



Judge Suzanne Adams
Acting Supreme Court Justice
New York County



Judge Adams is an Acting Supreme Court Justice in New York County. Prior to her election to the bench in November 2017, Judge Adams had nearly twenty years' experience as a litigator in New York State and Federal courts. Judge Adams is a member of the New York County Lawyers Association (formerly co-chair of the Civil Court Section), the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the New York State Bar Association in the Torts Insurance and Compensation Law Section, Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, the Columbian Lawyers First Judicial Department, National Association of Italian American Women and the NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch. She is a graduate of Penn State University with a B.A. in Journalism, and received her J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law

Melissa G. Andrieux, Esq.
Chief Diversity Officer
Chief Client Relations Officer
Dorf & Nelson LLP
Rye, New York



Melissa G. Andrieux, Esq. , is an experienced litigator who leverages her background in law to lead Dorf & Nelson LLP's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives as the Chief Diversity Officer and Chair of the Firm's Diversity & Inclusion Council. She also serves as the Chief Client Relations Officer, tapping into her extensive experience in marketing, business development, and recruitment to drive business growth within the Firm.

Ms. Andrieux consults and assists firm clients and other businesses with the development of their own diversity and inclusion programming and related initiatives.

Ms. Andrieux has been named the 2023 Long Island Woman of Impact for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign in recognition of her advocacy for women's health and her drive to make a difference beyond her community.

Ms. Andrieux serves as an Ambassador to the Business Council of Westchester, the largest business membership organization in Westchester County. In this capacity, she leverages her experience in business development and mentors and guides new members through the first year of their membership.

Ms. Andrieux received her B.S. from St. John's University and her J.D. from New York Law School. Before joining Dorf & Nelson, Ms. Andrieux was an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, New York, and a civil litigator at Martin Clearwater & Bell LLP.

As a leading DEIB professional, Ms. Andrieux is regularly called upon to share her insights through speaking engagements and magazine features.

Experience and Highlights

- Presenter, "Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Legal Profession: Understanding the Whys and Hows from a 360° Perspective", CLE Program, New York State Bar Association (2023)
- Moderator, Maternal Health Convening Panel, presented by Rx Compassion (2023)
- Panelist, 914 Inc. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Forum (2023)
- Panelist, Westchester Women's Bar Association, "Making A Difference: The Power of Mentorship & Sponsorship" (2023)



- Feature, 914 Inc. Magazine, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issue (2023)
- Panelist, Westchester Women's Summit, "Making A Difference: The Power of Mentorship & Sponsorship" (2023)
- Panelist, ChIPs Global Summit "Access, Equity and Allies", presented by ChIPs (2022)
- Panelist, "How Employers Have Implemented New Opportunities in DEI... and the Challenges that Remain" presented by the Business Council of Westchester (2022)
- Guest Speaker, "To the Point: Advancing Women in Tech, Law & Policy", presented by ChIPs (LinkedIn Live August 25, 2022)
- Panelist, "Conversations That Matter: Growing Your Business Through Insightful & Persuasive Business Development Strategies" (2022)
- Panelist, "Year One, Erin Bagwell and Frank Schaeffer Live In Conversation", presented by Gender Fair, The Balance Dilemma and HeyMama (2022)
- Feature, 914 Inc. Magazine, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issue (2022)

Kathleen A. Barclay, Esq.
Partner
O'Connor, O'Connor, Bresee & First PC
Albany, New York



Kathleen A. Barclay is a 1999 graduate of Union College and received her law degree in 2004 from Boston College Law School. Prior to joining O'Connor First, Kathleen gained extensive experience practicing law in Boston, MA and Albany, NY. Kathleen is admitted to practice law in the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Kathleen focuses her practice in the areas of medical malpractice defense, errors and omissions, product liability, general liability defense and insurance coverage. Kathleen is a highly skilled courtroom advocate and has successfully obtained jury verdicts for her clients at trial, as well as obtained dismissal of cases prior to trial through motions for summary judgment.

