

# FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONERS 2014

THE NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL AND LEGAL LEADERS  
PRESENTS FAMILY LAW PRACTITIONERS OF 2014.

Families are at the heart of the New York Area's population and in many cases are the driving motivation behind the workforce, education and community involvement. In good times and challenging ones, attorneys may be needed to help navigate through the complexities of unions and dissolutions, estate planning, visitation rights, domestic relations and family businesses.

This section highlights the abilities of some of the Tri-State's prestigious family law practitioners. Their skills and successes are detailed in these 13 pages, and like every family, each firm and attorney has a unique and inspiring story.

For more information regarding this and future custom publishing projects, please contact [LegalLeaders@alm.com](mailto:LegalLeaders@alm.com)

## WILLIAM E. BETZ



William Betz has specialized in matrimonial law for over 26 years and has represented hundreds of clients statewide in negotiating and resolving problems involving divorce, custody and child and spousal support. Providing close personal assistance, Bill is always available to help clients deal with problems as they arise. Included among the matters Bill has helped to resolve are disputes involving equitable distribution of substantial marital property. He has also had striking success representing fathers seeking custody of their children. Although Bill understands that settlement of marital disputes is always the preferred resolution, he knows that recourse to the courts is sometimes necessary. Bill has represented clients in the Supreme and Family Courts and in appeals to the New York appellate courts.

The Betz Law Office is conveniently located in Great Neck, providing easy access to clients on Long Island and in the five boroughs.

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## WEISMAN LAW GROUP, P.C.

With more than 80 years of combined legal experience, the matrimonial and family law attorneys of Weisman Law Group offer clients innovative solutions to their most pressing divorce issues.

"Everyone at this firm is deeply committed to solving our clients' problems," says founding member Rachel Weisman. "And while we're extremely aggressive when we need to be, we are also very compassionate—we care about our clients and the outcomes of their cases."

Weisman has focused on family law throughout her 24-year career. She founded Weisman Law Group in 2001, and her firm mainly represents high-net-worth individuals in complex financial matters relating to equitable distribution and support. In addition, her firm regularly handles challenging custody cases.

As part of its mission to provide the most thorough legal representation possible, Weisman Law Group also offers clients knowledgeable counsel in the appeals process and prenuptial and postnuptial marriage agreements.

"We don't believe that every client coming in for a divorce actually wants a divorce," Weisman notes. "Sometimes, all they need is a well-written postnuptial agreement, and that's where our compassion comes in—we will work hard to find an alternative so that they don't have to endure the stress of a divorce."

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Seated: Rachel J.B. Weisman  
Standing, from left: Kathleen Rooney, Noreen Will, Kim Cardalena, Frumit Birnbaum

Stella Grossman



## LAW OFFICES OF ANTHONY A. CAPETOLA

### FAMILY LAW, CRIMINAL & CIVIL LITIGATION

The Law Offices of Anthony A. Capetola is one of the premier firms in Long Island and New York City for family law, corporate law, civil litigation, and criminal defense. Led by experienced trial attorney Anthony A. Capetola, the firm provides clients with committed service and skilled crisis management.

"Clients know that they can rely upon us to achieve the best possible results," says Capetola. "A former client recently emailed me saying, 'I wanted to express my deep thanks to you and your office for providing me with such great service. I experienced great professionalism, smart decisions, respect and great service from each and every colleague of yours.' That's the result we strive for with each and every client."

With more than 40 years of trial experience, Mr. Capetola focused his practice on matrimonial law since 1985. Along with his associates, he has been recognized as being among the finest family law practitioners in Nassau, Suffolk, and New York Counties, and is often sought out to handle complex custody and visitation matters, having tried international custody cases pursuant to the Hague Convention.

"I have tried hundreds of cases, as an assistant prosecutor and in private practice. No challenge is too great, we cannot be intimidated and we often shine when the odds are against us," says Capetola.

In praising Anthony Capetola for His Superior Legal prowess, a New York Supreme Court justice recently stated: "The plaintiff's attorney, Anthony Capetola, Esq. represented his client with skill and professionalism. Mr. Capetola is a practiced and competent attorney. He is one of the principals in a highly respected law firm and appears on matrimonial cases on behalf of the firm's clients on a regular basis. He has successfully tried or negotiated numerous cases before this Court. He enjoys a superior reputation in the legal community in the area of matrimonial law."

More than just a litigator, Capetola is highly sought after to share his knowledge with others, having lectured extensively at various law schools and bar associations. He is a member of the Nassau County, New York State, and American Bar Associations. He has been included in Super Lawyers since 2010, and recognized as one of the area's top matrimonial attorneys by *Long Island Pulse Magazine*.

