

NEW YORK'S  
**Women  
Leaders**  
in the **Law**®  
2014

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In honor of Women's History Month, ALM has produced a special section celebrating the achievements of New York's Women Leaders in the Law. Our 6<sup>th</sup> annual edition features profiles of influential female attorneys who are impacting the legal field and shaping the industry.

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## RONAI & RONAI, LLP

### PLAINTIFF'S PERSONAL INJURY

As the founders of Ronai & Ronai, LLP, Holly Ostrov Ronai and her husband Peter Ronai strive to make a difference for plaintiffs in personal injury cases. For 18 years they have exclusively represented injured people and their families, achieving significant results in high-profile cases.

In 2012, Ronai & Ronai, LLP secured a \$17 million settlement in a wrongful death case involving two Hungarian students who were killed in a 2010 duck boat crash along the Delaware River. "We became very close with the parents we represented in that case, which is characteristic of our firm," Holly says. "I have clients with whom I'm still in touch a decade after their cases ended. Our clients are really like family to us."

Recently, the firm filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against the New York City Police Department on behalf of a young man whose dirt bike was purposely rammed from behind by a police car in the Bronx, seriously injuring him and killing his best friend. The entire incident was caught on videotape, which was aired on various news programs and appeared all over the internet. In addition, they are representing the real-life victim of the kidnapping/torture depicted in the movie "Pain & Gain," for defamation and unauthorized use of his likeness against various well-known Hollywood producers, directors and others.

"After doing this for over 18 years, we don't take cases just to make money for our firm—we want to make a real difference for our clients and try to make them as close to whole again as possible," says Holly.

Both attorneys have focused on plaintiffs' personal injury throughout their careers, though Holly notes that being a woman and working in this area of the law has presented some challenges. "The field of personal injury on the whole is predominantly male," she says. "It's not unusual for me to be up against four or five male defense attorneys. In the beginning they would underestimate me, but now they know who I am and that I am tougher than any male attorney out there."

Today, Holly is a member of the elite Million Dollar and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forums, the top trial lawyers in America, and was selected for New York Metro *Super Lawyers* 2013. Still, she hasn't forgotten where she came from: "I'm just a girl from Queens who put herself through law school and I never forget that," she says, "which is why my work on behalf of accident victims is solely about helping people who don't have power or money and need a strong voice."



Stella Grossman

Holly Ostrov Ronai, Esq.

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# PAVING THE ROAD AHEAD

According to the American Bar Association's 2013 report, "A Current Glance at Women in the Law," young women are making impressive strides in the legal profession. Nearly half (47%) of JDs awarded in 2013 went to women, and women held 43% of the leadership positions at top-ranked law journals. However, there is still ample ground to cover before they reach gender equality: The report showed that more than 80% of partners in private law firms are men, and women made up just 4% of managing partners among the nation's 200 largest firms.

Thanks to new leadership positions and increased recognition, though, women lawyers in the New York area are paving the way for their younger counterparts. In February 2014, leading civil rights law firm Sanford Heisler promoted Deborah Marcuse to partner, and appointed her as the co-manager of the firm's New York office. The firm has 50 attorneys and staff nationwide, 16 of whom are based in New York. Marcuse joins two other women in the firm's top leadership roles: Felicia Medina, managing partner of the firm's San Francisco office, and Katherine M. Kimpel, who heads the Washington, D.C. office.

Marcuse, who serves as lead counsel in the case of *Barrett et al. v. Forest Laboratories et al.*, a national gender discrimination class action filed on behalf of pharmaceutical sales representatives, is also passionate about defending civil rights. "As the child of a gay parent, I grew up feeling a particular responsibility to make sure that the rights I might be able to take for granted are available to everyone," she stated.

New York women attorneys also used their legal expertise to find creative ways to address social justice issues. Nicole Noonan, a former family law attorney, leveraged her visibility as a divorce expert to found National Divorce Capital, Inc., a New York-based organization that will provide funding to women engaged in divorce proceedings. "Women for

decades have been challenged by a legal system fraught with inequality," Noonan stated. "My goal is to help women level the legal playing field by providing equity through equity."

Women for decades have been challenged by a legal system fraught with inequality... My goal is to help women level the legal playing field by providing equity through equity.

NICOLE NOONAN

FOUNDER OF NATIONAL DIVORCE CAPITAL

Other women lawyers have won accolades after years of proactive work in the profession. Michele Coleman Mayes, who is vice president, general counsel and secretary of The New York Public Library, received the 12th Annual Ida B. Wells Barnett Justice Award for her work in a variety of legal settings. The award, presented by the New York County Lawyers' Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, honors a woman of color "whose life reflects her spirit and courageousness by distinguishing herself in the fight for racial and gender equality." The Hon. Pam Jackman Brown, a member of the New York State Supreme Court and chair of the committee that selected Mayes, praised her in an official statement for being "a solid example for those looking to take similar paths."