Kathleen is an active member of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association, Albany County Bar Association, Capital District Women's Bar Association and New York State Bar Association. Kathleen is the Treasurer and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association. Kathleen currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Albany County Bar Association, as well as the Chair of the Judicial Qualifications Committee. Kathleen also serves on the New York State Bar Association Committee on the Tort System, and is a member of the Trial Lawyer's Section. Kathleen is a member of the House of Delegates for the New York State Bar Association.

Since 2015, Kathleen has been honored by Super Lawyers and included in its annual issue acknowledging outstanding Upstate New York attorneys. Kathleen was recognized for her successes in the category of Personal Injury Medical Malpractice Defense.

Running is one of her favorite activities, and Kathleen has participated in the Boston, Baltimore, and San Francisco marathons. Kathleen has also become an active Crossfitter. She resides in Ballston Lake with her husband and two sons.



Molly C. Casey, Esq.
O'Connor O'Connor Bresee & First PC
Albany, New York



Molly earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from New York University in 2006. Prior to law school, Molly began her career working in both houses of the New York State Legislature. After obtaining her Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School in 2012, Molly went to work in private practice defending clients in civil litigation. Molly focuses her practice in the fields of medical malpractice, premises liability, municipal and correctional defense, and personal injury. Molly has experience in all phases of litigation and has successfully obtained jury verdicts in favor of her clients, as well as dismissals prior to trial through motion practice. Molly has secured favorable appellate decisions in the Second, Third and Fourth Departments.

Molly is admitted to practice in New York State, The United States District Courts for the Northern, Western, and Southern Districts of New York, and the Second Federal Circuit. Molly is a Fellow of the New York State Bar Association, a board member of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association, and a member of the Albany County Bar Association. She currently serves as the Assistant Treasurer for the Federal Court Bar Association. For the past five years, Molly has been named a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers Magazine.



Hon. James G. Clynes
Acting Justice
New York State Supreme Court,
Civil Court, City of New York



Judge James G. Clynes was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York, New York County on November 7, 2017, and took office on January 1, 2018. Judge Clynes is currently assigned to the New York State Supreme Court, New York County as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Clynes served as a Nassau County Assistant District Attorney in the felony trial bureau. He then became a trial attorney with the Nationwide Insurance Company, litigating personal injury and property damage cases. Then he served as the principal law clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice Alexander M. Tisch.

Judge Clynes received his Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, from Villanova University in 1981, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1984.

Judge Clynes is a member of the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law, Trial Lawyers and Judicial Sections.

Prof. Patrick M. Connors
Albert and Angela Farone Distinguished
Professor in New York Civil Practice
Albany Law School
Albany, New York



Patrick M. Connors is the Albert and Angela Farone Distinguished Professor in New York Civil Practice at Albany Law School where he has taught New York Practice and Legal Ethics since 2000. Commencing with the January 2013 supplement, Professor Connors became the author for the treatise Siegel, New York Practice. The publication's sixth edition, "David D. Siegel & Patrick M. Connors, New York Practice (6th ed. 2018)," was released in March, 2018. The treatise has been cited in thousands of reported decisions and has been called "The Bible" for litigation in New York State courts.

He received his B.A. degree from Georgetown University and his J.D. degree from St. John's University School of Law, where he was an editor of the Law Review and research assistant to Professor David D. Siegel. Upon graduation from St. John's in 1988, Professor Connors served as a personal law clerk to Judge Richard D. Simons of the New York Court of Appeals until 1991. From 1991 until May of 2000 he was an associate and then member of the litigation department at Hancock & Estabrook, LLP, in Syracuse, New York.