In addition to running a successful law practice, Mr. Capetola has also achieved recognition as a boxing promoter, real estate developer, restaurateur and community activist. When not engaged in the practice of law, he can often be found at The Carlton, a high-end Long Island restaurant and catering facility that he opened in 1995.

"Being a seasoned entrepreneur, it's second nature to me to weigh all potential benefits when deciding which course of action to take in a litigation. Recognizing that our actions are likely to have a lasting impact on a client's life well beyond whether they win or lose their case, our approach is more of a holistic one," he says. "We seek to situate clients on a path that will yield long-term benefits for them once we are no longer representing them."

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## THE MANDEL LAW FIRM

New York family lawyer Steven J. Mandel doesn't shy away from the spotlight or the high-profile case. He worked his way through college and law school as a professional singer and comedian. Mandel's confidence, quick wit, and persuasion skills have served him well on the stage and in the courtroom.

Founded in 1980, The Mandel Law Firm is based upon the philosophy of J.P. Morgan who said: "I don't want a lawyer to tell me what I cannot do. I hire him to tell me how to do what I want to do."

Steve is a faculty member of the New York College of Matrimonial Trial Attorneys and as such, prepares continuing education programs and teaches other lawyers how to practice law. Martindale-Hubbell® awarded him an AV Preeminent® rating, the "highest possible in both legal ability and ethical standards" and he received a perfect "10" rating from AVO for "peer recognition & client satisfaction."

Even with all the accolades he receives, Steve measures success by the thought-

*"I DON'T WANT A LAWYER TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN'T DO.  
I HIRE HIM TO TELL ME HOW TO DO WHAT I WANT TO DO."*

- J. P. MORGAN



From left: James Nemia, Madelyn Jaye, Steve Mandel, Julie Leckart, Eric Basterrechea, Donnesia Hall

ful "thank you cards" he receives from his satisfied clients. He's been described as "the Picasso of the legal profession" because his creativity is a proven factor in obtaining major settlements and courtroom victories. Steve has a proven ability to keenly assess each client's situation

and tailor an approach best suited to a successful outcome. For this reason, he has succeeded with what other lawyers might describe as "the un-winnable case" and why clients come to The Mandel Law Firm when losing for them is not an option.

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## SALTZMAN CHETKOF & ROSENBERG LLP

Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP is dedicated to providing our clients with the highest quality of representation designed to fulfill their needs assertively, yet with compassion. Our firm represents clients throughout the Long Island-New York City metropolitan area in a wide variety of family and matrimonial matters. Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP is listed among *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Lawyers" as a Tier I law firm in Family Law.

We pride ourselves on always being honest with our clients, and bring that same reputation for integrity into the courtroom. Our lawyers and staff are determined to obtain the maximum results whether by way of creative settlement or litigation, with a commitment to treat clients with compassion and respect—permitting our clients to leave the family law process with their dignity intact.

Partner Michael Chetkof, a well respected trial litigator, continues to be selected as a New York *Super Lawyer* in family law and is AV Preeminent® peer-reviewed by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest available for legal ability and ethics. Michael is also trained in Collaborative Law and serves as a Court Examiner in Guardianship matters. He is a member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section, and the Matrimonial Law Committees of the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations.

Partner, Lee Rosenberg, a trial and appellate attorney, is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. The immediate past-Chair of the Nassau County Bar Association Matrimonial Law Committee, Lee continues to be listed among Woodward-White's "Best Lawyers in America" and as a New York "Super Lawyer" in family law. Lee is a frequent lecturer and widely published author on many issues in matrimonial law whose published works have been cited by New York's trial and appellate courts. He is AV Preeminent® peer-rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and was also trained in divorce mediation.



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## ABRAMS, FENSTERMAN, FENSTERMAN, EISMAN, FORMATO, FERRARA & WOLF, LLP



Seated, from left: Steven J. Eisman, Samuel J. Ferrara  
Standing, from left: Christopher A. Renke, Andrea M. Brodie, Michael E. Ratner, Hilary F. Casper, Daniel H. Smith, Abbe C. Shapiro

Abrams Fensterman, a full-service law firm designed to address diverse legal issues across a broad range of practice areas, has established a preeminent matrimonial and family law group headed by two Fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers—executive partners Steven J. Eisman and Samuel J. Ferrara. The matrimonial and family law practice recently received a first tier ranking by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers 2014* for achieving professional excellence with impressive ratings by clients and peers.

Eisman, also included in *The Best Lawyers in America 2013* and *2014*, a veteran trial attorney, has been named in

*New York Super Lawyers* since 2008 and is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Ferrara, also named in *New York Super Lawyers* since 2008, has particular experience with contested custody and high net-worth cases and has been recognized as one of the “Top 10 Divorce Law Attorneys Age 45 & Under in Long Island” by *Ten Leaders*.

