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The Law Offices of Anthony A. Capetola



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Silberstein, Awad & Miklos, PC

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When it comes to high-stakes litigation, preeminent trial lawyer Benedict Morelli is in rare company. With a continuous stream of precedent-setting, multimillion-dollar verdicts – across a wide array of practice areas – Morelli continues to assert himself as a power litigator in cases ranging from workplace sexual harassment to catastrophic personal injury to defective drugs and medical devices. He has represented numerous high-profile clients including Tracy Morgan, tennis star Eugenie Bouchard, and Andrea Mackris, a former Fox producer who sued Bill O'Reilly for sexual harassment.

"The diversity in our practice is unique for a firm of our size," Morelli says. "We're not a run-of-the-mill firm where we do the same medical malpractice cases and the same personal injury cases—many of the matters that come to us are high-value, prominent cases, and that's because we offer the expertise and experience of a larger law firm in a smaller environment where each case receives our full attention."

Among his most high-profile results, Morelli achieved a landmark, confidential settlement with Wal-Mart on behalf of Tracy Morgan and five other plaintiffs in the accident that was secured in just 10 months, with Wal-Mart taking full responsibility for its truck hitting Morgan's limousine. He also secured a \$40 million medical malpractice verdict that was featured in the National Law Journal as one of the top 10 verdicts in the United States. In 2010, as counsel in a polio vaccine case in Staten Island, he secured a \$22.5 million verdict that remains the largest vaccine verdict in U.S. history. And, in 2011, Morelli obtained a \$95 million verdict in a sexual harassment trial in the Southern District of Illinois Federal Court, which stands as the largest

single-plaintiff sexual harassment verdict in U.S. history.

Most recently, Morelli secured a \$62 million verdict for a 26-year-old construction worker who was injured on the job after falling 20 feet from a roof. The result, which followed a six-month trial, is believed to be the largest personal injury verdict for a single plaintiff in the history of the Queens County Supreme Court. Morelli's other settlements, which are often confidential, have also been record breaking, both in terms of their sizeable amounts and speedy resolutions.

Morelli played a leading role in the May 2015 Amtrak train derailment litigation, in which he was appointed by the federal judge in charge of the entire litigation to serve on the Plaintiff's Management Committee. He was integral in getting the federal damages cap raised and settling the case for \$265 million, which was the largest railroad accident settlement in U.S. history. Morelli and his firm have also been involved in many large-scale pharmaceutical cases—often in a leadership capacity—including suits against the manufacturers of Vioxx, Avandia, Bextra, IVC filter and talcum powder. He currently represents more than 1,000 women in cases against Johnson & Johnson alleging that their use of the company's talcum powder caused them ovarian cancer.

"I've been trying cases for years now, and I've never been afraid of going up against powerful opponents," says Morelli, who is also a past president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and a long-time AV Preeminent® rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell®. "By standing up for the little guy

we've been able to secure more than \$1 billion in verdicts and settlements for our clients, and those numbers only continue to grow."

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The Law Offices of Anthony A. Capetola

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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 44 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 Carltun, 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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Over the past 35 years, the trial lawyers and appellate advocates of Silberstein, Awad & Miklos have built one of New York's leading personal injury firms on the trust that the people—jurors—will always get it right. "If we were to sum up our approach to the practice of law, it might be, 'Let the people decide,'" says partner Joseph Awad. "Our clients' lawsuits share the safety concerns of our juries, and much of the success we've found in our practice has stemmed from our ability to show jurors the community's interest in our clients' causes."

Indeed, Silberstein, Awad & Miklos has successfully prosecuted thousands of serious personal injury and medical malpractice cases, recovering more than \$1 billion for its clients, including many recordsetting verdicts. The firm has also appeared before appellate courts more than 100 times to argue matters of law.

"One of the questions that is sometimes asked about these cases is what good will the money do," says partner Joseph Miklos. "And it's very rewarding to be able to point to the countless examples of people who suffered malpractice or other negligent wrongdoing, but now, as a result of the compensation we secured for their injuries, live fuller lives than they once thought possible."

Experience Counts

Silberstein, Awad & Miklos handles the full range of medical malpractice, construction accident, and personal injury matters; and it is this breadth of experience that truly sets the firm apart from

others in New York. "Experience counts," observes Awad, who was recently voted as Long Island Pulse magazine's top personal injury attorney. "I can't think of a medical malpractice or personal injury claim that we haven't encountered over the years, and that provides our present and future clients with a solid foundation for success on each new matter."

Given their credibility in the legal and medical communities, Awad and Miklos are consistently AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®—the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards—as well as listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers. The law firm is also ranked Tier 1 by U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" in New York City for plaintiffs' medical malpractice law and personal injury litigation—a ranking that reflects the comprehensive expertise of the firm's team, which in addition to accomplished trial attorneys includes an attorney-nurse, an attorney-pharmacist, an inhouse board certified physician, and a registered nurse.

"We know who to talk to, where to find the answers, and what steps are necessary for success," Miklos says of this group. "Not only do we have access to some of the finest medical minds to evaluate personal injury and medical malpractice cases, but we also work with experts in economics, engineering, and vocational rehabilitation."

Challenging the Status Quo

With its four-decades-long experience in medical malpractice, Silberstein, Awad & Miklos has served as a staunch advocate for

improvements in medical care, helping to improve quality control in hospitals. "When hospitals minimize the importance of patient safety, the consequences can be fatal," Awad says. "Statistics bear that out. Statistics confirm that many hospitals lack not only the safeguards for preventing medical errors, but also the mechanisms for reporting and addressing mistakes when they happen. We hope our jury verdicts, which reveal medical errors, prevent future patients from being harmed."

A recent study published by researchers at Johns Hopkins Medicine highlighted how shortcomings in tracking medical errors can hinder research on the issue. Even more troubling, the study estimated that more than 250,000 Americans die each year from medical errors—a number that would make medical errors the third leading cause of death in the United States, behind only heart disease and cancer on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official list.

"Careless practices impact everyone's safety," Miklos notes. "By requiring entities to defend their negligent conduct and make critical improvements, our clients' cases have become part of a tradition in which private lawsuits brought by individual citizens have improved the safety and quality of life of the community."