Professor Connors is also the author of the McKinney's Practice Commentaries for CPLR Article 22, Stay, Motions, Orders and Mandates, Article 23, Subpoenas, Oaths and Affirmations, Article 30, Remedies and Pleading, and Article 31, Disclosure. He also authored the Practice Commentaries for the former New York Rules of Professional Conduct and several articles in the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act. He is currently an author of the New York Practice column and the annual Court of Appeals Roundup on New York Civil Practice, which are published in the New York Law Journal. From 1992 through 2003, he was a Reporter for the Committee on New York Pattern Jury Instructions ("PJI"), the panel of New York State Supreme Court Justices that drafts and oversees the frequent revisions of the standard jury charges in civil cases. His publications have been cited in hundreds of reported cases.



He was a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Professional Ethics from 1996 through 2016. He served on the New York State Attorney Grievance Committee for the Fifth Judicial District from 1997 until 2000. He was the Reporter for the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct, which published a report recommending substantial amendments to New York's Code of Judicial Conduct. He was also the Reporter for the New York State Bar Association's Task Force on Non-lawyer Ownership of Law Firms. He is a member of the Office of Court Administration's Advisory Committee on Civil Practice and served as a member of the New York State Bar Association's CPLR Committee from 2003 through 2007.

Professor Connors is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars on recent developments in New York Practice, professional ethics and legal malpractice. He has also served as an expert witness and consultant on issues pertaining to attorney ethics, legal malpractice, and civil procedure.



Laura A. Couch
Court Reporter
Laura A. Couch Court Reporting
Schenectady, New York



Laura has been freelancing reports since she graduated from the Machine Shorthand Institute Court Reporting School in Albany, New York in 1982.

Specializing in medical malpractice, hearings, and expert testimony, she has built a busy practice with several reporters to assist.

Laura and her husband live in Niskayuna, New York. She has four children and seven grandchildren, with number eight on the way. Laura is also an avid golfer, pickleball player and volleyball player.



Hon. Mae A. D'Agostino
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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.



Nikki DeWitt
Senior Claims Account Manager
Arch Insurance Group
Jersey City, New Jersey



Nikki DeWitt is a Senior Claims Account Manager at Arch Insurance Group, where she works overseeing third party administrators to ensure proper claims handling and deliver exceptional service on claims arising from their commercial programs spanning multiple lines of business with a specialty in commercial auto. She has been in the insurance industry for the past 18 years and has handled numerous high exposure claims for both large and small insurance carriers. As a young adjuster, she started her career handling general liability claims for a well-known restaurant corporation before moving into auto liability. Before joining Arch in 2020, she spent the previous 7 years managing a case load of litigated and non-litigated commercial auto and commercial general liability claims consisting of bodily injuries and fatalities for semis and other commercial transportation vehicles. When she's not working, Nikki enjoys reading John Grisham books and boating on the St. Johns River with her husband and their 3 boys.



Daniel G. Ecker, Esq.
Lever & Ecker, PLLC
White Plains, New York



Daniel G. Ecker is a founding member of Lever & Ecker, PLLC, a plaintiff's personal injury law firm located in White Plains, New York.

Dan received his Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law in 1996 and his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1993. His areas of practice include motor vehicle accidents, premises liability, labor law and more, and he has tried numerous cases to verdict. He is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of New York, the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Dan was the recipient of the Trial Lawyers Section's 2015 Exceptional Contributions Award. Dan has been recognized by New York Metro area Super Lawyers from 2019-2023.

Outside of the office, Dan resides with his wife and two children in southern Westchester, New York. He is an avid golfer and roots for the Giants, Mets, and Knicks.

Senator Steve Geller, Esq.
Broward County Commissioner
Former Florida Senator
Geller Law Firm, PA
Fort Lauderdale, Florida



Senator Steve Geller is currently a Broward County Commissioner, having been elected to represent District 5 in 2016. District 5 consists of all or part of Cooper City, Southwest Ranches, Davie, Plantation and Sunrise. Geller serves as Chairman of the Broward County Water Advisory Board, Chairman of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Chairman of the Economic Development District for South Florida of the Economic Development Agency of the U.S Department of Commerce, Chairman of the Community and Urban Affairs Committee and on the Executive Committee of the Florida Association of Counties, and serves on the Broward County Cultural Council. Geller's top priority is bringing highly paid jobs to Broward County.