Michael E. Ratner, Daniel H. Smith, Andrea M. Brodie, and Christopher A. Renke have recently been selected by *Super Lawyers* as “Rising Stars.” Abbe C. Shapiro has extensive family law litigation experience, having practiced for the past 15 years exclusively in that area of

practice. Hilary F. Casper received the citation of Excellence in Family Law at Hofstra Law.

Both Eisman and Ferrara are frequent lecturers at law schools and bar associations on varying topics of interest to matrimonial and family law practitioners. Ferrara also teaches at the Hofstra University School of Law.

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LAW OFFICE OF  
**JEROME A. SCHAROFF**  
NY MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY LAW FIRM

Since Mr. Scharoff opened his own firm, he has emerged as one of the Metropolitan Area's leading independent matrimonial lawyers. Mr. Scharoff is well-liked and respected by Judges and Lawyers alike. Mr. Scharoff is a member of the Nassau Bar Association Matrimonial Committee and sits on the board of WE CARE, a charity arm of the Nassau Bar Association. Mr. Scharoff has handled complex cases in the areas of child custody, child support and maintenance/alimony. In addition, he routinely handles cases involving sophisticated equitable distribution issues such as business/license valuations and pension/retirement issues. Further, Mr. Scharoff regularly represents clients in post-divorce litigation as well as drafting complex pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements.

"Routinely I try to think outside the box to come up with the most constructive and cost-effective approach to litigation. I never want a client to spend more in legal fees than the dollar amount they are fighting over," Mr. Scharoff says. "However, there are some areas that you cannot put a price tag on, such as child custody matters. My goal is to assist all my clients through one of the most difficult times in their lives with strong, dedicated representation."

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**JAY R. BUTTERMAN**

Jay R. Butterman and Deborah B. Kahn lead the AV rated® firm of Butterman & Kahn, LLP, which has served New York for over two decades. This litigation boutique is recognized for its work in matrimonial and family law. Mr. Butterman has been lead counsel in trials concerning every aspect of matrimonial law, including complex distribution of assets, child custody, paternity and international matrimonial issues. Veteran of numerous well-publicized cases, he has served as a legal commentator in the national media, and as a consultant and lecturer to the legal community. Mr. Butterman also has strong expertise in commercial as well as art and publishing law, representing artists, writers, publishers and galleries internationally.

Mr. Butterman and Ms. Kahn cover the spectrum of family law, addressing not only negotiated and litigated divorce, custody and support matters, but also prenuptial and post-nuptial agreements. Ms. Kahn's expertise in real estate, as well as Mr. Butterman's knowledge of business and pensions, provide the firm's clients with experienced distribution of the most significant marital assets. In child custody matters, the firm is deeply experienced in crafting and concluding appropriate and humane resolution in difficult and emotionally charged matters, whether by agreement or through the courts.

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**AVA G. GUTFRIEND**



During stressful times in your personal life when you need a family lawyer, The Law Office of Ava G. Gutfriend, is the experienced, professional firm you will want to represent you. I am proud to have served the Bronx, and the rest of the five boroughs since 1989, and have provided countless clients with favorable resolutions to their family and divorce cases.

My vast additional experience includes matters of: Child Custody and Visitation, Domestic Violence, Paternity, Child Support, Adoption and Abuse/Neglect.

I believe that a successful resolution is only made possible through meticulous preparation and planning of each case – which is why I focus my practice with detailed, personal attention around each client's needs. I will meet with you to discuss your goals and help draft a personalized strategy for your case. I continually invest into furthering my legal knowledge through educational courses and training to stay abreast of New York's ever-changing laws.

Your initial consultation is always free.

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Founded in 1982, Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin, LLC is a well established family law firm in Connecticut with a team of exceptional attorneys who practice family law exclusively. We have litigated landmark cases and have testified and caused changes to important legislation impacting custody, child support, asset division and arbitration for divorces.

Our distinguished attorneys have published and lectured prolifically in the field of family law. Members of our firm have coauthored *Connecticut Family Law and Practice*, an essential resource for judges and family lawyers.

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## LAW OFFICES OF JAMES J. SEXTON, PC

### FAMILY AND MATRIMONIAL LAW

James J. Sexton is no stranger to high-pressure situations. For many years Sexton has trained and competed in combat sports, mixed martial arts and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in the U.S. and abroad, an activity that has perfected the divorce attorney's focus, competitive instincts and his ability to react quickly. "I pride myself on my ability to not only endure but excel in situations where most people feel pushed to the edge," he says. "If your case can be resolved fairly by negotiations and settlement, we can make it happen. But if the other side wants a fight, they're stepping in the ring with a fighter and one who never hits softly."

Sexton earned his Bachelors of Science in Psychology and his Master of Arts in Communication and Persuasion from New York University. While attending Fordham Law School, Sexton studied intensive trial advocacy under the guidance of former Federal Prosecutor Anthony J. Siano. As many of Sexton's Fordham classmates prepared to enter corporate law firms, he remained laser-focused on family law and founded the Law Offices of James J. Sexton in 2001.