Women are constantly working to make opportunities for themselves in a field that remains two-thirds male. But these accomplishments help highlight the ways in which they are supporting and inspiring fellow women practicing law in New York.

By R. Monroe

## TRAUB LIEBERMAN STRAUS & SHREWSBERRY LLP

### INSURANCE LAW



Front row (left to right): Colleen Hastie, Lisa Black, Lisa Shrewsberry, Meryl Lieberman, Jerri DeCamp  
Back row (left to right): Sheryl Sanford, Cheryl Vollweiler, Megan Bronk, Lisa Rolle, Hillary Raimondi, Dawn Warren

A leader in the insurance industry, **Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP** focuses on insurance coverage litigation and the defense of insureds in professional liability, general liability, environmental, construction defect, and products liability matters. With nearly 100 lawyers in five states, and a liaison office in London, the firm boasts many women leaders. Indeed, more than a third of the firm's 44 partners are women, including name partners Meryl Lieberman and Lisa Shrewsberry. Lieberman, a co-managing partner, and Shrewsberry serve on the firm's management and finance committees.

Lieberman is an insurance coverage expert, with a list of international clients, all of whom receive individualized attention. Her insurance coverage practice includes matters involving all areas of liability, including environmental, toxic tort, intellectual property, products, advertising injury, employment, directors and officers, and general liability. Lieberman is a frequent author and lecturer in her field of expertise, and has served as a member of a special advisory panel to the United States Environmental Protection Agency. "We are respected by clients and adversaries alike because our lawyers maintain the highest degree of professionalism," notes Lieberman, who has been named in *Super Lawyers* as one of the top attorneys in the New York metro area for insurance coverage since 2008, and as one of Westchester County's top 25 lawyers. "Our growth is attributed to hard work, dedication to our clients, and our ability to recruit and retain talent. We don't just handle files – we learn our clients' business."

Shrewsberry focuses her practice on professional liability and employment practices liability, and is also a sought-after author and lecturer in these areas. She represents the insurers which issue these coverage products, as well as the insureds covered thereunder, including lawyers, accountants, actuaries, insurance agents/brokers and financial professionals who get sued for malpractice. "We're highly focused on providing the best representation in the most cost-effective, responsive manner," says Shrewsberry, who has been voted as one of the top attorneys in the New York metro area for professional liability defense by *Super Lawyers* every year since 2008, and as one of Westchester County's top 25 lawyers in 2013. "We treat every client's business as if it were our own, and we understand the unique needs that arise when professionals are forced to defend themselves in claims against them."

The firm's female partners are leaders in the legal and insurance industries, serving in such organizations as the Professional Liability Underwriting Society; Claims and Litigation Management Alliance; Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel; Association of Professional Insurance Women; Defense Research Institute; USLAW Network; and Westchester County, New York State, and American Bar Associations.

In addition to their high-profile national representation of the insurance industry, the firm's female partners are active in many community and charitable projects, including the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester, Northern Westchester Hospital, Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, Wounded Warrior Project, and Wingspan Arts.

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# Katten

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

Karen Artz Ash is a pioneer in fashion law, who focuses her practice on trademark and copyright matters. She has represented clients ranging from high-end designers and celebrities to retailers and apparel companies, and has been lauded by clients, colleagues and legal ranking organizations, including *New York Metro Super Lawyers*, "New York's Women Leaders in the Law" as seen in *New York Magazine*, and the *World Trademark Review 1000 – The World's Leading Trademark Professionals*, among others. Karen is an adjunct professor at New York Law School, focusing on courses in fashion law licensing; writes a monthly column on trademark issues; has contributed to several books; lectures frequently on fashion law; and is a member of the US District Court for the Southern District of New York's Mediator Advisory Committee.

## SUSAN L. BENDER

### FAMILY AND MATRIMONIAL LAW

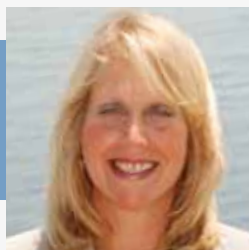
SUSAN L. BENDER is the managing partner in the firm of Bender Rosenthal Isaacs & Richter LLP, whose practice is concentrated in domestic relations law matters in Supreme and Family Courts.

She recently served as Chair of the Matrimonial Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association. Susan is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a member of its Board of Governors and a former member of its Executive Committee. She has served as a member of the Board of JALBCA (Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert), a Fellow of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, and she is a past President of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. Susan is a member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, and was a member of the Executive Committee of the Interdisciplinary Forum and the Board of Directors of the New York Women's Bar Association.