Geller was elected to the Florida Legislature in 1988, at the age of 29. Geller served in the Florida Legislature for 20 years, 9 in the House, and 11 in the Senate. Geller was appointed a Committee Chair by both Democratic and Republican Presiding Officers. Geller served two terms as Chair of the Broward County Legislative Delegation. When he retired from the Senate because of Term Limits, Geller was the Minority (Democratic) Leader of the Florida Senate. Geller was also elected as National President of two Different Legislative organizations, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL), and the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS).

Geller currently runs Geller Law Firm, where he practices primarily in the areas of Gaming Law and Zoning and Land use. He is an "A-V" rated lawyer, and has been listed in "South Florida's Top-Rated Lawyers", "Florida's Super Lawyers", and the "Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers". He has received dozens of awards, including the Senator of the Year Award from the Florida League of Cities, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Association of Counties, the Legislator of the Year Award from the Florida AFL-CIO and the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, as well as Legislative awards from the Police Benevolent Association, the Professional Firefighters, and numerous Union and attorney groups. He served as the Chairman of the Board of the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center.



Geller was born in New York, New York, in 1958. He has lived in South Florida since 1965. He attended Florida State University for college and law school, where he was a member of AEPi Fraternity. He has lived in South Broward since his graduation from Florida State University College of Law in 1982. He is married to Laurel Geller, and they have two children, Marc Geller and Ben Geller.

James E. Hacker, Esq.
E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy LLP
Troy, New York



Jim Hacker is a 1981 graduate of Hamilton College and a 1984 graduate of Albany Law School. He is a member and the former Chair of the Albany Law Board of Trustees and a former member of the Hamilton College Board of Trustees.

He is an elected Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America. The College is comprised of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and membership is by invitation only. He is also an elected fellow of the International College of Trial Lawyers whose membership is limited to 500 US trial lawyers and whose membership is by invitation only.

He is the current President of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society for Northeastern New York and the current President of the New York State Trial Lawyers Academy.

Locally, he is the Past President of the Albany County Bar Association, Past President of the Albany County Bar Foundation and Past President of the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association who honored him their Annual "Daniel H. Mahoney" Award in 2016.

Mr. Hacker holds an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell and has been recognized as a "Best Lawyer in America" and "Super Lawyer" in both the fields of personal injury and commercial litigation. He has previously been recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in both categories. He has lectured extensively for the New York State Bar Association, the Albany County Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Academy and the Capital District Trial Lawyers.

He is also an elected member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and has been appointed as a United States District Court Mediator. He has mediated and arbitrated over 1,000 cases in the last 20 years.

Mr. Hacker has tried over 100 cases to verdict and divides his practice between the areas of commercial litigation and plaintiff's personal injury.

Richard C. Lewis, Esq.
Special Counsel
Hinman, Howard & Kattell LLP



Richard C. Lewis maintains a general legal practice at Hinman, Howard & Kattell where he focuses on litigation and business law. Dick devotes significant time to the formation of business entities and advising clients regarding all aspects of business activities. He is also involved in estate planning, preparation of wills, real estate, construction matters, and other personal matters for individual clients and families. Dick is also a veteran of New York's courts. His experience includes litigating commercial disputes in Supreme Court and handling matrimonial and family court matters. He is also involved in Municipal Law representing municipalities and claimants.

Dick is very active in the community. Currently, Mr. Lewis serves on the Editorial Board of The Reporter (newspaper), past Chair, sits on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, serves on the Endowment Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater Binghamton, is a Member of the Broome County Bar Association (past President and recipient of the Ted Gallando Award) and has served as Delegate to the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates Representing the 6th Judicial District and presently serves as Vice President of the New York State Bar Association representing the 6th Judicial District. In addition, Dick has served as a Director and Vice President of the Broome Sports Foundation, and served as a Chair of both the Grievance Committee and Ethics Committee of the Broome County Bar Association as well as Chair of the Broome County Bar Association Endowment Committee.