Driving Change

Though they are now leaders in their field, Awad and Miklos both come from unassuming beginnings (Awad grew up in a blue-

collar family and Miklos hails from the South Bronx). And these backgrounds have inspired them to give back to their profession and community.

Awad, for example, previously served as a governor of the American Association for Justice, a president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, and a member of the New York State Governor's Medical Liability Task Force. Miklos, meanwhile, is a past president of NYSTLA's Long Island Affiliate and serves on its Board of Directors. Their firm's community efforts include promoting jury service and voter registration, sponsoring afterschool programs for children, and providing pro bono legal seminars in neighborhoods throughout the area.

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Leaders In The Law presents New York's Leading Lawyers, a special section that features exceptional lawyers practicing in the tri-state area. Choosing the right lawyer, for any legal issue, is a daunting but vitally important task. That's why we have compiled this directory of New York's preeminent lawyers. As a New York magazine reader, you expect to get the best information and advice about how to navigate the city. You'll get the same from us when it comes to New York's legal industry. We invite you to use this Leading Lawyers section as a resource to help eliminate the guesswork when selecting legal counsel.

To further enhance your results please use our online site, which you can access by scrolling to the bottom of the front page of nymag. com. Or visit us directly at leadersinthelaw.com, where you will find our lawyer directory and lots of other helpful resources.

We'd love to hear from you, so please send your thoughts to me at: kevin@leadersinthelaw.com.

Sincerely,



Kevin Vermeulen CEO, Leaders In The Law

Bart M. Schwartz

Bart M. Schwartz

Corporate Investigations, Regulatory Compliance, White-Collar Crime

Over a career spanning four decades, Bart Schwartz has helped pioneer the field of investigative consulting, having served as an independent monitor to a variety of Fortune 500 companies.

"Typically, the companies I monitor are either under investigation or they've been indicted, so it's my job to carve out a middle ground that's focused on resolving issues while remaining vigilant for any misconduct," he says.

Schwartz began his career as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. He entered private practice in 1977 and returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office when Rudolph Giuliani became U.S. Attorney and asked him to serve as Chief of the Criminal Division in the SDNY. He drew on this prosecutorial experience to provide sophisticated investigative services.

Among his accomplishments, Schwartz, as a receiver for Ariel Fund and Gabriel Capital, helped the funds' investors recover returns lost to Bernard L. Madoff's Ponzi scheme. He also oversaw the United Arab Emirates' compliance in repatriating and compensating boys trafficked into the country to serve as camel jockeys—an issue Schwartz continues to address through pro bono efforts against human trafficking.

Currently, Schwartz is chairman of the investigations, compliance, and security firm, Guidepost Solutions LLC. He serves as a receiver for Platinum Partners, a hedge fund involved in a municipal union kickback scandal, and he was named the independent monitor of General Motors following a criminal investigation of faulty ignition switches in GM vehicles.

"My goal is to present constructive solutions that are forward looking and sustainable," Schwartz says of his process. "I'm always striving to have a positive influence on a company's culture."

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Gregory Antollino, Esq.

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Proudly tilting the scales of justice towards citizens since 1993.

I practice employment law for employees, civil rights for victims and mediate disputes for anyone willing to talk.











I've been practicing since 1994. I believe the law is an art. If a science, it is completely imprecise and unpredictable. I take risks; I like cases with unanswered questions. J'adore aussi the art of the trial and oral argument: addressing jurors and judges. But some cases are simple and can reasonably settle. Here are some of my victories:

- Retaliation Case: \$900,000, 2015;
- Race Discrimination: \$250,000 settlement 2017; \$240,000 verdict, 2005;
- Sexual Orientation Discrimination: Excited, honored and thrilled to argue to 13 judges of the En Banc Court of Appeals for the U.S., 2d Circuit, 2017: Is sexual orientation discrimination covered by federal law? Wish me luck!
- Disability Discrimination: \$6,000,000 jury verdict; in another, \$450,000;
- Criminal Procedure: People v. Coppez, 7-0 decision, New York Court of Appeals (video: www.antollino.com/victories)



Pepe helping me at work, 2012

All of these mentions mean something, but hire an attorney with an ability to communicate how you've suffered. I'm a writer and a debater: How do I know I understand your suffering, or whether it's enough for a lawsuit? I don't, but know it when I see it. You'll like me or hate me. The law is an art, after all, not a science.

> Gregory Antollino, Esq. www.antollino.com 275 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10001 (212)3347397

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Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton, P.C.

Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law

Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton, P.C. and its predecessors have been at the forefront of protecting property owners' constitutional rights in eminent domain proceedings since 1923. It is the only law firm in the state of New York that limits its practice to eminent domain law.

"Eminent domain represents a drastic operation of the law," notes partner Michael Rikon, the New York State-designated attorney for the Owners Counsel of America, a national network of experienced eminent domain lawyers. "You only get one opportunity to litigate these cases; and because of that, they required tremendous vigilance by a knowledgeable, trialexperienced attorney," he adds.

By limiting their practice to eminent domain law, the attorneys at Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton have become authorities

in this area of the law, securing significant awards for their clients. For example, Jonathan M. Houghton recovered a \$68 million award for CSX Railroad in the Appellate Division. Michael Rikon recovered an award in excess of \$47 million for the taking of self-storage facilities in the eminent domain proceeding relating to the expansion of Columbia University.

The partners of Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton frequently lecture and write articles on eminent domain law. Michael Rikon has authored a column in the New York Law Journal for the past 26 years.

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Ganfer & Shore, LLP

Commercial Litigation, Real Estate, Securities Litigation

Small in size but not in stature, Manhattan-based Ganfer & Shore, LLP is a dominant force in commercial litigation and real estate law.

When a high-profile securities investor defrauded countless corporations on Wall Street, Ganfer & Shore attorneys took a different approach from other litigators. Rather than suing the investor, as the other 49 plaintiffs' attorneys did, the Ganfer & Shore team sued one of his family members instead. "We collected 100 cents on the dollar, and no one else did," says Managing Partner Steven Shore. "We look for creative ways to attack problems in order to get results for our clients."

The firm has a wide-ranging commercial litigation practice that includes representation of major financial institutions, real estate developers, retailers, and parties involved in complex title insurance disputes and other commercial enterprises.

