

## **Rosalia Baiamonte, Program Co-Chair**

Ms. Baiamonte was admitted to the Bar in January, 1994. Since her admission, she has been engaged exclusively in the practice of matrimonial and family law. Ms. Baiamonte is a graduate of Brandeis University and Syracuse University College of Law. In March, 1996, Ms. Baiamonte became an associate of Stephen Gassman, Esq., a renowned leader in the field of matrimonial and family law, and she was named a member of his firm on August 1, 2007. Ms. Baiamonte is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; she has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Nassau County Bar Association, as well as a Chair of the Association's prestigious Judiciary Committee and Matrimonial Law Committee. She has served as an Arbitrator in the Early Neutral Evaluation Program and a Discovery Referee in Nassau County Supreme Court; she has served as a Receiver in Nassau County's Supreme and Surrogate's Courts; and as a Part 137 Fee Arbitrator for the 10th Judicial District. She is a frequent lecturer on various matrimonial and family law topics for State and local bar groups and is a guest lecturer at various law schools.

## **Hon. Christine M. Clark, Speaker**

Judge Clark attended Columbia University and Albany Law School. She began her career in public service in the Schenectady County District Attorney's Office, first as the DWI prosecutor and then in the general felony bureau. She became the sex crimes/ child abuse prosecutor and was then promoted to become the first Bureau Chief of the Special Victims Unit. In that role, she helped establish Schenectady County's Child Advocacy Center. In 2004, Schenectady's then mayor appointed her to the position of Schenectady City Court Judge, and she then won election to that position for a full ten-year term. In November 2010, Judge Clark was elected as Schenectady County Family Court Judge. In November 2012, she was elected to the Supreme Court for the Fourth Judicial District of New York. Judge Clark was the second woman ever elected as a Supreme Court Justice in that district, and the first Democrat to win election without a second party line. In April 2014, Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed Judge Clark to the Appellate Division, Third Department. She has two daughters, ages 15 and 11.

## **Hon. Andrew A. Crecca, Speaker**

Andrew A. Crecca is the Supervising Judge of the Matrimonial Parts in the Tenth Judicial District, Suffolk County, New York. In addition to his duties as Supervising Judge, he is the presiding Justice of Suffolk County's Integrated Domestic Violence Court, and has served in that position since January of 2007. He was first elected to the bench in 2004 as a County Court Judge and presided over felony criminal cases in a dedicated trial part. In January of 2007 he was appointed an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court. In 2010 he was elected Justice of the New York State Supreme Court for the 10th Judicial District.

**Stephen Gassman, Esq.** is the founding member of Gassman Baiamonte Gruner, P.C., and has been practicing matrimonial and family law for over 40 years. Mr. Gassman has also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro Law School, chair of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, president of the Nassau County Bar Association, and as appellate counsel in the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the Matrimonial Practice and Rules Committee of the Unified Court System of the State of New York. He has also served on the Law Guardian Advisory Panel to the Tenth Judicial District and as a member of the Judicial Hearing Officer Screening Committee of the Tenth Judicial District. Mr. Gassman is the co-author, with Timothy M. Tippins, Esq., of counsel to Gassman Baiamonte, Gruner P.C., of *Evidence for Matrimonial Lawyers* and *Matrimonial Valuation*. He has also authored *Cross Examination: A Primer for the Family Lawyer*, and has co-authored with his partner, Rosalia Baiamonte, *Library of New York Matrimonial Forms*, published by the New York Law Journal. He was designated as a diplomate of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. Mr. Gassman received a B.A. from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from New York Law School.

1-516-228-9181

sgassman@gbgmatlaw.com

# Marsha Haygood

AUTHOR, TALENT DEVELOPMENT EXPERT, EMPOWERMENT COACH

Author, Talent Development Expert and Empowerment Coach are a few of the many hats that President of StepWise Associates, Marsha Haygood, wears. Former corporate executive and active contributing editor to national publications, Marsha has a rich multicultural understanding of individuals and organizations that she incorporates in her coaching and presentations. With a Bachelors of Arts degree from Lehman College in New York and a Training and Development Certification from New York University, Marsha ensures that her entire life and mission is dedicated to the success of others.

For organizations wishing to manage their internal and external changes in a proactive and positive way, or if your group needs an injection of inspiration, and knows that increased productivity will positively affect the bottom line, Marsha is the person to call. For individuals feeling stuck or unfulfilled, and wanting to jumpstart your life, Marsha is the person to meet.

Marsha's consulting and career development assignments are crafted in collaboration with clients to ensure that objectives are met. As a career and empowerment coach, motivational speaker and author, Marsha guides individuals on a journey of discovery; helping to facilitate and achieve goals, explore solutions and develop action plans so positive results can be realized.