"Even after over a decade of family law practice, I am still humbled by the trust people place in me, fighting for what is most important in their lives: their children and their financial security," he says.

The firm began with one computer and a part-time secretary, but it now includes two offices in New York (Manhattan & Rockland Counties) and one in New Jersey (Bergen County). Sexton and his hand picked team of Associate Attorneys, paralegals and support staff provide expertise in divorce filings, custody hearings, separation agreements, pre-nuptial agreements, and child support. "We are big enough to handle complex trials and high net-worth clients efficiently but small enough to maintain personal and responsive contact with each and every client," Sexton says.

Described by some as a "compassionate advocate" and others as a "courtroom gunslinger" Sexton's reputation as a skilled matrimonial litigator has spread quickly over the past decade. Constantly seeking to incorporate new technologies and perspectives into his firm's practice, Sexton was Certified as a Divorce Mediator in 2002 and in 2009 traveled to Atlanta to become Rockland County's first matrimonial attorney with



James J. Sexton

Stacie Grossman

national certification as a Parent Coordinator. When he's not advocating for his clients as they navigate the difficulties of divorce or child custody disputes, Sexton shows others how to do the same. He has taught undergraduate courses in law, ethics, conflict resolution, public speaking, and mass persuasion at several colleges including New York University and Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Sexton's many accomplishments in the fields of law and education have earned the respect of the New York law and business communities. The Rockland Economic Development council named Sexton to its "Forty Under Forty" list in 2002, and he has been selected as one of the "Ten Leaders in Matrimonial and Family Law" for the Rockland/Westches-

ter area for the past three years running. Juggling his many endeavors is exactly the kind of challenge Sexton craves.

"Whether I'm in a courtroom or at the negotiating table," Sexton says, "I think best on my feet, thrive under stressful conditions, and employ a highly disciplined, organized, and rapidly responsive approach to everything I do."

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— LAW OFFICES OF —

# Sari M. Friedman, P.C.

LONG ISLAND DIVORCE ATTORNEY

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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## ADRIA S. HILLMAN



Adria S. Hillman Family Law office concentrates on complex, multijurisdictional divorce, financial and custodial issues (including forensic evaluations, access calendars, mental health issues) for high net worth individuals.

Highly experienced in all forms of resolution from simple settlements to mediated, collaborated and litigated resolutions. Extensive experience in strategic analysis, trials, appeals, negotiations, settlement and document drafting. Works with knowledgeable and skilled business valuation experts on a wide range of industries, including hedge funds, private equity and other financial service sectors. Accessible, direct, responsive and judicious. Offices include experienced counsel and paralegals.

Ms. Hillman is AV Preeminent® Rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and has been designated a *Super Lawyer*. She is a Special Master, Civil Court, ADR Neutral, New York County Supreme Court.

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## BETTINA D. HINDIN



A dynamic family law practitioner, Bettina has the talent and experience to balance the tactical elements essential for courtroom success with the innovative settlement techniques vital to produce optimal results for her clients. An acknowledged expert in the field, and a partner in her firm, Bettina has appeared often as a commentator for MSNBC and CNN and has authored numerous articles for *The New York Law Journal*.

She is a sought after lecturer on family law issues, including prenuptial agreements, spousal support, and LGBT rights, and has been selected for inclusion in "New York Super Lawyers." Bettina has been appointed to the Executive Committee of the NYS Bar Association Family Law Section, has twice served on the Committee on Matrimonial Law of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and is a certified Law Guardian. Bettina provides clients with innovative and effective guidance at the most sophisticated level, and is recognized for her exceptional skills in the investigation, analysis, and resolution of the complex issues arising in high net worth domestic relations matters.

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From left: Erika C. Otocka, Gary I. Cohen, Annmarie P. Briones

## LAW OFFICES OF GARY I. COHEN, P.C.

"Our firm doesn't handle cases—it represents people with real families." At the Law Offices of Gary I. Cohen, Gary Cohen and his staff of two associate attorneys devote themselves to the entire range of problems and issues that stem from the divorce process. Long selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*\*, Cohen is known as much for his compassion for his clients and adversaries as he is his legal acuity, and this is a personal quality that is shared by every member of the firm.

He is a past president of the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association and the Connecticut chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, as well as one of only 100 diplomates of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers. Though his courtroom skills and his ability in examining and cross-examining adverse witnesses and experts is a much celebrated facet of his expertise, it is his humanistic approach to the often complex and highly personal matters surrounding divorce that has defined his reputation. Litigation prowess aside, Cohen considers trial to be a last resort, preferring to seek to preserve the relationships and assets involved with a good faith negotiation based on an in-depth understanding of the issues involved. "The ideal settlement in a divorce case is a win-win, but you really need to take the time and trouble to understand the dynamics of a particular family, instead of trying to fit all clients into a preconceived mold of what's right," he says.