Ganfer & Shore also has a sophisticated real estate transactional

practice. Partner Steven Ganfer explains, "We are counsel and special counsel to large institutions and major law firms, and we're one of the best-known firms in the City in cooperative and condominium law." Adds partner Matthew J. Leeds, "The real estate group routinely advises clients in the conveyance, leasing and financing of properties, and is frequently involved in the transfer of hundreds of 'unsold' apartment units and in the purchase and sale of retail and office buildings and high-end residences."

Ganfer & Shore attorneys are known for their experience and high-quality client representation. These traits, coupled with reasonable

hourly rates and efficient case staffing, are what clients deserve.



Seated, from left: Sandra L. Jacobus, Steven J. Shore, Steven R. Ganfer, Margery N. Weinstein Standing, from left: Justin Bonanno, William D. McCracken, Matthew J. Leeds, Ira Brad Matetsky. Mark A. Berman

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By assembling an all-star team of highly skilled legal talent, Levoritz Law Group has taken a holistic approach to a wide range of legal issues—civil, criminal, business, matrimonial, and appellate law, as well as bankruptcy, immigration, and estate planning/elder law matters.

"We've put together a knowledgeable team of specialists to give our clients a high level of expertise on any issue that may come up in a case," says Yonatan Levoritz, the firm's founder. "By pooling our skills and looking at the bigger picture, we've been able to tackle even the most complex and high-profile cases."

Levoritz has experience in several areas, including business and civil law and appeals, and he has long specialized in matrimonial and family law. In fact, he handled his first custody case as a third-year law student working under a student practice order. He also drafted several appeals—some of which made case law—well before he graduated.

During those early years, Levoritz was heavily influenced by the lawyers he worked with in family and matrimonial law. He notes that they often took a holistic approach to their matrimonial cases, and that they themselves handled matters with trusts and estates, asset protection, and criminal issues. Indeed, rather than referring clients elsewhere, they used their knowledge of a client's case to better manage various related issues.

When Levoritz established his own firm soon after law school, he modeled his practice on this holistic approach. "Starting out, the jobs that were available to young lawyers pigeon-holed them into certain aspects of the process," Levoritz recalls. "You couldn't see the big

picture; the job was always about examining one piece of a case, and then putting the case together like it's on a conveyor belt."

Levoritz promised himself that he would do things differently from other firms. And so, the Levoritz Law Group's eight attorneys have leveraged their combined knowledge and experience to help clients. By working together, the team brings the same high level of personal attention and dedication to each case, no matter its size.

"Many lawyers warn not to make your cases personal," says Levoritz, who is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. "But we're fighting for people. So while it's important to be objective, it's just as important to empathize with the challenges our clients are facing."



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Mass Tort Litigation and Class Action Defense

When Fortune 100 companies face legal challenges in the areas of mass tort, product or premises liability and commercial litigation, they turn to Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP (DEYB). Name partner Craig Blau recently noted that the boutique firm excels in its ability to provide expertise in complex areas while providing individualized attention to clients.

"We've become a 'go-to' firm in asbestos defense litigation," said Blau. "Our leadership spent years developing and honing legal skills at top law firms, and we bring this 'big firm' experience to every facet of our practice. We have particular expertise in mass tort litigation at national, regional and local levels."

Locally, the firm serves as New York City Defense Liaison Counsel, where it coordinates asbestos litigation in New York City for dozens of law firms and hundreds of companies. Its successes in this role, among several others, have led to annual, nationwide recognitions by Best Lawyers, Best Law Firms and Super Lawyers. In July 2016, the firm was named the nation's best litigation boutique by Wealth & Finance International. The firm was also recently profiled in Forbes for the third time as a mass tort leader.

Indeed, DEYB's prestige in these litigation defense areas has attracted new talent; the firm has doubled in size to almost 50 employees including 21 lawyers — since its formation in 2011.

Whether through litigation, negotiation or trial, DEYB finds practical solutions for the legal issues businesses face involving asbestos, benzene, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, Chinese drywall, dietary supplements, cell phones and more.

"This is a difficult field but we're always prepared for the challenge," he said. "The four founding partners worked for many years at large international law firms before starting the firm, and we collectively have more than 100 years of mass tort litigation experience."

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Gary A. Zucker & Associates

Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Verdicts & Settlements

Over the past four decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys in New

Mr. Zucker has been given an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization's highest rating for professional excellence, based on voting by his peers. In addition, Mr. Zucker has been selected to the 2015 and 2016 editions of New York Super Lawyers and the New York Law Journal Motor Vehicle Verdicts and Settlements Hall of Fame.

Mr. Zucker handles cases in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in the surrounding counties. The firm has a track record of consistent success in wrongful death, medical malpractice, and personal injury cases, including those involving automobile accidents, premises liability, defective products and construction accidents.

Among its significant recoveries, the firm obtained a verdict of \$10.5 million for a child who suffered severe brain

injury due to obstetrical malpractice. It also secured a \$6 million settlement for the death of a 32-year-old married plumber, which was the largest reported settlement in New York in 2014 for injury or death suffered by a passenger in a motor vehicle accident.

> 186 Joralemon Street, Suite 1010, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Ph: 718.624.1211 | Fx:718.624.6037 contact@gazassociates.com | www.gazassociates.com



Since its founding more than 15 years ago, Hach & Rose has distinguished itself as one of New York's preeminent personal injury law firms. Founded on the simple principles of always placing the client's needs first and aggressively pursuing the highest recovery possible, the firm sets itself apart. They have accomplished in excess of \$250 million in jury verdicts and settlements with the proven ability to effectively advocate on behalf of their clients.

Hach & Rose has the resources to level the playing field against the largest corporations and insurance companies to fight the claims of injured victims. While it is impossible to restore one's health, Hach & Rose ensures it will never compromise the justice each client deserves. Senior Partner Michael Rose explains, "regardless of the case value, if we commit to taking on a case the efforts are always the same." The firm's elite team of attorneys have embraced the concept of maximizing recovery and the methods required to do so.