Justice Betty Weinberg Ellerin appointed Susan to the Committee to Certify Law Guardians for Appointment in Domestic Relations Matters, and Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye appointed Susan to the Matrimonial Commission chaired by Justice Sondra Miller.

Susan was appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau to serve on the Matrimonial Advisory Committee for the New York State Judicial Institute.

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## AUDEN GROGINS ATTORNEY AT LAW

### CIVIL & CRIMINAL LITIGATION

Auden Grogins takes pride in fighting for justice, has a passion for law and compassion for her clients.

A successful trial attorney with nearly 25 years of civil and criminal litigation experience in Connecticut's State and Federal Courts, her extensive knowledge of criminal and personal injury law guides her clients through difficult and complex legal cases.

Grogins' diverse law practice includes representation in a variety of misdemeanor and felony criminal cases; representing clients in criminal appeals in the State of Connecticut Appellate Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals; successful defense in capital cases where the state initially sought the death penalty, and recovering large financial settlements and verdicts for injured plaintiffs in various personal injury claims with a focus on automobile accidents and products liability.

Grogins is an elected state representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, serving on the Legislature's Judiciary Committee. Grogins has co-sponsored and supported laws which curtail human trafficking, strengthen penalties for domestic violence, and enhance and safeguard the procedures for eyewitness identification.

Grogins is admitted to practice law exclusively in the State of Connecticut.

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## LAURIE BERKE-WEISS

### EMPLOYMENT LAW

Laurie Berke-Weiss, a founding partner of Berke-Weiss & Pechman LLP, focuses her practice on all aspects of workplace law, including claims of sex harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination, negotiation of employment contracts and severance agreements, handling partnership issues, and litigation of non-competition agreements and other restrictive covenants. Corporations, non-profits, local businesses, lawyers, physicians, executives, architects, and teachers number among her clients.

Laurie is AV rated®, with 30 years' experience in state and federal litigation, as well as arbitration and mediation of disputes. Laurie is a leader in the New York legal community. She is a past President of the New York Women's Bar Association, has served as Chair of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association, and currently is a member of its Council on the Profession. Laurie is a graduate of the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and Fordham Law School.

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**A**s a leading partner in the New York office of Frommer Lawrence & Haug LLP, Dr. Sandra Kuzmich has established a legal practice built upon her extensive education and professional experiences. Her keen technical expertise and honed legal skill set allow her to successfully lead the firm's life sciences practice group as it focuses on strategic intellectual property counseling and product life cycle management in the areas of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and biotechnology. Dr. Kuzmich's success, however, extends beyond the practice of law as she ensures a thriving workplace through her efforts

to encourage the mentoring of young attorneys and to spearhead FLH's diversity initiatives.

After receiving her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Douglass College of Rutgers University and earning her Ph.D. in pharmacology from Yale University, Dr. Kuzmich spent several years in the private pharmaceutical sector managing a department in the U.S. and coordinating global initiatives with her European and Asian counterparts. At FLH, Dr. Kuzmich uses her previous administrative experience to not only actively participate in the firm's upper management but to also act as a liaison to human resources. In this role, she encourages open lines of communication that benefit the workplace environment and strengthen the firm's corporate culture around its most valuable resources — its employees and attorneys.

Dr. Kuzmich's work extends outside of FLH's U.S. office. As an active member of the Federal Circuit Bar Association (FCBA) and its International Series, in 2013 she has spoken about the patentability of chemical and pharmaceutical inventions in Seoul, South Korea and about privateering in Toronto. In addition, Dr. Kuzmich taught a two-day training course in South Africa regarding "The In-House Management of Inventions and Patents," which was co-sponsored by the National Intellectual Property Management Office and the University of South Africa.

As FLH grows and evolves, the firm's commitment to diversity also strengthens. Serving as mentor to those around her, Dr. Kuzmich encourages young attorneys at the firm to expand their involvement into various practice areas and to become proficient in their skills. More formally, Dr. Kuzmich leads FLH's diversity initiative. Since being named in this role, the firm has become a sponsor for the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and the National Association of Women Lawyers.

Dr. Kuzmich's ability to recognize that life-cycle management is continuous and dynamic has allowed her to manage patent portfolios that take into consideration a client's immediate and long-term business objective. Likewise, her ability to recognize the importance of a thriving workplace environment, an international audience and a diverse team structure has allowed her to cultivate a flourishing corporate culture at FLH.