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\*selection process for *Best Lawyers in America* can be found at [www.bestlawyers.com/about/MethodologyCT.aspx](http://www.bestlawyers.com/about/MethodologyCT.aspx)

## SNYDER & SARNO, LLC

For Snyder & Sarno, catering to the comfort and needs of each family the firm represents is paramount. Whether they're dealing with complex family and matrimonial law matters, medical malpractice, or personal injury claims, the New Jersey firm's 15 attorneys use their comprehensive knowledge and experience to help resolve their clients' issues as swiftly and smoothly as possible.

And their dedication to clients and practice does not go unrecognized. Founding partners Angelo Sarno and Edward S. Snyder have been selected as members of New Jersey's *Super Lawyers* every year since the list was originated in 2005.

"This year brings with it a number of important developments in the evolution of the firm," Sarno says. "In addition to two new practice areas—complex tort/medical malpractice and estate and trusts—the firm also welcomed Eliot Goldstein (of counsel) and Paul da Costa (partner) to our Somerville and Roseland offices."

To serve the needs of its expanding client base, the firm recently opened its third location. The new Bergen County office is located in the prestigious Court Plaza Building, opposite the Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack.

The addition of two new associates, Laura Quinta Gencarelli and Ruth Kim, brings depth to meet the firm's growing presence, explains Partner Joseph Maceri, who manages the Bergen County office, says: "Our firm will continue to build on its excellent northern New Jersey reputation as we further develop into a full-service practice."



From left: Ruth Kim, Scott D. Danaher, Rawan Hmoud, Joseph V. Maceri, Stacey A. Cozewith, Hon. Thomas P. Zampino (Ret.), Of Counsel, Angelo Sarno, Edward S. Snyder, Paul M. da Costa, Eliot Goldstein, Of Counsel, Laura Quinta Gencarelli, Jill D. Turkish, Ashley R. Vallillo  
Insets, from left: John J. Trombadore, Of Counsel, Neil Braun, Of Counsel

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# STEIN RISO MANTEL McDONOUGH, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



ALLAN D. MANTEL



KEVIN M. MCDONOUGH

## Committed to Excellence

FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS, AAML Fellows and partners, **Allan D. Mantel and Kevin M. McDonough** have worked as a team, representing many of NYC's most prominent and financially sophisticated clients in their sensitive divorce and prenuptial agreement matters. When necessary they are able to draw on the firm's sophisticated expertise of tax partner, Dennis Stein, and commercial litigator partner, Gerard Riso, to provide comprehensive and total in-house representation, regardless of the matter's breadth or complexity. Most often the firm's matrimonial clients obtain effective settlements without resorting to litigation due to the reputation and superior negotiation skills of Mantel and McDonough. Mr. Mantel is past President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (New York); has been awarded an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell® (20 years); and recognized by NYC Ten Leaders and the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Mantel and McDonough both also have been selected by *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Super Lawyers*.

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## MONA R. MILLSTEIN, ESQ.



Law Offices of Mona R. Millstein specializes in matrimonial and family law, including skillfully strategizing, negotiating and drafting agreements resolving division of assets, support and custody/access issues, and expertly litigating matrimonial/family court proceedings through trial. Ms. Millstein, initially trained in commercial litigation, combines her litigation expertise with her commitment to help clients reach comprehensive, fair and cost-effective negotiated resolutions in matrimonial matters. The Millstein firm thus affords clients compassionate, responsive and successful settlement strategies toward amicable resolutions, and, when necessary, committed, skillful, and effective courtroom advocacy. Ms. Millstein works with accomplished financial forensic experts in the analysis and valuation of a wide-array of business interests and complex financial issues, as well as experienced mental health professionals and child advocates fostering custody resolutions in children's best interests. Ms. Millstein is and has been Martindale-Hubbell® AV Pre-eminent® Rated and active in numerous bar and other associations related to matrimonial law and practice.

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# The Kitson Law Firm, LLP

LAWYERS & COUNSELORS WHO CARE

The Kitson Law Firm, LLP devotes its practice to providing clients with skilled and innovative representation across the spectrum of family law matters including divorce, custody, child support, spousal support (alimony), domestic violence, property distribution and pre- and post nuptial agreements.

With over 65 years of collective experience and knowledge, we are uniquely situated to provide our clients with the advice and counsel necessary to navigate the emotionally difficult, and often financially uncertain, legal process in the most expedient and least stressful manner.

We work with forensic accounting experts to skillfully analyze financial information and aggressively pursue property distribution claims in high net worth cases involving complex business, investment and real estate interests.