"Each of our cases is prepared with the assumption it will ultimately resolve in the courtroom. Defendants understand this and that places us in the best position to achieve remarkable recoveries," notes Managing Partner Gregory Hach. "Some of our most notable results have been achieved after a client, frustrated by the legal process, hired our firm to fight for them. One client that had been pressured by a previous attorney to settle for less than \$100,000 recovered over \$2 million after retaining Hach & Rose. An injured construction worker told us that his attorney recommended a \$60,000 settlement. We obtained a \$2 million settlement." Such successes are bittersweet explains Hach, "it's satisfying to know the

client achieving the greater recovery will have a better life, but for every client this describes, there are countless others taking the lower settlement amount. That is tough to swallow."

Hach's demonstrated empathy towards his clients roots from his significant involvement with labor unions. Possessing firsthand knowledge of the work performed by many union members, he frequently lectures regarding various topics affecting members, including jobsite safety.

The firm's success has been recognized both in and out of the courtroom. Attorneys at the firm have been recognized by SuperLawyers[™], AV Preeminent[®] by Martindale-Hubbell[®], and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum®. Results include:

- \$13M jury verdict for a man who fell from a ladder
- \$12.8M jury verdict for a worker injured by negligent construction work
- \$8M jury verdict for a woman injured on a motorcycle
- \$6M jury verdict for an injured hospital worker
- \$2.2M jury verdict for auto accident victim

"I am extraordinarily proud of the jury verdicts our firm has achieved," remarks Rose. "The seven and eight-figure results are just as important to us as the six-figure results." The firm recently obtained a \$225,000 jury verdict after a one-day trial for a person injured in an automobile accident. There was a \$25,000 offer to settle prior to trial. Rose reflects, "a result 10 times better than the offer is what sustains our reputation—we'll never accept less than the full compensation each client is due."

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Frazer & Feldman LLP

Education Law, Labor and Employment

As an education law firm that is AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, Frazer & Feldman, LLP offers strong general, special education, and labor counsel services, as well as a pro-active approach in advising clients.

"We make a point of counseling clients before they act, because we know from experience that it's easier to keep clients out of trouble than it is to get them out of trouble," notes Jack Feldman, who, with Florence Frazer, is individually AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest peer rating for legal knowledge, communication skills, and ethical standards.

Feldman has long concentrated his practice in the area of special education matters, successfully representing school districts in impartial hearings and appeals through to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He also frequently lectures on special education matters. Frazer brings more than 25 years' experience in public sector labor law to her practice, during which time she has negotiated hundreds of collective bargaining agreements on behalf of management with teachers, administrators, custodians, food service and transportation workers, and nurses.

"A hallmark of our firm is that as general and labor counsel we have maintained strong working relationships with our clients," says Frazer. "We are very proud to note that we've represented numerous school districts for more than two decades."

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Statia Grossman

Personal Injury, Construction Accidents, **Medical Malpractice** Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C.

Since 1965, Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C. has attained a record of success for accident victims and their families that few firms can match—more than \$1 billion in recoveries for its clients. It should come as no surprise then that the firm, which is led by senior trial attorney D. Carl Lustig III and managing partner Mitchell J. Sassower, continues to be recognized in Leading Lawyers as one of the top personal injury firms in New York.

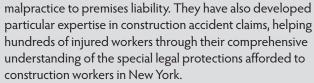
"We strive to be true advocates for our

clients whether in the courtroom at trial or the appellate court on appeal," says Sassower of the firm's success. "Defense firms and insurance companies know when they see us that all of our cases will be prepared for trial, and that we will always be negotiating from a place of strength."

Sassower's skill as a shrewd negotiator and Lustig's prowess as a trial attorney have made for a dynamic, decades-long partnership. Both lawyers bring more than 35 years of legal experience to the firm, and with their proactive, hardworking approach, they have garnered reputations as honorable, straight-shooting lawyers.

"We are known for getting results, and we do that by putting our clients first and ensuring their needs are at the heart of everything we do," Lustig says. "As a firm, we are big enough to take on any task, but also small enough to provide the kind of personalized attention these cases require."

Indeed, Sassower and Lustig are involved on all of the firm's cases, which have included every kind of personal injury matter—from motor vehicle accidents and medical



Recognizing this expertise, both Sassower and Lustig are AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and have been named among the nation's top one percent of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. In addition, Lustig is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the American Board of Trial Advocates, and has been honored by The National Trial Lawyers as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in New York State.

"These honors reflect our drive and dedication to helping families recover the compensation they desperately need," notes Sassower. "Personal injury litigation is our life's work, and our results bear that out."

Divorce Negotiation, Settlement and Litigation, Child Custody & Visitation, Prenuptial and Postnuptial Agreements



The 10-attorney family law firm of Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann, founded by esteemed family lawyers Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Martha Cohen Stine and Gretchen Beall Schumann, offers decades of experience in family law. The Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann team of lawyers adheres to the highest ethical standards as it negotiates complex financial or custody settlements, or litigates high or lower profile equitable distribution/custody/support disputes. Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann is proud to be one of New York's most respected family law practices whose reputation for excellence and successful outcomes is widely known.

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Green & Willstatter

White-Collar, Criminal Defense, Appeals

Established three decades ago, the criminal defense firm Green & Willstatter has earned a reputation as a relentless advocate for its clients, thanks to its long history of successful results for people arrested or charged with a state or federal crime.

"We fight hard to push back against the government when we need to," says Richard Willstatter, a former president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and a current vice chair of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Amicus Curiae Committee. "To protect our clients from unjust conviction, we're always prepared to challenge charges with exhaustive research and innovative approaches."

Willstatter and partner Theodore Green established their firm in 1989 in White Plains, after eight years at the Legal Aid Society's criminal trials and appeals divisions. Their law office is within walking distance of the Westchester County Courthouse, the White Plains City Court, and the United States Courthouse. From there, they have tried many felony jury trials and appealed many convictions in state and federal court. Indeed, they've handled all aspects of criminal defense law, with a particular emphasis on white-collar crimes.

'The fact that we're a team makes us so much stronger because we improve each other's work," notes Willstatter, who is also AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and a member of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers. "Our shared dedication to defending the rights of the accused has seen us through years of practice, and remains the guiding principle of our firm."