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DAVIDA S. PERRY, a partner at Schwartz & Perry has spent most of her legal career fighting for the rights of victims of workplace discrimination. Her work has resulted in landmark decisions, namely *Thoreson*, where the Court ruled that sexual harassment can be proven by the victim's testimony alone and *Bracker*, where the appellate court held that the New York City Human Rights Law was constitutional. This paved the way for victims of discrimination, working in New York City, to avail themselves of one of the most protective and comprehensive human rights laws in the country.

Most gratifying was a jury verdict for \$6.6 million awarded to a plaintiff who endured sexual harassment and retaliation. The plaintiff, as well as Ms. Perry and her father, partner and mentor were celebrated at a ceremony for Courageous Plaintiffs, held by the National Employment Lawyers Association. Other notable awards were a jury verdict in favor of a retaliation plaintiff for \$2.5 million, of which \$300,000 was for punitive damages and a substantial verdict in favor of the plaintiff in a pregnancy discrimination case.

Ms. Perry has co-authored articles and lectured at programs sponsored by area bar associations and continuing legal education providers. She has achieved an AV\* rating with preeminence by Martindale-Hubbell. For each year since 2009 to the present, Ms. Perry has been named to the New York "Super Lawyers" list and in 2012 and 2013, she was also named one of the Top 50 women lawyers in the New York Metro Area. Since 2012, Ms. Perry has been recognized in **Women Leaders in the Law**.

## SUSAN DENNEHY, ESQ.

### MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

The Dennehy Law Firm represents patients and their families who have suffered serious harm as a result of medical negligence by a doctor or a health care institution. We have successfully handled cases involving failure to diagnose, wrongful death, infections, and birth injuries.

These include delayed diagnosis of cancer, emergency room errors, Erb's palsy, preventable medication errors, and disfiguring plastic surgery cases.

We seek justice on behalf of our clients and believe that shining a light on preventable medical errors and systemic negligence works to improve the medical system. Invariably, one of the first things a new client says to me is that they don't want what happened to them to happen to someone else. We work through our cases to effect that change.

Susan Dennehy is rated AV Preeminent® by her peers, ranking her at the highest level of professional excellence. She is a former television journalist and lectures nationally on medical and legal issues. She also publishes articles on trial strategy and medical issues.



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# NANCY D. KELLMAN

## ATTORNEY AT LAW

### MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY LAW



For over 20 years, Nancy D. Kellman has devoted her practice exclusively to matrimonial and family law, representing clients in Westchester County and the New York metropolitan region. With offices in White Plains, New York, Nancy and her dedicated staff provide exceptional and individualized legal services.

Nancy is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She sits on the National Board of Governors and chairs the National Membership Committee. She also sits on the Board of Managers and the Board of Examiners of AAML's New York Chapter. She is on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association and is former Chair of the Westchester County Bar Association, Family Law Section.

As a member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, Nancy has demonstrated a commitment to alternative dispute resolution in her legal practice.

In addition, Nancy is a lecturer for the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the New York State Bar Association, and the Pace Women's Justice Center. She is a graduate of Pace University Law School and Boston University where she was awarded a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in Sociology.

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## SARI M. FRIEDMAN

### FAMILY & MATRIMONIAL LAW

Sari Friedman is a matrimonial and family law attorney with over 30 years of experience. A mother of two, Sari understands the importance of family and protecting the rights of children.

With Long Island and Manhattan offices, Sari and her team are dedicated to helping families with legal matters including Divorce, Alimony/Maintenance, Fathers' Rights, Grandparents' Rights, Postnuptial, Prenuptial, Same-Sex Marriage, Separation Agreements, Child Custody, Child Support and Visitation.

Sari provides one-on-one attention that allows for a personalized legal plan. "As every family is unique, a cookie-cutter legal approach is not effective," Sari said.

Sari is General Counsel for the Fathers' Rights Association of NYS and Long Island. Sari received the 2012 Leadership in Law Award by *Long Island Business News* was recognized as being one of 'New York's Women Leaders in the Law' as seen in *New York Magazine* in 2014; and has been listed in *Who's Who in American Law*.

Sari lectures about matrimonial law at Marino Institute Continuing Legal Education Seminars and has published articles on family law matters.



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**Outten & Golden is honored that three of its partners, Anne Golden, Kathleen Peratis, and Wendi S. Lazar, have been recognized as "Women Leaders in the Law"**

Outten & Golden focuses on a global scale on advising and representing individuals and groups in employment, partnership, and related workplace matters. The firm counsels individuals on employment and severance agreements; handles complex compensation and benefits issues (including matters involving bonuses, commissions, and stock and option agreements and awards, and I.R.C. Sections 409A and 280G), and advises professional partners (including accountants, doctors, and lawyers) with contractual and strategic issues. It also represents employees with a wide variety of claims, including discrimination and harassment based on sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, race, disability, national origin, religion, and age, as well as retaliation, whistleblower, and contract claims. Outten & Golden is also at the forefront of family leave issues and veterans' workplace rights. The firm handles some of the largest class action and impact litigations in the United States involving a wide range of employment issues, including economic exploitation, gender- and race-based discrimination, wage-and-hour violations, violations of the WARN Act, and other systemic workers' rights issues.

