



TO: Members of The New York Bar Foundation

FROM: Nominating Committee of The New York Bar Foundation
David M. Schraver, Chair
Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers
Christine Cioffi
John H. Gross
Lucia Whisenand

DATE: January 31, 2020

RE: Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee of The New York Bar Foundation is pleased to submit the following slate of nominations as Directors of The Foundation Board of Directors commencing June 1, 2020.

For a term ending May 31, 2023

New directors for a term commencing June 1, 2020 and concluding May 31, 2023

- **William Russell, New York City**
- **Mirna Santiago, Pawling**

William T. Russell, Jr.

425 Lexington Ave
New York, NY 10017
(212) 455-3979
wrussell@stblaw.com

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT LLP

New York, New York

Partner, Litigation 1999-Present

Associate, Litigation 1990-1998

- Represents financial institutions, private equity sponsors, corporations and other businesses in a wide variety of commercial disputes, including: banking litigation, bankruptcy and reorganization matters, securities litigation, and contractual and transactional disputes.
- Co-author of the monthly column, "New York Court of Appeals Roundup," appearing in the *New York Law Journal*. Featured speaker at the 2012 and 2014 Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institutes.
- Maintains an active pro bono practice and served as Co-Chair of the Firm's Pro Bono Committee for almost 10 years.

Representative Matters:

- Obtained a \$168 million trial judgment on behalf of Merrill Lynch/Bank of America in an interest rate derivatives case against a Brazilian counterparty
- Represented the Creditors Committee in the Gawker Media Chapter 11 Proceedings
- Lead the defense group in Adelpia Recovery Trust v. Bank of America, et al. in negotiations that resulted in a settlement of that litigation for a small fraction of the claimed damages
- Represented one of the lead creditors in the In re Jefferson County Chapter 9 proceedings that, at the time, were the largest municipal bankruptcy proceedings in U.S. history
- Represents a number of leading financial institutions in actions relating to the issuance of residential mortgage backed securities
- Defended a major financial institution in a securities litigation jury trial in Texas state court arising out of the collapse of the auction rate securities market
- Represented the Chapter 11 trustee in In re Bennett Funding Group, Inc., et al. and obtained in excess of \$200 million in litigation recoveries on behalf of creditors
- Represented the Campaign for Fiscal Equity in its historic constitutional challenge to the public education funding system in New York State
- Represented the former members of the Board of Directors of BearingPoint Inc. against a U.S. bankruptcy court-appointed trustee in charge of winding down BearingPoint's business

AWARDS/ACCOLADES

- David Rockefeller Fellow (2000-2001)
- *The Legal 500 United States*
- Euromoney's *Benchmark Litigation Survey*: "Litigation Star"
- *New York Super Lawyers*
- Legal Aid Society Award for Outstanding *Pro Bono* Service
- Manhattan Legal Services Visionary Leadership Award

ASSOCIATIONS

- New York State Bar Association Executive Committee
- Former Panel Chair, First Department Disciplinary Committee
- American Law Institute
- Former Co-Chair, New York State Bar Association's President's Committee on Access to Justice
- Legal Services NYC, Vice Chair, Board of Directors
- Manhattan Legal Services, Chair, Board of Directors (2007-2011)

- National Center for Access to Justice, Board of Directors
- Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Chair, Special Committee on Legal Services Awards
- Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Former Chair, Pro Bono and Legal Services Committee
- American Bar Association
- Chief Judge's Attorney Emeritus Advisory Council
- Center for Public Resources, Banking and Financial Services Committee (2010–2018)
- Lawyers Alliance for New York, Board of Directors (1999–2005)
- Legal Outreach, Inc. Advisory Board

EDUCATION

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

New York, New York

Juris Doctor, 1990

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton, New Jersey

A.B., magna cum laude, 1987

EDUCATION & TRAINING

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts: English Literature 1992

Recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences Scholarship

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor 1995

Recipient of the Robert J. Connelly Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Certificate in Magazine and Book Publishing 2001

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Executive Leadership

President and CEO, Girls Rule the Law, Inc., 2018 – Present

Founded Girls Rule the Law, Inc. in 2018 to introduce middle and high school girls to the law (e.g. the legal field, the judiciary and the legislature). Create curricula and programming for girls, including debate, public speaking and mock trial. Originated *the Law Suits You* program to provide professional attire to underprivileged young ladies for internships, mock trial and debate competitions and job interviews. Hold day-long youth conferences where girls participate in law school lectures, speed mentoring, etiquette workshops, networking breakfasts and lunches and hear prominent women speak about their career paths.

In House Counsel

Senior Deputy Counsel, Acacia Network, 2016 – 2019

Manage large caseload of matters, including supervision of outside counsel. Respond to Division/Commission on Human Rights, EEOC and other discrimination complaints in employment and housing. Assess risks and provide training to the Organization on how to manage them. Assess insurance needs and collaborate with broker to ensure proper insurance coverage and risk transfer. Analyze legal and factual issues affecting the Organization and report on emerging risks and trends to Chief Legal Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Executive Officer. Oversee Collective Bargaining/Union negotiations.