We work with mental health professionals and substance abuse experts to formulate plans to promote the wellbeing of the client and family when issues of custody, addiction or domestic violence are involved.

The Kitson Law Firm, LLP is mindful of each family's unique needs, circumstances and goals. We have attorneys trained in Collaborative Law, Arbitration and Mediation. Negotiated resolutions are always preferable, however, our skill and experience enable us, whenever necessary, to undertake litigation at all levels, including in the most complex and contentious cases.



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## PHILIP S. MILONE



Philip S. Milone has been practicing Matrimonial and Family Law for more than 30 years in all of New York City, Nassau and Suffolk. Milone handles each client as his only one, giving you his total dedication and attention. He understands the emotional upheaval you are suffering. He has been involved in every type of case including the extremely high-conflict case where every issue is litigated. He handles interstate and international custody cases. Milone handled and prevailed in high profile cases including the first paternity case that used the DNA of a deceased father to prove paternity; he handled and prevailed in the first international custody cases under the international treaty between the U.S.A. and Israel. He has been a member of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. Milone has also been a lecturer in the Parent Education And Custody Effectiveness (PEACE) program. He has lectured on Custody at the Queens Bar Association. Meet with Philip S. Milone to discuss your case and you will see how his experience and understanding of your situation can benefit you and your children.

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## ELLEN B. HOLTZMAN

### A Leader in Matrimonial and Family Law

ELLEN B. HOLTZMAN is known and respected statewide as one of the leading family law and matrimonial attorneys in New York. Ellen's clients benefit from her more than 30 years of successful experience in the full range of matrimonial and family law matters, from pre-nuptial agreements to paternity actions, from separation to divorce, from parental access to post-judgment enforcement, and from stepparent adoptions to asset distribution. The firm is known for its strength in even the most difficult and complex cases, such as interstate child custody matters, cases involving domestic violence, juvenile issues, and parental kidnapping. Ellen has a record of results in litigation, and, together

with Meryl Neuren, her associate, is known for particular expertise in appellate matters. The firm has prevailed in a number of family and matrimonial law matters that have set legal precedents in New York. However, Ellen's cases are not confined to high-conflict matters! Most cases do not end up going to trial, and Ellen advises clients that trials are not only costly, but that they greatly increase the acrimony between the parties. While Ellen is a master of traditional negotiation, she is always prepared to go to trial if it is necessary. She and Ms. Neuren are also experienced in the increasingly popular collaborative law divorce process, for couples who agree to divorce without litigation. Ellen Holtzman is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, and currently serves as a Commissioner on the New York State Legislative Ethics Commission.

**ELLEN B. HOLTZMAN** 101 North Middletown Road, Nanuet, NY 10954 **845-627-0127** [rocklandfamilylaw.com](http://rocklandfamilylaw.com)

## DAVIDOFF HUTCHER & CITRON LLP

Leslie Barbara and Malcolm Taub are veteran divorce lawyers with extensive life experience in matrimonial and family law. "We feel that not only do we have extensive expertise in this area of law, but also have a level of compassion that helps us empathize with our client," Taub says.

Barbara and Taub lead the matrimonial and family law department at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron LLP, which has expanded to seven attorneys since its inception. Recently, Robert Lewis, Taub's Associate for more than a decade, has been named a Partner of the firm. Now with more than 100 years of collective experience, this team can support significant matrimonial matters involving complex interests. "We're part of a full-service law firm so it's extraordinarily beneficial to the client that we can walk down the hall and leverage the expertise of people who practice in multi-faceted areas of the law such as tax, real estate, or corporate law," Barbara notes.

The firm has developed a reputation for handling the most sophisticated matters. Indeed, Barbara and Taub have represented a number of high-profile and high-net-worth individuals, including celebrities, professional athletes, restaurateurs, chief executive officers, and their spouses. Still, Taub emphasizes: "We're attentive and caring with all of our clients, regardless of



Seated, from left: Leslie F. Barbara, Esq., Malcolm S. Taub, Esq., Robert J. Lewis, Esq.  
Standing, from left: Dianna Maria, Josephine Vitiello, Adam D. Citron, Esq., Eve Helitzer, Esq., Lysette Rivera, Magaly Brazoban

how high-profile they are."

Taub, who has been named in New York *Super Lawyers*, has served as an adjunct professor at various universities and is on the board of trustees for two schools that educate learning disabled children. Barbara, meanwhile, has worked on international custody abduction cases and volunteers for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "The most important thing that we do is to minimize the impact of divorce on the family and the children," Barbara explains. "We're parents first."

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**SCHONFELD & GOLDRING, LLP**



The law offices of SCHONFELD & GOLDRING, LLP is a widely respected boutique law firm consisting of highly skilled divorce, matrimonial and family law attorneys. All of the attorneys at S&G possess a keen understanding of the complexity of the divorce process, along with the issues associated with high-net-worth cases, business valuations, out-of-state custody proceedings, parental access, grandparents visitation and prenuptial agreements.