Outten & Golden has eleven practice groups: Employee Benefits, Executives & Professionals, Financial Services, Sexual Harassment & Sex Discrimination, Family Responsibilities & Disabilities Discrimination, Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender Workplace Rights, Discrimination & Retaliation, Whistleblower Retaliation, Class & Collective Actions, WARN Act, and Appellate Litigation.

Photos, top to bottom:  
Anne Golden, Kathleen Peratis  
and Wendi S. Lazar.

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## BODNAR & MILONE LLP

### FAMILY LAW

The attorneys at Bodnar & Milone practice family law exclusively, so they are rarely surprised, no matter the issues in a case. Says partner Lydia Milone, "Every case is unique, but for most matrimonial matters, it's likely that we've seen it, or something similar, before."

A full-service firm, Bodnar & Milone offers the best approach for each client – whether it's the collaborative law process, traditional negotiation, or litigation. Milone and senior counsel Pamela Jensen are trained in the collaborative process, which is well suited to parents who will have to deal with each other for years going forward. The parties contract to stay out of court and to resolve the issues in a constructive and respectful fashion, frequently using financial experts and mental health specialists.

Says Milone: "It's often better to compromise than take your matter to trial. Litigation is the least cost effective, most time consuming, and emotionally draining resolution method. An attorney can tell you the law; we cannot predict how the judge interprets the evidence. That said, some matters cannot be resolved via negotiation."

Milone and Jensen are Fellows in the American Academy of



Pamela J. Jensen, Lydia A. Milone, Elizabeth E. Erickson

Luigi Cuffarelli

Matrimonial Lawyers and have been selected as "New York Super Lawyers" and *The Best Lawyers in America* 2013. "The firm's reputation for professional integrity is known to both the Bench and Bar," says associate Elizabeth Erickson.

"We help our clients achieve the best possible outcome, while ensuring that their expectations are realistic," says Jensen. "A client who spends a lot of money chasing an unattainable dream is ultimately not a happy client."

Adds Jensen, "When I speak to former clients years after their divorce, most are much happier, even when the split was not their idea."

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## Ellen B. Holtzman

### A Leader in Matrimonial and Family Law

Known and respected statewide as a leader in child custody law, Ellen Holtzman has a record of results in complex custody cases. She has prevailed in a number of cases that set legal precedents in New York, and is a sought-after speaker and thought leader on the many thorny issues involved in child custody cases. Ellen's recent talks have included a symposium for psychologists, psychiatrists, lawyers,

and members of the judiciary at NYU on the present status of the concept of "the best interest of the child," and an appearance before the American Psychoanalytic Association's "Psychoanalysis and the Law" Group.

A past president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, Ellen now heads up its Foundation. She is a recipient of the Joan E. Ellenbogen Founder's Award for contributions to the advancement of law and the legal profession, and a Commissioner on the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission. While leading a team of top professionals in her private practice, Ellen also makes time to direct legal training for the innovative Family Law and Forensics Program at the Washington Square Institute, lecture on legal ethics, and mentor lawyers who represent battered women in divorce cases.

**ELLEN B. HOLTZMAN** 101 North Middletown Rd., Nanuet, NY 10954  
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## EVE-LYNN GISONNI, ESQ.

### DISABILITY & LIFE INSURANCE LAW

Eve-Lynn Gissoni practices disability and life insurance law with the goal of evening the playing field in the turbulent insurance arena that pits consumer against insurance company. She is a compassionate advocate for disabled professionals stripped of their livelihoods and who are victimized by unfair insurance company tactics and refusals to pay contractually-promised disability benefits.

Practicing under her time-tested philosophy that small firms can do great things, Eve-Lynn's tenacious spirit is epitomized by her successful bid before the New York Court of Appeals in *Benesowitz v. MetLife* to stop group disability insurers from refusing to pay pre-existing condition claims. As a result, insurance regulators ordered New York insurers to change the way they were doing business.

With offices in Manhattan and Long Island, Ms. Gissoni litigates in state and federal trial and appellate forums and is a distinguished attorney who employs creative strategies to succeed on behalf of claimants under individual and group disability and life insurance contracts.