He is a former Trustee of Hillel Academy of Broome County and served as its President from 2002-2012; is a former Member of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Professional Discipline, and is a Member of the Municipal and Government Law Section. He is past President of the Board of Trustees of Temple Israel, past Chair of the Broome County Arena Board; past President of Broome Legal Assistance Corporation; a past Director of Children's Home of Wyoming Conference; and past Director of SOS Shelter, Inc.

Thomas J. Maroney, Esq.
Maroney O'Connor LLC
New York, New York



A graduate of Siena College and St. John's University School of Law, Tom has dedicated his practice to high exposure, catastrophic and complex civil defense litigation. Tom is a member of several County Bar Associations and has served in leadership in the following bar associations:

New York State Bar Association

Tom presently serves on the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Executive Committee and in the NYSBA House of Delegates as a Member-at- Large.

Tom currently serves as Chair of the NYSBA Committee on Association Insurance Programs, as a member of the NYSBA Working Group on Facial Recognition Technology and on the NYSBA Medical Aid in Dying Task Force.

Tom also serves on the NYSBA Committee to Review Judicial Nominations.

Tom serves on the NYSBA Gala Organizing Committee held in January during the NYSBA Annual Meeting. The 2024 Gala will be held on January 18, 2024, at the Museum of Modern Art.

Tom served as NYSBA Membership Committee Chair and continues as an active committee member.

Tom served as Chair of the NYSBA Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law (TICL) Section. The TICL Section has led with "Family Friendly" destination meetings such as Walt Disney World, Bar Harbor, and Ireland. While Tom was TICL Chair, the TICL Section led during the NYSBA Section Diversity Challenge with an active Diversity Team and created a "Strength by Association" series of panel discussions that highlighted the benefits of Association membership, diversity, and mentoring.



Tom has served on the NYSBA Special Committee on CLE (structure, revenues, expenses), as Co-Chair of the NYSBA Section Membership Challenge and on the NYSBA Task Force on the Role of the Paralegals that created a new membership category for paralegals implemented by the NYSBA this year.

Tom served on the NYSBA COVID-19 Emergency Task Force to Assist Attorneys in Solo and Small Firm Practices, and on the NYSBA Emergency Task Force on Mandatory Vaccination and Safeguarding the Public's Health.

Tom served as a Member of the NYSBA House of Delegates (2015-2018) as a TICL Section Delegate.

Defense Research Institute

Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the Defense Research Institute (DRI). DRI is the largest international membership organization of attorneys defending the interests of business and individuals in civil litigation. Tom previously served as the DRI New York State Representative and is a past chair of the DRI Insurance Roundtable, an invitation only international conference of Insurance Executives on cutting edge insurance and risk management issues.

Tom is the Immediate Past Chair of the DRI ADR Committee. As Chair, Tom led a working group to develop a database that will enable insurers, self-insureds, Managing General Agents (MGAs) and Third-Party Administrators working with law firms, to measure and increase the frequency of appointment of mediators and arbitrators in underrepresented demographic categories.

New York County Lawyers Association

Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) and is the NYCTLA Membership Committee Chair.

New York City Trial Lawyers Alliance

The New York City Trial Lawyers Alliance (NYCTLA) Board is composed of civil litigators that represent clients that are averse to one another. The NYCTLA hosts bench/bar events to promote collegial, professional relationships for over 80 years.

Tom currently serves as Vice President of the NYCTLA. Tom also serves as the Chair of the NYCTLA Giving Committee, that awards scholarships to law students that excel in Civil Trial Advocacy attending St. John's, Cardozo, Fordham, Brooklyn, Hofstra, and New York Law Schools. This year's NYCTLA Civil Trial Advocacy honorees will be presented at the NYCTLA Gala October 19, at The Léman Ballroom, downtown Manhattan.