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Every client's case is different. But they each need what we deliver, a true understanding of their suffering. We couple that understanding with a commitment to service so that our clients feel what we know, that they are number one. Towards that end we bring to bear painstaking preparation, the relentless pursuit of our client's cause and unbridled passion for our clients. Our adversaries know this to be true, as do the people we come before in court. It is this combination that brings about the many astonishing results we have achieved for the people who trust us with their cases.

We know it isn't enough that we have achieved some of the largest verdicts and settlements every year in New York. For that reason we pride ourselves in servicing and staying in touch with our clients and with what is going on in their families' lives. It is only that way that we can bring our brand of justice to those whom we serve, the clients.

The firm's founder, David Perecman, has been practicing trial law for 38 years and in that time has achieved much for his clients. In recognition of that he has been selected for many years running by The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, U.S. News and World Report's Best Law Firms and Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forum. His verdicts and settlements have been heralded in the New York Law Journal as among the highest in the state of New York year after year. His \$9.9 million settlement for a laborer who fell from a scaffold was the highest in the state for a construction accident and the second-highest over all categories for 2015. This year, he won a \$11.9 million verdict for a Local 79 asbestos remover who fell and injured his back.* He has appeared on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, WPIX, and Fox 5 and in The New York Times, The Daily News, The New York Post and Newsday.

This year David and his son Zachary, who has now joined the firm, along with another associate, Peter Rigelhaupt (also recognized by Super Lawyers) achieved what David considers to be one of his proudest moments. He successfully argued a case before the state's highest court, The New York Court of Appeals, and won the right to go to trial against The City of New York and several police officers for the false arrest and malicious prosecution of a woman who he claimed spent four years in jail after being coerced by the police into confessing to a brutal murder which she did not commit. The city later paid her \$4 million.

*Later settled for \$5 million.

The Perecman Firm, PLLC 250 West 57th Street, 4th Floor New York NY 10107 500 North Broadway, Suite 123 Jericho, NY 11753 PH: 212-977-7033 | www.perecman.com

Wilkofsky, Friedman, Karel & Cummins

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For more than three decades, Jonathan Wilkofsky and his firm have asserted the rights of consumers confronting insurance company misconduct. The firm's attorneys are dedicated to representing those whose lives have been affected by lifealtering fires, floods, collapses, thefts, hurricanes, and other catastrophic property damage. Over the years, they have earned unprecedented property damage verdicts and landmark decisions against insurers and careless landlords and negligent insurance brokers and agents.

The firm is especially proud of its commitment to clients' interests and winning passage of nine pieces of legislation protecting consumers. The firm is one of the few law practices to advocate for victims of disasters when the insurance company has breached the policy or acted in bad faith. The firm also represents consumers who are facing compliance with endless insurance company demands for documents, information and sworn testimony after a loss has occurred. Recognized by peers as a leader in his field, Wilkofsky has never lost a jury verdict.



The firm also takes great pride in the litigation avoidance techniques it has championed and used whenever that alternative is preferred or appropriate in order to save the consumer precious time and expense.

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Construction Accidents, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Medical Malpractice, Trip and Fall Accidents

Since its inception nearly a century ago, Friedman, Levy, Goldfarb & Green, P.C. has garnered a reputation as a dynamic personal injury law firm that represents the most seriously injured individuals. The firm selectively chooses the cases it handles to ensure that every case is given the intense level of attention required to obtain the largest possible settlement or verdict.

Over the firm's history, Friedman, Levy, Goldfarb & Green, P.C. has tried or settled more than 75 cases for values in excess of \$1 million. Recently, the firm obtained settlements of \$4 million for a medical malpractice case, \$3 million for a construction accident, and \$1 million for a motor vehicle accident.

Friedman, Levy, Goldfarb & Green, P.C.'s successful track record is a testament to the exceptional representation that it provides to its clients. Senior Partner Ira H. Goldfarb (rated AV Preeminent®

by Martindale-Hubbell*) and the firm's team of seasoned trial lawyers—including Managing Partner Charles E. Green, Sam Rosmarin, recognized as one of New York's most accomplished medical malpractice attorneys, and Andrew J. Windman—are proud to carry on Friedman, Levy, Goldfarb & Green, P.C.'s tradition of tirelessly fighting for those most seriously injured.

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Arthur Schwartz In The News

New York Post My Boss Harassed Me for Being Native American

Tomahawk's lawyer, Schwartz, lamented his client's position. "Doormen and porters are subjected to horrible abuse in too many buildings. Minorities, especially Native Americans like Mr. Tomahawk, are victimized even worse," Schwartz said.

The New York Times Newsstand to Reopen, After de Blasio Helps

"It wouldn't have settled without Bill de Blasio," Delakis' lawyer, Arthur Schwartz said. "I think we can say that this is the first of the callous Bloomberg actions toward the little guy in New York, toward the other New York, that have been reversed by Mayor de Blasio."

The New York Times Fight Over Manhattan Apartment and Surveillance Cameras Lands Tenant's Guardian in Court

"All I did was abate the harassment and turn evidence into the attorney general," Mr. Schwartz said after his arraignment. "It's preposterous that I have to go through this."

The New York Times A Brownstone and the Bitter Fight to Inherit It

Arthur Z. Schwartz, a lawyer who is representing Mr. Doyle, said there was legal precedent for such an argument. More important, he said, was the simple issue of fairness. "I thought there was an injustice," Mr. Schwartz said.

Huffington Post Success Academy Hit With More Criticism Over Infamous 'Got To Go' List

"After years of claiming that Success provides a path forward for Black and Hispanic children, the experiences of our clients lay bare the contempt that Success Academy has for their wellbeing," attorney Arthur Schwartz said in a statement. "The approach on display at Success Fort Greene, which is about test scores and not educating children, was, I am sure, not created by principal Brown, but came right from the top. It has no place

Westchester Journal News Embattled Rye Teacher to Return to Classroom

"The treatment of Carin Mehler — holding her up to public ridicule, assigning her to a windowless room for a year and 'reassigning' her to work at home for a second year — was contrary to everything we teach our children about our country," her attorney. Arthur Schwartz said in a statement.

New York Post Women Who Exposed Sexual Harassment at Con Ed Seek \$20M

Two women who first exposed Con Edison as a hotbed of sexual harassment and discrimination claim state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman barely included them in a deal that netted workers as little as \$5,000 each."The women were very annoyed that the AG did little consultation with them about settlement," said Guy and Curtis' attorney, Arthur Schwartz.