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## PATRICIA ANN GRANT

### FAMILY LAW

Patricia Ann Grant has practiced family and matrimonial law since 1986. She has successfully tried cases in Family, Supreme and Appellate Courts. She is also a trained Mediator and Collaborative Law practitioner.



Ms. Grant's practice focuses on divorce and custody mediation and litigation, as well as pre- and post-nuptial agreements. She has made presentations at the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American College of Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology, and the New York County Lawyers' Association. She has co-authored a chapter in a book entitled *A Handbook of Divorce and Custody: Forensic, Developmental and Clinical Perspectives*. She is a Past President and current Board Member of the New York Women's Bar Association. She also belongs to the New York State Bar Association and The Association of the Bar of the City of New York. She is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and has an AV Preeminent® rating from Martindale-Hubbell, evidencing that her peers rank her at the highest level of professional excellence.

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## JACQUELINE HAROUNIAN

### MATRIMONIAL AND FAMILY LAW

Jacqueline Harounian is consistently ranked as one of the best divorce attorneys in New York. She received the highest rating by Martindale-Hubbell for legal ability and professional ethics; was chosen to Super Lawyers for four consecutive years; and was named one of 2012's "Top 50 Women Lawyers" in New York.



Ms. Harounian practices exclusively in matrimonial and family law. She was named partner of Wisselman, Harounian & Associates, P.C. in 2006, and along with Jerome Wisselman, she leads a ten-attorney team with a record of success for trial advocacy up to the appellate level.

Ms. Harounian is a Board member in several professional societies and non-profit organizations. She is a lecturer and author on family law, an adjunct law instructor at Hofstra Law School, and called upon as an expert for legislative advocacy.

Says Ms. Harounian: "Our clients count on us during a time of emotional crisis, entrusting us with their children and their financial security. We go the extra mile to help improve their lives with compassion and smart solutions. When the case is resolved, we continue assisting them to successfully deal with the aftermath of divorce."

Believing every case is important whether large or small, Wisselman, Harounian & Associates, P.C. never charges for an initial consultation. The firm is committed to serving its clients cost effectively, with meticulous strategic planning customized for each case, including expert trial advocacy, mediation and negotiated settlement.

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## JENICE L. MALECKI, ESQ.

### SECURITIES ARBITRATION

Jenice Malecki of Malecki Law, a well-known securities attorney for over 20 years, helps public (consumer) and institutional investors, as well as industry participants in actions involving fraud, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and negligence in arbitration and in court, as well as in employment, regulatory (SEC/FINRA) and whistleblower investigations and disputes. She regularly appears in TV and radio interviews, in the news as a securities industry resource and speaks at local law schools and at the Practising Law Institute (PLI), Public Investors Arbitration Bar Association and NY County Lawyers Association. Ms. Malecki took part in an educational video about FINRA arbitration on WSJ.com.



She started her career in plaintiff's class action litigation, *In re Crazy Eddie*, then defending brokers, some of whose conduct was in Martin Scorsese's "The Wolf of Wall Street." She finally founded MALECKI LAW in 1999, and her career was detailed in an article on LawCrossing.com.

Ms. Malecki has written extensively on securities law related topics, is a *Super Lawyer*, a Top Lawyer listed by *The American Lawyer* and is also AV® Preeminent rated.

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## DECORATO COHEN SHEEHAN & FEDERICO LLP

### LITIGATION

When it comes to women leaders in the legal profession, few firms offer the depth of female talent that can be found at DeCorato Cohen Sheehan & Federico, LLP: In addition to three of the firm's six partners, 16 of its associates are women. "In an area of the law that all too often has been dominated by male attorneys, we've been able to attract and develop top flight women litigators," says Partner Linda J. DeCorato. "There's no glass ceiling here."

DeCorato – a registered nurse prior to entering the legal profession – helped found the firm in 1999, and she has seen it grow from primarily a medical malpractice defense firm to the full-service litigation firm that it is today.

"We handle all forms of litigation up through and including trial, and while we're still largely a defense firm, we do take on some plaintiffs' personal injury litigation," DeCorato says. The firm has also represented plaintiffs and defendants in employment cases, many of which focus on women's rights issues. "As our reputation as litigators has grown, we've continued to attract – and succeed in – a variety of litigation," DeCorato notes.

Yet, despite its expansion, the firm remains a cohesive, hardworking group; and DeCorato attributes this stability to the firm's focus on relationship building. "We pride ourselves on the relationships we've developed with our clients," she says. "Whatever the case, we make sure our clients are fully updated regarding our dedicated and skillful efforts on their behalf. They can rest easy knowing that we are expertly balancing their needs for superior service with exceptional value."