Defense Association of New York

Tom served as President of the Defense Association of New York (DANY) (2008-2009) and continues as an active member of the DANY Board. The Defense Association of New York presented the James S. Conway Award to Tom in 2016 in recognition of his dedication to the ideals of diversity, equality, professionalism, and dignity for all that seek justice through our Courts. DANY presented the James S. Conway Award in 2023 to Maroney O'Connor LLP for the firm's many years of service and support to DANY.

New York Claim Association

Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the New York Claim Association. The New York Claim Association is a not-for-profit dedicated to the advancement of professional ethics and education in the field of insurance claims and related businesses in the New York Metropolitan area.

St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association

Tom serves on the Board of Directors of the St. John's University School of Law Alumni Association.

First Department Character and Fitness Committee

Tom continues to serve by appointment of the Presiding Judge, New York State Appellate Division, First Department, as a member of the First Department Character and Fitness Committee since 1998.

Emerald Association of Long Island

Tom is a past President of the Emerald Association of Long Island. The Emerald Association was founded in Brooklyn in 1839 and has operated since that time for the purpose of raising funds for the support of underprivileged children being cared for by the Diocese of Brooklyn.

Tom is the recipient of the DRI Outstanding State Representative Award, DRI Exceptional Performance Award, New York State Bar Association Section Diversity Challenge Champion Award as Chair of the TICL Section, The New York City Brehon Law Society Outstanding Attorney Award, The New York State Bar Association TICL Section John E. Leach Memorial Award and The Institute of Jewish Humanities Defense Lawyer of the Year Award.



Tom has been selected for the New York Super Lawyers list, The Best Lawyers in America and the 2015 Irish Legal 100, a listing of leading attorneys of Irish Heritage across the United States.



Mike Mooney
USI Affinity
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Mike Mooney is the Senior Vice President and Professional Liability Practice Leader for USI Affinity. Mike's responsibility is to drive growth and provide strategic leadership in the area of professional liability. Mike's key focus is the management and development of existing programs, new programs, business development and marketing planning. Mike oversees the underwriting, operations, and sales departments that support the professional liability programs.

.Mike is also responsible for coordinating the program management for USI Affinity's endorsed insurance programs, including The New York State Bar Association, The New Jersey State Bar Association, DC Bar, Boston Bar, and Exponent Philanthropy.

With more than 10 years of industry experience, Mike has worked extensively on many facets of insurance programs for professional service firms. Prior to joining USI Affinity, Mike spent over 8 years with Aon in a variety of management roles. Most notably, Mike was the Assistant Vice President and National Sales Manager for Aon Affinity's Healthcare Division, and also spent time as the National Sales Manager for the AICPA Accountant's Professional Liability Program.

Mike currently sits on the Law Practice Management Services Committee of the DC Bar. Mike is a regular speaker and panelist for the Law Practice Sections of the NYSBA, NJSBA, and NJICLE regarding Insurance and Risk Management topics relative to the legal industry.

Mike holds a Property and Casualty Insurance License in New Jersey and many non-resident Producer Licenses in a variety of other states. He graduated from Rowan University in New Jersey with a Bachelors Degree in Business Management.



Terry O'Connor, Esq.
O'Connor O'Connor Bresee & First PC
Albany, New York



Terry is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School (and was a walk-on player for the football team). He is the founding partner of O'Connor First in Albany, New York. He is a fellow of the International Association of Trial Lawyers and was recently recognized by the Capital District Trial Lawyers for his outstanding commitment and service to his clients and for perpetuating the work of the "shirt sleeve lawyer". The Albany County Bar Association has recognized Terry's contributions by presenting him with the President's Award. In the past, OMSNIC has recognized Terry as The Lawyer of the Year for his commitment to the profession. Terry handles all aspects of civil litigation and has been involved in well over 150 civil verdicts. Over the past several years he has enjoyed serving as a mediator and arbitrator on over 400 cases pending throughout New York State. He serves clients in both New York and Vermont. His passions include baseball, hiking and fly fishing.