New York Daily News Con Ed Changes Mind, Will Hire Long Island Woman Rejected Because of 'Sexually Explicit' Image on Instagram

"We appreciate Con Edison's rapid resolution of this dispute and the sensitivity of the posting and its frank discussion of homosexuality. Ms. Chirichella is a smart, capable woman, whose father is a 'lifer' at Con Edison and they will not regret this decision," Schwartz said.

Paul B. Weitz & Associates

Construction Accidents, Medical Malpractice, Premises Liability

Paul B. Weitz & Associates is a premier personal injury law firm that handles major complex litigation in New York City and its outer boroughs.

"No case is too complicated for us," says managing partner Paul B. Weitz. "We put the necessary time and money into every case to get the best results for our clients."

The firm has a tradition of providing expert representation and personalized service, dating back to the early 1970s when the firm began as Schneider, Kleinick & Weitz. Since then, the firm has established a proven track record of more than 200 cases or settlements in excess of \$1 million.

Attorneys at the firm are experienced in all types of catastrophic personal injury cases, including construction and workplace accidents, car and truck accidents, medical malpractice, wrongful death, municipal liability, and premises liability.

Since 2007, they have achieved a number of notable settlements, including: \$20 million for a 26-year-old worker who was rendered a quadriplegic after a steel pipe was dropped on him at a construction site and \$16 million for a 23-year-old man who fell from a rock wall after his safety belt broke.

Above all, the firm's attorneys strive to help clients through their recovery process, which often requires extensive medical treatment and rehabilitation.

"We handle large cases, but always provide clients with the personal attention they need," Weitz says. "I make myself available to speak with clients at any time."

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Richard H. Rosenberg White-Collar Crime,

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Richard Harris Rosenberg's expertise in criminal defense has

driven successful representation of his clients for more than 30 years in federal and state courts. Long recognized by his peers as a preeminent advocate, Mr. Rosenberg's experience and commitment have enabled him to achieve positive results in an array of complex criminal prosecutions. These cases have involved mail and wire fraud, misuse of office by public officials, health care and securities fraud, money laundering, narcotics importation and distribution, Hobbs Act stings, racketeering, material support of terrorism and weapon related offenses.

Mr. Rosenberg attributes his success to vigorous preparation, thoroughness, advocacy and a keen understanding of the dynamics of the criminal justice system.

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Karen Artz Ash

Karen Artz Ash has focused her practice on trademark and copyright matters for designers, manufacturers, retailers and other fashion businesses for more than 25 years. She is experienced in all aspects of intellectual property, including commercial transactions and disputed matters. Karen acts as a mediator in the Southern District of New York, where she served on the Mediation Advisory Committee. and as a mediator for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the CAMP Mediation Program. She is an adjunct professor at New York Law School, the author of a monthly column, and a contributing author to several books on fashion law.



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From offices in Midtown Manhattan's historic Graybar Building, the attorneys of Burger & Green, LLP work to provide high-quality family law services to clients throughout New York and internationally. For years, the firm's attorneys have served as proud and active members of New York's legal community, and they bring considerable experience and legal knowledge to the area of matrimonial law.

"Our clients have varying backgrounds, professions, and income levels, but what they all share is a need for trusted representation on these sensitive issues," says partner Barbara Burger, who has been handling family law for more than 40 years. "The matters we deal with, such as divorce and child custody, go to the very essence of our clients' lives, so we feel a tremendous responsibility to realize their goals."

Attorneys at the firm have successfully represented their clients' interests in a wide range of family law matters, including divorce, child custody, international child custody agreements, child support, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and international child abduction (Hague) cases. The firm also provides services for real estate transactions, representing buyers and sellers in residential and commercial real estate closings and works closely with outside counsel (attorneys Germana F. Giordano and Rosa Marzano) with regard to criminal, corporate, and real estate matters.

"We take a custom-tailor approach when representing our clients because no two cases are the same," notes partner Nancy Green, who began practicing with Burger in 1995. "Divorce can be very difficult for people, and to make this time more manageable for them, we try to connect with our clients on a

personal level and really walk them through the divorce process."

For this reason, the firm obtains much of its work through referrals from past clients as well as from other lawyers. Indeed, the firm is well respected in the legal community, with its members receiving recognition in Super Lawyers and serving in prominent bar organizations, such as the New York State Bar, New York Women's Bar, New York County Lawyers Association, and New York City Bar Associations. Both Burger and Green are members of the New York Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the American Academy for Certified Financial Litigators. Both Burger and Green are listed in Super Lawyers.



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Michael N. Connors

Elder Law, Probate, Wills, Trusts & Estates

Michael N. Connors and his firm. Connors & Sullivan Attorneys at Law,

PLLC, are renowned for their comprehensive approach to estate planning, probate, elder law and estate litigation and are well sought-after for real estate closings, tax law and asset protection matters. What sets

Connors & Sullivan apart is their holistic approach: creating plans to avoid probate, save on taxes or protect assets, while also assisting clients with health and quality-of-life issues. With offices in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island, the firm works to preserve the dignity of people facing medical problems and other challenges. Michael Connors can be heard on his "Ask the Lawyer" radio show Saturdays, 6-7 p.m., on AM 970 The Answer and AM 570 WMCA The Mission.

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ABRAMS AF FENSTERMAN

Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara & Wolf, LLP Attorneys at Law





Abrams Fensterman, a full-service law firm serving clients throughout New York with offices in Lake Success. Brooklyn, Manhattan and Rochester, boasts expertise encompassing a comprehensive scope of practice areas. The firm built its reputation for excellence through its representation of health care providers in all aspects of health care law. Two AV Preeminent™ rated Martindale-Hubbell® partners are part of its team - Michael S. Kelton and Allan E. Silver.

Kelton, named in New York Super Lawyers since 2011, has over 35 years of experience in Medical Malpractice, Health Law, Professional Misconduct Litigation and General Litigation. He has published

articles on medical misconduct issues and medical billing audit issues for the New York Law Journal and the Medical Society of The State of New York among other industry publications.