Seated: Linda J. DeCorato  
Standing, from left: Kari A. Merolesi, Anna R. Schwartz

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## KRAMER & DUNLEAVY, LLP

### LITIGATION, PERSONAL INJURY

Women's rights advocates Lenore Kramer and Denise M. Dunleavy formed Kramer & Dunleavy as the first law firm in New York State focusing on women's health and safety issues. With a combined total experience of more than 80 years, the firm has earned both an AV® rating by Martindale-Hubbell® and a reputation as a powerhouse litigation boutique. Repeatedly selected by their peers to the *Super Lawyers* list, Kramer and Dunleavy, together with Jonathan R. Ratchik, represent their clients with passion, zeal and savvy.

A recognized leader of the personal injury bar, Kramer has served as president of both the NYS Trial Lawyers Association and the Women's Bar association of the State of New York, and has been appointed to numerous prestigious committees and commissions. For many years she represented New York State as a Governor of the American Association for Justice. Dunleavy was named one of the Top 50 female litigators in the nation by *The National Law Journal*. She is also a former recipient of the Trial Lawyer of the Year award. Her courtroom victories have garnered many record-setting verdicts and settlements.

Kramer & Dunleavy has a proven record of results for men, women and children, including settlements of \$6.25 million for a traumatic brain injury resulting from a fall; \$5 million for an infant who lost her forearm due to a hospital medication error; \$4 million for a worker injured on a construction site; \$4 million for a family who lost a loved one at the World Trade Center; \$3.5 million for an injury caused by listeria-infected deli meat; \$2.5 million for a widow whose husband passed from a hospital-



Seated: Lenore Kramer  
Standing, from left: Denise M. Dunleavy, Jonathan R. Ratchik

acquired infection; \$2 million for a woman who underwent a needless mastectomy; \$1.8 million for a cyclist hit by a runaway van and \$1 million for a motorcyclist injured on a defective city roadway.



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**SABRINA E. MORRISSEY****GUARDIANSHIP LAW**

Sabrina E. Morrissey is a member of the law firm of Morrissey & Morrissey, LLP, practicing in the field of guardianship law. She handles all aspects of Article 81 cases, from litigation to accountings, and is herself a guardian. She brings her special experience to her practice. She has an AV® rating with Martindale-Hubbell®, that company's high rating. Sabrina graduated from Brooklyn Law School and was an Associate Managing Editor on the *Journal of International Law*. She also has extensive experience in Trusts and Estates, including estate planning, probate, and Surrogate's Court litigation. She is a member of the New York Bar Association, Elder Law and Trusts and Estates Sections, and the New York Women's Bar Association, Committee on Ethics.

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# DAWN M. CARDI

## & ASSOCIATES

**FAMILY & MATRIMONIAL LAW, CRIMINAL DEFENSE, LITIGATION**

Dawn M. Cardi & Associates is a boutique law firm specializing in matrimonial and family law, criminal defense and select federal and New York State litigation.

Founded in 1992 by firm principal, Dawn Cardi, the firm provides a full range of legal services in New York City and surrounding areas.

Mrs. Cardi's 30 years experience as both a matrimonial and family lawyer, and as a state and federal criminal defense attorney, means clients benefit from her unique combination of negotiation and litigation experience. Her years spent as general counsel for corporate entities, coupled with her expertise in financial and business matters further augment her experience, making her an invaluable asset to clients in both the matrimonial arena and in criminal defense and litigation.

The firm has established itself as an authority in matrimonial law, criminal defense and civil litigation, with an impeccable reputation for successfully negotiating, litigating and settling hundreds of cases against law firms of all sizes. The firm's client-focused practice is devoted to providing the highest levels of professional expertise, customer service, responsiveness and concern to clients across a broad array of professional fields.



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CHRIS LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

**AMY L. REISS, ESQ.****MATRIMONIAL LAWYER AND MEDIATOR**

Amy L. Reiss has 25 years of experience in matrimonial law and is AV rated® by Martindale-Hubbell. Amy's practice focuses on mediation, negotiated settlements, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. As a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™, Amy brings additional financial expertise to the settlement table.

Whether immersed in a complex prenuptial agreement, or mediating an amicable divorce, Amy gives personalized attention to every client with a goal towards an efficient resolution. She also lectures and writes articles regarding matrimonial law.

A graduate of Brown University and Fordham University School of Law, Amy's training as a Mediator, a Collaborative Attorney, and a Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™ augment her matrimonial practice. Additionally, she's a member of the Women's Leadership Council of Brown University, and an active volunteer with Women's Support Services.