Marsha is a highly-acclaimed thought leader who encourages success in individuals and corporations alike. Experienced in public speaking and corporate engagement, she knows how to translate leadership theory into practice. She has been featured as one of the elite in *Speaking of Success*, a book on building leadership, along with best-selling authors Stephen Covey, Ken Blanchard and Jack Canfield.

Co-author of *The Little Black Book of Success: Laws of Leadership for Black Women*, her wisdom and notes have been combined in a book that provides guidance and support for women. Published by Random House/One World Press in 2010 and dubbed as "A mentor in your pocket," *The Little Black Book of Success* was nominated for the esteemed NAACP Literary Award and has become a staple in homes across the United States. It has quickly become a favorite amongst women of diverse backgrounds that are serious about business, life and success.

Marsha Haygood has won numerous awards including the prestigious YMCA Black Achievement Award, The Network Journal's Influential Black Women in Business Award and The National Association of African Americans in Human Resources Trailblazer Award. She was recently honored with the Community Service Award for her continued commitment to the success of others and the community she serves. Marsha is a founding member of Black Women of Influence, a professional network across industry women with a mission of developing the next generation of influential women in business. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for YouthBridge NY, a non-profit high school leadership development organization, and formerly served as a Senior Advisory Board Member of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources of Greater New York.

Marsha devotes her time to developing and facilitating coaching programs, workshops, speaking engagements and book signings throughout the country.



## **Peter R. Stambleck, Program Co-Chair**

Peter is a partner with Aronson Mayefsky & Sloan, LLP in New York. His practice is focused on providing counsel in a wide range of matrimonial and family law matters including divorce, child custody and access, spousal and child support, paternity, prenuptial, postnuptial and separation agreements. Prior to joining the Firm, Peter worked as a Certified Public Accountant at Pricewaterhouse Coopers. His background in finance and accounting provides him with a skill set and perspective unique in the practice of family law. Peter is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a member of the Family Law Section of the American Bar Association. Peter earned his B.S. in finance and accounting from Indiana University and his Juris Doctor from Brooklyn Law School. He is admitted to the New York and Connecticut State Bars.

**Honorable Jeffrey Sunshine, J.S.C.**, is an elected Supreme Court Justice. On June 1, 2018 he was appointed by the Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks as the Statewide Coordinating Judge for Matrimonial Cases. He continues to be the Chair of the Chief Administrative Judge=s Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee. He also serves as Chair Board of Advisors of the Center for Children, Families and the Law at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law - Hofstra University where he obtained his Juris Doctor degree in 1980. Judicial Assignments: Kings County Family Court 1998-2001; Richmond County Supreme Court January 2001 B February 2003; Kings County Supreme Court since February 2003.

A former President of the Brooklyn Bar Association, he served as Chair of the Family Law Section for over ten years. He was a member of the House of Delegates of The New York State Bar Association for many years and served as the Chair of the New York State Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Discipline from 1996-1998. He is also a member of numerous other Bar Associations.

As a practicing attorney, he was a member of the Grievance Committee Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts and presently serves on the OCA Statewide Family Violence Task Force and the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts.

In 2003, he received the AEcumenical Award@ from the Catholic Lawyers Guild, Kings County, and in 2005, the Brooklyn Bar Association=s highest award, the AAnnual Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Science of Jurisprudence and Public Service.@ In 2009, he received the AIn the Trenches Award@ from the Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence. He was the sole recipient of the 2010 annual award of the New York Chapter of the American Academy - Matrimonial Lawyers. In 2015, he delivered the keynote address at the Annual Meeting of the Family Law Section of the State Bar. In March 2018, he was recognized by Hofstra Law School with a Distinguished Alumni On The Bench award. He also authored an article titled A2015-2016 Changes in Legislation and Rules for Matrimonial Matters@ which was published in the November 18, 2016 edition of the New York Law Journal. Over 110 of his decisions have been published and he has presented over 100 lectures/panels throughout New York.

He is married to the Hon. Nancy T. Sunshine, Esq., the County Clerk - Kings County.