Silver, a frequent lecturer for the New York State Bar Association regarding issues concerning the admission, treatment and discharge of patients in medical and psychiatric facilities, has over two decades of experience in Health Law. He is the co-author of a chapter of the Guardianship Practice in New York State, a New York State Bar publication.

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Michael H. Schwartz **Bankruptcy**

Mr. Schwartz goes the extra mile for his clients. His legal proceeding against Bank of America, one of

many against Banks, Credit Card Companies, Lenders and others has been written up in the NY Times and Wall Street Journal. He has been a guest speaker on bankruptcy law for the Westchester County Bar Association ("Assn"), N.Y.S. Bar Assn, Mount Vernon Bar Assn, Westchester Woman's Bar Assn, New York Society of Independent Accountants, Building 32B-J Legal Services, NBI and others. He has personally lobbied Congress for better bankruptcy protection. Mr. Schwartz is a graduate of the famous Max Gardner's Bankruptcy Boot Camp and Max Gardner's Veteran's Boot Camp in Advanced Bankruptcy Litigation and Securitization, for discharging debts, fighting banks and protecting the bankruptcy discharge. He is also a graduate of Max Gardner's Mortgage Modification Boot Camp and Max Gardner's Advanced Mortgage Modification Boot Camp for mortgage modifications and foreclosure defense.

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A Trusted Advocate

Benedict Morelli on his firm's proven track record of winning high-profile cases

Morelli Law Firm handles prominent cases, representing victims of negligence, discrimination, and harassment against some of the largest law firms and corporations in the world, including Fox, Wal-Mart, Pfizer, and Morgan Stanley.

"We have a level of experience in the courtroom that many other law firms just don't have," says founding partner Benedict Morelli of the firm's success. "It's a major advantage, and the reason we can litigate important cases against substantial opponents and win."

Morelli Law Firm currently represents victims of the 2015 Philadelphia Amtrak crash. One such victim includes Eli Kulp, a nationally renowned chef who was rendered quadriplegic because of the derailment. The firm also played an instrumental role on the court-appointed Plaintiff's Management Committee, and led the charge in getting Congress to raise its cap on damages. As a result of those efforts, Amtrak agreed to pay \$265 million—the largest railroad accident settlement in U.S. history. The firm is now representing victims of the September 2016 Hoboken, NJ, train crash and the October 2016 Long Island Railroad crash.

"Even against tremendous odds, we've taken it upon ourselves to advocate for victims of these crashes and their families," says Morelli, who has a long record of obtaining justice for his clients in catastrophic personal injury cases. "We never back down from a fight."

Morelli Law Firm also handles high-profile celebrity cases. Notably, the firm represented actor/comedian Tracy Morgan and five other plaintiffs in their settlement with Wal-Mart over a motor vehicle accident that left Morgan and others seriously injured. He also represents professional tennis player Eugenie Bouchard in her lawsuit against the United States Tennis Association over a head injury she suffered in a trainer's room during the 2015 U.S. Open.

"Right now, the USTA is trying to escape their obligations to Genie, but we're prepared to go to trial to ensure she is fully compensated," Morelli says. "Trying cases may be a lost art for some, but our firm knows how to handle cases from start to finish."

Indeed, the firm will go to trial in October against David Copperfield and the MGM Grand Hotel on behalf of a 55-year-old man who suffered a traumatic brain injury while participating in a magic trick. It is also representing more than 1,000 women in a mass tort litigation against Johnson & Johnson regarding claims that the company's talcum powder caused ovarian cancer.

"This firm was founded to represent people in need of a voice," Morelli says, "and instead of just staying the same and handling one type of case, we've made a point of moving into new areas where we can deliver on our original mission and help our clients obtain the justice they deserve."

—Sean Stonefield



Jay Goldberg, PC

Criminal Defense: White-Collar - Litigation

Zuckerman's. Vengeance Is Mine

states, "[Jay] Goldberg held a reputation as the city's best and brightest trial lawyer. He had mastered a style of cross-examination that left witnesses gasping for breath; he had an energetic, courtly manner with a jury and a style of summation of eloquent fury." Seidemann's, In The Interest of Justice: Great Opening and Closing Arguments of the Last 100 Years has been described as a compendium of "Americans greatest courtroom speeches beginning with the Scopes trial and the summation of Clarence Darrow," of which two of the 20 courtroom arguments selected are those of Mr. Goldberg. President Trump stated in a writing that Goldberg was "the most important lawyer in his life." He was appointed by Attorney General Kennedy as Acting United States Attorney for the Northwest District of Indiana, and served as Counselor to the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Jay Goldberg, PC 250 Park Avenue, 20th Floor

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Jerome A. Wisselman

Matrimonial and Family Law

Over the past 40 years, lerome Wisselman has developed Wisselman &

Associates into a highly respected matrimonial and family law firm in Great Neck, NY serving the Long Island/Metro New York community. Having extensive experience to handle all issues, simple and complex, Mr. Wisselman employs intelligent and creative solutions to help successfully resolve his client's matters with a view towards settling them amicably whenever possible, though he will also litigate where it is in his client's best interest to do so. He has assembled a team of highly skilled attorneys who exhibit professionalism and concern for their clients, with diverse backgrounds in all areas of family law.

Recognized as a "Top 100 Super Lawyer" for the NY Metro area, Jerome was designated as a "Leader in the Law" by LI Business News and is named a prominent "Family Law Practitioner" by New York Magazine.

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Annette G. Hasapidis

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For more than 25 years, Annette Hasapidis has devoted her

practice to handling over 340 of appeals in state and federal courts, as well as providing strategic counsel to law firms in the handling of complex matters. Ms. Hasapidis provides appellate services to law firms and litigants on a broad range of civil matters, including personal injury, commercial, matrimonial, and probate and estate proceedings. She is one of New York's very few attorneys to persuade the State's highest court to grant reargument and reverse its own ruling in the same case. Among other affiliations, she is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction and sits on the Executive Board of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

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Steven J. Seiden

Personal Injury, Products Liability, **Wrongful Death**

Steven J. Seiden is a founding member of Seiden & Kaufman and has practiced exclusively personal injury law for more than 30 years. Mr. Seiden has

recovered millions of dollars in verdicts, arbitration awards, and settlements for injured victims of accidents and surviving family members in wrongful death actions.

