitioners in the Commercial Division to express their views about the structure of the Commercial Division, and comment on various matters of Commercial Division practice, including the definition

of a "commercial case." Vince has been directly involved in the drafting of the Commercial Division rules that have refined the criteria for the assignment and retention of cases in the Commercial Division, and govern practice in the various Commercial Division venues.

Vince has been selected for inclusion in New York Super Lawyers for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 every year that selections were made.

David H. Tennant, Esq.

Nixon Peabody LLP



David leads the firm's highly regarded appellate practice, co-chairs our nationally ranked Indian Law and Gaming team and maintains a varied litigation practice involving business disputes, insurance, construction, products and premises liability.

Andrea Tomaino, Esq.

New York State Supreme Court
Appellate Division, Fourth Department

Andrea E. Tomaino is Principal Counsel for the Seventh Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee, an agency of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Fourth Department. Previously, she practiced law with the firms of Chamberlain, D'Amada, Oppenheimer & Greenfield, and Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP, in Rochester, New York, where she concentrated in family law and general civil litigation.

Ms. Tomaino also served as a Confidential Law Clerk to the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, before entering private practice.

Ms. Tomaino lectures regularly at Continuing Legal Education seminars on legal ethics for various County Bar Associations, the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys, and the New York State Bar Association. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, and her law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia.

David M. Wirtz, Esq.

Littler Mendelson P.C.



David M. Wirtz has represented employers exclusively for over 30 years, with an emphasis on:

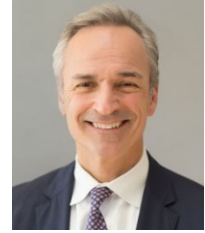
- Litigation prevention / employment law counseling
- Discrimination litigation
- Class action defense – Fair Labor Standards Act, systemic discrimination
- ERISA litigation defense
- Arbitrations, mediations, and other ADR
- Collective bargaining
- Employment and separation agreements
- Human resources policies and handbooks

David provides 24/7 service and pragmatic advice helping managers, human resources professionals and in-house employment counsel with decisions concerning hiring, firing, promotions, compensation, and leaves. As a trial lawyer, David has successfully defended scores of individual, class and collective actions and achieved multiple defense verdicts in state and federal courts involving alleged discrimination (age, disability, race, national origin, gender, harassment, retaliation), covenants, wage & hour violations, negligent hiring, negligent supervision, negligent retention, breach of contract, and negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He has successfully defended his clients in hundreds of arbitration proceedings.

David is a skilled writer and speaker, and his articles on topics ranging from the history of restrictive covenants to retaliation claims have appeared in numerous legal publications. He has also appeared regularly as an expert commentator on employment-related issues for local television and radio stations, and he frequently lectures to other employment attorneys and in-house counsel. Additionally, David has taught as an adjunct professor at Cardozo Law School since 1992 and as a guest lecturer at the Columbia Business School.

Leonard D. Zaccagnino, Esq.

Shaw & Shaw, P.C.



Leonard D. Zaccagnino is a partner in the Firm. He is a member of the New York State Trial Attorneys Association and Association of Trial Attorneys of America. Mr. Zaccagnino's practice focuses in civil litigation, specializing in personal injury litigation representing people that have been serious injured. A cum laude graduate of Canisius College, and a Distinguished Graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, Mr. Zaccagnino has spoken at various training seminars for other attorneys in the area of personal injury law.

Mark C. Zauderer, Esq.

Flemming Zulack Williamson Zauderer LLP



Mark C. Zauderer, a prominent New York trial and appellate lawyer, has represented major corporations, prominent individuals, and a Presidential cabinet secretary in significant business, financial and commercial litigation in federal and state courts throughout the United States. Subject matters have included contracts, business torts, securities, real estate, legal malpractice, shareholder rights, limited partnerships, defamation and fiduciary relationships in business, law firm and estate matters.

He also frequently serves as an arbitrator and private mediator of significant disputes. He is a past President of the Federal Bar Council and is a member of the Board of Editors of the New York Law Journal. In 2003, Zauderer was appointed by Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye as Chair of New York's Commission on the Jury, a blue ribbon panel of lawyers and judges charged with finding ways to improve New York's jury system. He also served as a member of the Chief Judge's Commercial Courts Task Force, which implemented the establishment of the New York State Court System's Commercial Division and as member of the Office of Court Administration's Program on the Profession and the Courts, which drafted New York's current sanctions rules. Zauderer is a past chair of the 2000 member Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association, served as a delegate to its House of Delegates, as a member of the Special Committee on Cameras in the Courts, and chaired the Association's Steering Committee on Commerce and Industry. He also served as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Professional Responsibility, and the Committee on State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Zauderer currently serves as a member of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committee for the Appellate Division, First Department and a member of the Chief Administrative Judge's Advisory Committee on Civil Practice and lectures frequently and provides media commentary on litigation related issues. In 2012, Zauderer was appointed by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman as a member of the Task Force on Commercial Litigation in the 21st Century. In 2013, he was appointed by Chief Judge Lippman as a member of the permanent Advisory Committee of the Commercial Division. In 2015, Zauderer was appointed a Member of the Chief Judge's Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline, which made recommendations for the revisions of New York's attorney discipline system. In 2015, he was honored by the New York Law Journal with its award for "Lawyers Who Lead By Example" for his contributions to public service. On May 29, 2016, Zauderer delivered the Commencement Address at Touro Law School and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Zauderer was formerly a partner with

Solomon, Zauderer, Ellenhorn, Frischer & Sharp, a firm he co-founded in 1981. Zauderer received his JD from the New York University School of Law and served as a law clerk to a Federal judge.

Zauderer is a director of the New York Arbitration Center and a member of the American Arbitration Association's National Roster of Commercial Arbitrators.

In 2004, Zauderer served as a member of a four person delegation to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to advise on the establishment of a commercial court. Zauderer is listed in Who's Who in the World, Who's Who America, New York Super Lawyers and New York Magazine's "The New York Areas Best Lawyers". In 2007, he was awarded the Eliphalet Nott Medal for distinction in field by the Union College Board of Trustees.