Brian Rayhill, Esq.
Chair, Torts, Insurance and
Compensation Law Section
The Law Office of Brian Rayhill
Elmsford, New York



Brian Rayhill is the 2023 Chair of the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section, (TICL). He also sits on the Executive Committee of the TICL Section and is the Chair of the TICL Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Other notable legal appointments include his current role as Chair of the New York State UM/SUM Screening Committee and serving as a past president of the Defense Association of New York, for the 2013-2014 term, (DANY). He also presently holds the position of DANY Committee Chair for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section. Mr. Rayhill is a past member of the American Arbitration Association No-Fault Advisory Panel and has been an arbitrator panelist with Arbitration Forums.

In 2014, Mr. Rayhill was the DRI Award Recipient for “Contributions to the New York Defense Bar”. In 2009, Mr. Rayhill was the recipient of the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section “Outstanding District Representative” award.

Mr. Rayhill is the Managing Attorney of the Law Offices of Brian Rayhill with offices in New York City, Westchester and Long Island. He is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and is admitted to the New York State Bar, United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts and the United States Supreme Court. Brian is an accomplished litigator with over 25 years of civil litigation trial experience. His varied insurance defense experience has focused on complex and high exposure commercial and personal lines litigation.

Hon. George J. Silver (ret.)

Silverstar Mediation and Arbitration LLC
New York, New York



Hon. George J. Silver (ret.) is one of New York's leading mediators, having presided as an elected Civil and Supreme Court Judge in New York for seventeen years. During his judicial career, Silver headed the creation of a New York City Judicial Mediation Part (J-Med) that led to the resolution of thousands of cases and a sharp decline in court backlogs. In addition to his other assignments, Silver managed a Medical Malpractice Early Settlement Part and oversaw general matters in a range of disciplines, including personal injury, matrimonial, and motor vehicle disputes.

In July 2017, Silver was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts. In that role, he was responsible for handling day-to-day court operations for the Trial Courts in New York City, and successfully negotiated the resolution of labor and union disputes while simultaneously handling a full calendar of cases and championing a push for increased alternative dispute resolution. During his tenure, Silver also successfully resolved scores of cases by handling blockbuster settlement conferences with various prestigious law firms and reputable carriers. Silver likewise oversaw cases filed under the Child Victims Act at its inception and created a case management order governing such cases that withstood appellate challenges. Silver also served as the interim Administrative Judge for New York County from July 2017 until December 2017. Thereafter, in addition to his role as the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts, Silver served as the interim Administrative Judge for Bronx County from January 2018 until December 2018, and the interim Administrative Judge for Queens County from September 2019 until June 2020.

Prior to ascending to the bench, Silver attended New York University where he was conferred a M.S. in Accounting and Management. He then attended Hofstra University School of Law where he was conferred a J.D. in 1983. Silver was also conferred a M.B.A. in Finance from New York University Stern Graduate School of Business in 1992. He then served as an associate at Fields & Rosen, a firm specializing in maritime law, commercial and real estate matters and personal injury actions, in addition to



handling matters for the bus companies. Later, Silver became an equity partner in the newly-formed firm of Fields, Silver & Santo, L.L.P.

Silver is the recipient of several awards and accolades and is involved in many community-based and Bar Associations including the NAACP, New York State Bar Association, The Puerto Rican Bar Association and the Jewish Lawyers Guild. Silver is also a highly sought-after trainer and speaker on topics relating to mediation and the emerging field of alternative dispute resolution within it.

In October 2021, Silver retired from the bench and opened Silverstar Mediation and Arbitration LLC. Channeling the same commitment and charge that led to his success on the bench, Silver has remarked that "justice is seldom actualized in black and white terms. Instead, it is colored by shades of silver and gray that, as was true in Rashomon, demand that all perspectives at the table are heard and seen. That's the Silverstar way."