## **Eric A. Tepper, Family Law Section Chair**

Eric A. Tepper is a partner in the law firm of Gordon, Tepper & DeCoursey, LLP, located in Glenville, NY. He practices matrimonial and family law throughout the Capital District, Saratoga Region and New York State. He's a graduate of Hamilton College and George Washington University Law School. Mr. Tepper is currently Chair of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section. He serves on the Unified Court System's Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee chaired by the Hon. Jeffrey A. Sunshine and was part of the working group which helped to formulate the current maintenance guidelines. He's a member of the Saratoga County Bar Association, Capital District Women's Bar Association, and is Chair of the matrimonial committee for the Schenectady County Bar Association. Among his many speaking engagements, Mr. Tepper has lectured extensively for NYSBA CLE programs throughout New York State. He's also lectured on matrimonial law at Judicial Education Seminars ("judge school") on numerous occasions. He's lectured on divorce and family law for the Appellate Division, Third Department, the Association of Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, the New York State Council on Divorce Mediation, the Nassau County Bar Association, the Suffolk Academy of Law and for various other organizations. He's been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America as well as New York Super Lawyers every year for more than a decade. Mr. Tepper was named the Family Law "Lawyer of the Year" in the Albany area by Best Lawyers in both 2017 and 2013. AVVO previously selected him as one of the top 10 divorce lawyers in New York State.



**As of 06-06-2018**

**Bruce J. Wagner** is Chair of the Family Law Practice Group at McNamee Lochner P.C., Albany, NY, and is a principal and shareholder in that law firm. His primary areas of practice are matrimonial law and appeals. He is a 1982 graduate of Cornell University and a 1985 graduate of Albany Law School of Union University. In September 2002, he was appointed as a Town Justice in the Town of Schodack (pronounced sko'-dak), Rensselaer County, was elected in November 2002, and re-elected in 2006, 2010 and 2014. He is designated on a regular basis by the Administrative Judge of the Third Judicial District to serve as an Acting City Court Judge in the Criminal and Civil Parts of the District's City Courts. Mr. Wagner is immediate Past President of the Rensselaer County Magistrates' Association, having also served a prior two year term as President in 2010-2011, and is a member of the New York State Magistrates' Association. In October 2016, he was selected by his peers as a Diplomat of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, a select group of 100 of the top family law trial lawyers from across the United States. He is listed in all editions 1999 through 2018 of The Best Lawyers in America (Woodward-White) and has a peer rating of AV® Preeminent™ in Martindale-Hubbell. Based on peer voting, Mr. Wagner was named to all editions 2007 through 2017 New York Super Lawyers - Upstate, and has placed in the top 25 in the Hudson Valley for 10 of the last 11 years, including 2017. In October 2011, Mr. Wagner was named the Albany Best Lawyers Family Law Lawyer of the Year for 2012. Mr. Wagner was the subject of a profile entitled "From Constitutional Law to the Court of Appeals" in the 2011 New York-Upstate edition of Super Lawyers. From January 2005 to January 2007, he served as President of the 167 member American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, New York Chapter, which is part of a national organization of about 1,600 Certified Fellows. Mr. Wagner is also a Certified Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He is a Past Chair (2010-2012) of the 2,700 member NYSBA Family Law Section, having previously served the section for 2 years each as Financial Officer, Secretary and Vice Chair. Mr. Wagner has served as a co-chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee of the NYSBA Family Law Section since June 2000. Since 1998, he has been a representative from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District to what is now the Chief Administrative Judge's Matrimonial Practice Advisory and Rules Committee. In April 2015, he was appointed by the Chief Administrative Judge to the Third Department Judicial Hearing Officer Selection Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Rensselaer County, Albany County, New York State and American Bar Associations. Mr. Wagner is a frequent lecturer and author for continuing legal and judicial education programs which have been sponsored by the Albany, Broome, Columbia, Nassau, New York City, Onondaga & Oswego, Queens, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Westchester County Bar Associations, the NYS Bar Association, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Appellate Division (First and Third Departments), the NYS Judicial Institute (Judicial and Court Attorney Seminars), the Association of NYS Supreme Court Justices, the Capital District Women's Bar Association Legal Project, and other organizations. He has taught at the Advanced Judicial Education Program for Town & Village Justices and at the Basic Certification Course for newly elected Town & Village Justices. Mr. Wagner and his wife, Janet, reside in Schodack and have two children, both of whom work at the same NYC hospital, one in an administrative and training capacity and one as a registered nurse. He has served as: an Assistant Scoutmaster or Committee Member of Boy Scout Troop 53, Castleton and as a Merit Badge Counselor for Twin Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America, since 2002; a Sunday School Teacher for the First United Methodist Church, East Greenbush; an assistant coach for the East Greenbush Girls' Softball League; Conductor of the former Hendrick Hudson Male Chorus, East Greenbush (1989-2003 and 2011-2016); a co-Conductor of the Yankee Male Chorus (1994-2013); President of the Mohawk-Hudson Male Chorus Association (2008-2016); and as Choir Director for the First United Methodist Church, East Greenbush (2010-2017).