Esther Schonfeld (pictured) and Aliza Goldring, the founding partners of S&G, have specialized experience in all aspects of the divorce processes from litigation and appeals to mediation and collaborative law. S&G also frequently appears in Rabbinical Courts litigating contested matrimonial actions, and has extensive experience with the "Get Law."

"We treat each and every client with a high level of respect and compassion. We strive to get them through very challenging times in their lives with emphasis on maintaining as much financial and emotional stability as possible," says Esther.

S&G has a supportive, professional and specialized legal team dedicated to achieving the client's goal.

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**PATRICIA A. SOKOLICH, ESQ.**



Patricia A Sokolich, Esq. has been admitted to the Bar of the State of New York since 1994, and is admitted to practice before the Federal Courts in the Eastern District of New York, and Supreme Court of the United States.

Patricia is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers, the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, New York State Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association and is a Barrister with the New York Family Law American Inn of Court, which focuses on Matrimonial and Family Law.

Patricia was appointed to the Second Department's Attorney for the Children Panel and has been an active member for over 20 years. Patricia is also a trained Divorce and Family Mediator. Since her admission to the New York State Bar, Patricia has specialized in the field of Matrimonial and Family Law. Pat is personally involved with her clients, from start to finish.

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**DEBORAH HOPE WAYNE, ESQ.**



*Transforming How People Resolve Conflict*

Deborah Hope Wayne is a collaborative lawyer and mediator serving New York City and Westchester County. As a strong advocate with over 20 years' experience in family and matrimonial law and principled negotiations, Deborah is dedicated to helping people resolve conflict without court intervention. She guides clients through the complex dynamics of prenuptial agreements, separation, divorce and other family law issues by using an understanding-based approach that stresses cooperation and respect. As an experienced mediator, she uses strategies that encourage good-faith problem-solving, ensuring that both parties are heard and all needs are addressed.

Ms. Wayne is a founding member of the Academy of Professional Family Mediators and is a member of the New York State Council for Divorce Mediation. She is on the Board of the New York Association of Collaborative Professionals and is Co-Chairperson of the Training Committee. She co-developed one of the first law school programs on collaborative law in the country and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Collaborative Law at Pace University School of Law.

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**"FAMILY LAW IS A UNIQUE AREA OF LAW. WE DEAL WITH MATTERS OF THE HEART."**

*THIS IS SHAH'S GUIDING PRINCIPLE.*

After years as a prosecutor for the Administration for Children Services and an Assistant Corporation Counsel with the New York City Law Department, he established his own firm specializing in child custody, child support, and matrimonial law.

Settlements outside of Court are the best alternative for both parties. A lengthy trial should be your last resort. Shah uses his negotiation skills to seek fair settlements for his clients. "The attorney-client relationship is important to me. Each client should feel like we are working on the case together, in a partnership," says Shah. Every case is unique and deserves personalized attention.

If Court proceedings are unavoidable, clients should be confident with the representation they receive. There is no substitute for experience. Shah is a seasoned litigator who will advocate zealously for his clients' rights. He is a fixture in Family and Supreme Courts, familiar with the people and the process involved.

Shah is currently an Adjunct Professor at Long Island University, Brooklyn, where he teaches a course in Family Law to graduate students in the field of mental health treatment. "I believe in the importance of being innovative and well-informed, which is why I find teaching an invaluable experience," says Shah. Through regularly organized guest lectures and receptions, Shah provides his students with different perspectives and experiences from respected professionals in the area of Family Law. He views the intersection between the law and the mental health profession as key. "The legal process is much more than a resolution to a problem, it is about ensuring the wholesome well-being of the people involved."

Shah continues to enrich his expertise in the area of family law as a member of the Children and Law committee with the New York City Bar Association, as well as a part of numerous advisory committees in the New York City Family Court. His active involvement in the community extends through his appointment to Community Board #12-Manhattan and as a member of the Board of Directors to the ACACIA Network, a community based group that provides social services to diverse neighborhoods.



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## CHEMTOB MOSS & FORMAN, LLP

Chemtob Moss & Forman, LLP is a vibrant, aggressive boutique matrimonial and family law firm located in midtown Manhattan. The firm, which concentrates its practice in divorce litigation, custody litigation, prenuptial agreements, separation agreements, paternity issues, post-judgment litigation, and visitation disputes, has quickly become one of the largest matrimonial law firms in New York City.