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**HILLARY RICHARD****COMMERCIAL LITIGATION**

For over 20 years, Hillary Richard has handled major commercial disputes in courts across the country and in arbitrations. She has been recognized as one of Manhattan's top lawyers in business litigation and securities litigation by Super Lawyers. Ms. Richard is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell.

Ms. Richard is a fierce litigator and forceful advocate who does what it takes to achieve the best outcome for her clients. Federal judges have stated that Ms. Richard produces "first-rate work," provides "extraordinarily strong legal representation," and is "tenacious, well-organized, and skillful counsel." Ms. Richard regularly advises clients on business and strategic decisions in an effort to resolve disputes short of litigation. Ms. Richard is particularly skilled at representing financial institutions in complex financing matters. Her clients include hedge funds, private equity funds, commercial banks, investment firms, broker-dealers and insurance companies.

Ms. Richard graduated with honors from Harvard Law School.

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**AMY SALTZMAN****FAMILY LAW**

Amy Saltzman practices all aspects of family and matrimonial law matters. From negotiation and drafting of prenuptial, marital and separation agreements to litigation in divorce, post judgment matters and those involving non-married parents. Amy brings with her a great depth of training and experience.

Before entering private practice, Amy worked on behalf of domestic abuse victims as a supervisor in Westchester/Putnam Legal Services and was the founding attorney of the legal project of the Rockland Family Shelter. Amy was an associate at Cohen Goldstein & Silpe LLP before starting her own firm in 2003. Amy received her Juris Doctor from City University of New York School of Law and also a Master of Science Degree in Special Education from Hunter College.

She is currently an officer of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, a member of the board of directors of the New York Women's Bar Association and serves on the Legal Advisory Council of Sanctuary for Families and State Courts of Superior Jurisdiction Committee of the New York City Bar Association.

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## SCHLISSEL OSTROW KARABATOS, PLLC

### MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY LAW

Elena is a partner in the matrimonial firm of Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC. She is President-Elect and Treasurer of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is a member of the Attorney for the Children Advisory Committee for the Tenth Judicial District. Elena is a member of the Matrimonial Practice Advisory Committee for the New York State Office of Court Administration. Elena is a member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law section of the New York State Bar Association and was a member of the Nassau County Bar Association Delegation for the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates (2009-2012). Elena is a member of the New York Family Law American Inn of Court.

Elena is active in the Nassau County Bar Association (NCBA) where she is the Secretary and a member of the Executive Committee. She was Chair of the Matrimonial Law Committee of the NCBA (2009-2011) for which she received the NCBA Directors' Award 2010-2011 for outstanding service as Chair. She served as the chairperson of the Child Custody Sub-Committee and the co-chairperson of the Appellate Practice Sub-Committee of the NCBA. Elena has also served as a member of the Judiciary Committee of the NCBA, and on various Task Forces for the NCBA, such as Lawyer Advertising, Request for Judicial Intervention Form Revisions, and Membership. She was appointed by the presiding Justice of the Appellate Division to a special committee of the Nassau County Courts to make recommendations to the court system for the establishment of model custody litigation practices. She is a co-author, with partner Stephen W. Schlissel, of the second edition of *Separation Agreements and Marital Contracts* (Michie 1997). She attended the Trial Advocacy Institute of the American Bar Association Family Law Section.

Elena is a member of the adjunct faculty of Hofstra Law School. She frequently lectures on a wide range of family law topics, regarding custody and parenting issues as well as financial issues, for various organizations such as the New York State, New York County and Nassau County Bar Associations, New York County Lawyer's Association, Nassau Academy of Law, the Practising Law Institute, The National Business Institute, Office of Court Administration-Judicial Seminars, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Second Judicial Department, as well as various other organizations. For many years, Elena



Elena Karabatos

served as the course chairperson for the continuing legal education program on Matrimonial Litigation and Equitable Distribution at Fordham Law School, where she lectured on various topics.

Elena is an experienced negotiator of settlements and trial lawyer. She is also a member of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals. She is certified in advanced mediation by the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution and by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York in mediating custody and visitation matters. She has been a facilitator and lecturer for the Nassau County P.E.A.C.E. (Parental Education and Custody Effectiveness) program. Elena has been selected for inclusion in "Best Lawyers in America" and "New York Super Lawyers"

in the area of Family Law. She has been recognized by "Ten Leaders" in the field of Matrimonial and Divorce Law, Long Island, and she has also been recognized in the "Who's Who in Women in Professional Services" for the *Long Island Business News*.

Elena is a member of the Planning Board for the Village of Sands Point, New York. Elena received a B.A. from Tufts University in 1983 and her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1986. Elena is married to Bryan C. Skarlatos, a partner in the law firm Kostelanetz & Fink.

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