Regional Assistant General Counsel, Nationwide Insurance Company, 2006 – 2010

Involved in all claims and regulatory aspects of Fortune 100 Company. Reviewed and responded to Department of Financial Services (formerly, Department of Insurance) complaints. Assisted with creation, revision and editing of policy documents/products for both Personal Lines and Commercial. Met with State legislators to discuss relevant pending legislation and potential impact on the Company and the insurance industry in general. Oversaw and managed Preferred Panel counsel utilized by the Claims Organization. Created risk management curricula and presented such to Claims Management and personnel on a monthly basis.

Private Practice

Of Counsel, Insurance Coverage and Litigation, White, Fleischer & Fino, LLP, 2010 – 2016

Senior Associate Attorney, Litigation, Hodgson Russ, 1998 – 2001

Summer Associate and Associate, Commercial and Corporate Litigation, Phillips, Lytle, Hitchcock, Blaine and Huber, 1994, 1995 – 1997

Responsible for insurance coverage and litigation cases from inception through resolution. Prepared coverage opinions. Prepared pleadings in all types of insurance disputes arising out of, among other things, Commercial General Liability, Premises Liability (Residential and Commercial), Auto Liability and Professional Liability policies. Insurance and Claims

Page | 2

Senior Claims Specialist, Professional Liability Group, Liberty International Underwriters, Inc., 2004 – 2006

Claims Counsel, Errors and Omissions, Zurich North America Insurance Company, 2002 – 2004

Directed errors and omissions claims for lawyers, insurance agents, staffing agencies, specified professions and excess liability. Prepared and presented reports to underwriters and actuaries, analyzing company's potential exposure and risks posed by certain accounts and claims. Monitored outside defense counsel. Responded to claims, set appropriate reserves, negotiated resolution of claims and analyzed coverage under various professional liability policies.

Government

Assistant Attorney General, Habeas Corpus and Appeals, New York Attorney General's Office, 1997 – 1998

Responded to *habeas corpus* petitions and appeals by prisoners throughout the State. Handled Rikers Island calendar and defended the State in administrative proceedings brought by inmates.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

New York State Bar Association/Law Line/New York State Judicial Institute and other organizations

Presenter, 2008 - Present

Create curricula in the areas of torts, insurance, trial practice and diversity and inclusion. Present Continuing Legal Education topics to the judiciary and members of the Bar. (List of speaking engagements and CLE presentations is attached.)

Lehman College, City University of New York

Adjunct Professor, 2007-2008

Taught Business Law (a required course) to students majoring in Business Administration.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Leadership

- Proven leadership in the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) as: **Chair** of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Second District **Delegate** to the House of Delegates; **Chair** of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section for the 2015/2016 term; and as **Chair** of Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committees for the Membership and Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committees.

Diversity

- Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee of the New York State Bar Association's CLE Committee.
 - Spearheaded the Bar Association's review of the American Bar Association's proposal that Diversity and Inclusion be made a mandatory part of attorney CLE in New York and

helped prepare NYSBA's position paper in support of the proposal and presented such to the House of Delegates.

- Acted as Chair of the Employee-run Diversity Committee at Nationwide Insurance Company.
 - Created innovative diversity exercises for use by the Northeastern Regional Practice Group in order to enhance customer service by the legal team and claims organization.
- Member of the Planning Committee of the Defense Association of New York's Diversity Initiative.
 - Planned yearly curricula for award-winning Diversity Initiative Program that provides leadership training to women and diverse attorneys for optimal career advancement.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & ACTIVITIES

New York State Bar Association

Puerto Rican Bar Association: (Member: Judicial Screening Committee)

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

Handbook on Additional Insureds, "Subrogation and Anti-Subrogation," American Bar Association Treatise, Second Edition, 2018 (Chapters 8 and 15E – *Subrogation and Anti-Subrogation* and *Commercial Auto*, respectively)

"Handling your first deposition as a new lawyer," *New York Law Journal*, January 2016

"Avoiding the Pitfalls in the Tripartite Relationship between the Carrier, the Insured and Counsel," *New York State Bar News*, July 2015

Handbook on Additional Insureds, Chapter 8, "Subrogation and Anti-Subrogation" and Chapter 17(E), "Commercial Auto," American Bar Association Treatise, October 2011

"New York's Anti-Subrogation Law Update," *Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Journal*, Spring 2011

"The Case for Diversity," *Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Journal*, Winter 2009

"The Defense Attorney's Guide to Maintaining a Relationship with an Insurance Carrier," *Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Newsletter*, May 2008

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

- 2019: Selected to be one of fourteen participants in the Hispanic National Bar Association's Latina Executive Leadership Program
- 2019: Chair: Diversity and Inclusion Committee, New York State Bar Association
- 2017: Appointed a Delegate to the New York State Bar Association's House of Delegates
- 2015 – 2016: Chair: Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association
- 2014 – 2016: Defense Association of New York Diversity Initiative, Planning Committee
- 2012: New York State Bar Association: Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Award for Outstanding Chair (Diversity)
- 2010: New York State Bar Association: Sheldon Hurtwitz Young Lawyer Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Practice of Law in the Field of Insurance

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Spanish – Native speaker; fluently written
- Garifuna – Fluently spoken; proficiently written