The firm was founded in 2002 by a group of rising stars in matrimonial law who had previously practiced at large corporate firms. Their experience in overseeing intricate financial issues has proven invaluable in cases that involve complicated marital estates. Over the years, the firm's diligent attorneys have striven to reduce the stress of the legal process for clients by providing skilled and passionate advocacy. Together they have handled the splits of high-profile Hollywood players, hedge fund managers and business owners. They also provided representation for one of the first divorces of a same-sex couple in New York. Partner Nancy Chemtob says of the firm's attorneys: "We are all in our



From left: Alexis Wolf, Joshua Forman, Marcy Katz, Jeremy Bethel, Mudita Chawla, Michael Beyda, Nancy Chemtob, Andrew Eliot, Susan Moss  
Not pictured: Charlotte Morgan

professional prime—we are young and open enough to recognize creative new solutions, while having a great deal of energy and love for what we do."

The firm's attorneys successfully guide clients through what are often emotionally charged disputes by immediately identifying a client's goals and mapping out a comprehensive strategy to achieve them. While the firm believes that thoroughly negotiated settlements are generally in a client's best interest, they are known for providing

aggressive and effective representation at all trial and appellate levels. "If a case cannot settle," says partner Sue Moss, "our client can be assured that we have the experience and intelligence to achieve their goals in the courtroom."

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## NATASHA MEYERS, ESQ. THE MEYERS LAW GROUP, PC.

The Meyers Law Group, PC, is a boutique firm located in Huntington, New York, concentrating in divorce and all family law matters in Suffolk County, Nassau County, Queens and New York City.

It is no secret why so many lawyers refer their matrimonial and family law matters to Natasha Meyers, Esq. - her firm works one-on-one with the clients in order to achieve successful results. Natasha Meyers' goal is to achieve those results through dedication, individual attention, and by providing the highest standard of legal representation.

Natasha Meyers is recognized as a talented litigator and a skilled negotiator representing entrepreneurs and professionals involved in high-net-worth divorces, complex property distribution matters, as well as contested child custody proceedings. "Handling a contested divorce or a child custody matter requires skill, experience, and being resolution-oriented," she says. "In my practice, I see great people at their worst. My role is to counsel my clients on the law, listen to their specific needs, and bring their

matter to a prompt resolution by avoiding unnecessary acrimony at a time when emotions can get the best of people."

Natasha Meyers provides every client with the highest standard of legal care and individual attention, tailored to meet their specific needs. Ms. Meyers has litigated hundreds of contentious divorce and custody cases which require strong trial and advocacy skills in the courtroom and she has settled many more cases outside the courtroom.

Natasha Meyers is a member of the Suffolk County Bar Association, Nassau Bar Association, Suffolk County Women's Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, American Trial Lawyers Association of America, a member of and trustee for the Huntington Lawyers Club, and a member of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers. She also participates in the St. Patrick's legal program in Huntington, which provides free legal services to the indigent, and is a certified divorce mediator.

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Natasha Meyers

**SOK** *SCHLISSEL OSTROW*  
*KARABATOS, PLLC*  
LAW

*EXCELLENCE. INTEGRITY. CREATIVITY.*



Front, from left: Stephen W. Schlissel\*<sup>o</sup>, Elena Karabatos\*, Michael J. Ostrow \*<sup>o</sup> Back, from left: Hillary Reinhartz, Lisa R. Schoenfeld, Neil S. Cohen, Joseph A. DeMarco, Jennifer Rosenkrantz, Jeanine M. Elbaz

**Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC Celebrates:**

- Stephen W. Schlissel's being named recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Service Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the Nassau County Bar Association ("NCBA")
- Elena Karabatos' election as President-Elect of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers
- Stephen W. Schlissel's appointment to the Independent Judicial Election Qualifications Commission for the 10th Judicial District (Nassau & Suffolk Counties)
- Elena Karabatos' election as Secretary of the NCBA
- The continued inclusion of three of its lawyers in:
  - The Best Lawyers in America*
  - New York Super Lawyers*
  - Ten Leaders, Matrimonial & Divorce Law of Long Island
- Partner Joseph A. DeMarco's selection as a *Super Lawyers Rising Star*
- Elena Karabatos again being selected to the *Who's Who in Women in Professional Services*
- Continuation of two of its partners as Diplomates of the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, whose membership is limited to 100 lawyers nationally
- Lisa R. Schoenfeld's selections to New York Rising Stars 2013 list and Chair of the Young Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association
- Jennifer Rosenkrantz' appointment as first vice chair of the Nassau County Bar Association's Matrimonial and Family Law Committee

SOK lawyers' years of experience places the firm in a unique position to deal with the complicated tax, accounting and business issues involved in addressing the valuation of businesses, real estate, professional practices and other marital assets and holdings, as well as the complicated issues presented in custody, parental access or support matters. Although experienced trial lawyers, SOK also addresses issues by alternative resolution methods, including negotiation, mediation, arbitration and collaborative law.

\*Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

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SETTING THE STANDARDS IN FAMILY LAW.