Mr. Seiden has successfully handled thousands of cases in the New York State Courts, Federal Courts, and Court of Claims arising from all types of motor vehicle accidents, premises accidents, and construction accidents. Mr. Seiden is also an accomplished appellate attorney, having won numerous appeals in the Appellate Division and New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals. He has also lectured attorneys at Continuing Legal Education Courses.

Mr. Seiden has received the Super Lawyer accolade, is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, and holds the AVVO 10.0 Superb award and the AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.

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DIVORCE, FAMILY LAW, PARTNERSHIP MATTERS





The partners at Joseph & Smargiassi, LLC are known to be caring and even-handed, or tenacious and unrelenting. Mario Alex Joseph and John Smargiassi have over 40+ combined years of experience litigating contested divorce and custody cases including trials, hearings and appeals. The winning results of their intense work ethic have produced the praise of clients and peers alike.

Mr. Joseph earned the AV Preeminent® (highest professional/ethical) Martindale-Hubbell rating, and is a legal reference and expert to news outlets on high-profile divorces. Mr. Joseph and/or Mr. Smargiassi are admitted to

practice in both New York and New Jersey, along with United States Court of Appeals, District Courts and United States Supreme Court. They are experienced trial litigators and negotiators. Notwithstanding their professional accomplishments, they take equal pride in their human accomplishments, such as the following client testimonial: "You have no idea how you have played a part in my life ... not a day goes by that I don't thank God for the guidance, insight, and fortitude you have given me. I send blessings to you every day."

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Steven L. Kessler



Forfeiture authority Steven L. Kessler maintains a national AV rated® white-

collar practice in New York. He represents clients in cases of first impression and national significance in federal and state trial and appellate courts nationwide.

Mr. Kessler is a member of the Joint Rules Committee for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. The author of two highly acclaimed treatises on forfeiture, Mr. Kessler is widely quoted and cited in court decisions and media of le gal and general circulation nationwide. A wellrespected advocate in his field, Mr. Kessler has lectured at the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Conference of the Council of State Governments, and has testified before numerous Legislative committees on forfeiture-related issues.

A graduate of Cornell Law School, Mr. Kessler is a member of the NACDL's Forfeiture Abuse Task Force and is in his 23rd year as an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York Law School.

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A. Jude Avelino, LL.M. Estate Planning, Tax & Corporate Law

A. Jude Avelino obtained his LL.M. from Georgetown University and is the general

partner of Avelino & Hartlaub, LLP. Mr. Avelino practices in the areas of estate planning, trust and estate administration, and corporate law. He represents clients including high net worth individuals, financial institutions, corporations and a diverse blend of charitable organizations. Mr. Avelino provides comprehensive estate planning and estate administration services, and handles all areas of tax and corporate matters. He is proud of his AV Preeminent® Martindale-Hubbell rating wherein he was rated 5 out of 5 stars - the highest possible rating one can attain.

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Mary A. Gambardella Labor & Employment

Mary A. Gambardella is a Partner and Chair of the Labor. **Employment and Benefits**

Department and Co-Chair of the Firm's Diversity Committee. A seasoned litigator with significant experience before state and federal courts, arbitration panels, and administrative agencies, Mary has more than 30 years of experience representing clients in a wide range of industries. She assists clients with policies and procedures; discipline and termination processes; leaves of absence under varying federal and state statutory entitlements; workforce reductions; and severance packages.

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David A. Kapelman Personal Injury, Products Liability, Medical Malpractice

For more than 30 years, seriously injured New Yorkers

and their families have turned to David A. Kapelman to help them get fair compensation and justice. He prides himself on providing personal attention to each client.

David A. Kapelman provides aggressive representation to victims of construction accidents, lead paint poisoning, medical malpractice, birth injuries, assaults and sexual assaults, slip-and-falls, dog bites, product liability injuries caused by defective equipment or other products, motor vehicle accidents and other serious injuries or deaths.

He is proud to have obtained million-dollar recoveries for multiple clients.

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Steven J. Mandel Family Law

Steven J. Mandel worked through law school as a professional comedian and credits

this with making him a successful trial attorney. In both arenas, the lawyer/performer must be fully prepared, persuasive and able to relate to an "audience."

A co-chair of the Matrimonial Section of the Bar Association, Steve was also selected as a "TITAN -One of the Bad-Ass New York Divorce Lawyers you wouldn't want to see representing your spouse." He's been described as "the Picasso of the legal profession" because of his proven ability to keenly assess each client's situation. For this reason, he has succeeded in what other lawyers might describe as "the un-winnable divorce/family law case." As Steve always professes: "When you focus on the solutions, the problems take care of themselves."

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Joel R. Marcus Real Estate Tax Certiorari

Joel R. Marcus (J.D. Hofstra, '76) is Partner at Marcus & Pollack LLP, a member of

the Property Tax Committee of the Real Estate Board of New York and of the Tax Certiorari & Condemnation Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Former Partner at Shea & Gould. Career highlights include his time as former President of NYC Tax Review Bar Association, and Assistant Corporation Counsel at the NYC Law Department from 1977 to 1980.

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Robert B. Marcus

Plaintiff - Personal Injury, Construction Accidents Fationa Mamo. Esq.

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John Bonina always wanted to make a difference, and as the senior trial lawyer at Bonina & Bonina, P.C., he's done just that assisting thousands of injured clients during his 25 years in practice.

"The people we represent have suffered catastrophic injuries. They are facing very serious challenges in life, and our job is to fight for them as they face these challenges," Bonina says. "We investigate and prepare every case meticulously. There is nothing more satisfying than being able to change someone's life for the better."

Bonina and his sister, partner Andrea Bonina, lead a five-lawyer team that has more than 100 years of collective experience in medical malpractice and personal injury litigation. In the past decade alone, this team has achieved more than \$200 million in combined settlements and verdicts for victims of medical malpractice, birth injuries, nursing home neglect, defective products, and negligence.

John is known for his riveting courtroom presentations, which weave evidence and testimony into a compelling story for the jury. His trial results include a \$7 million verdict for the family of a patient who bled to death after surgery; a \$4.6 million verdict for the family of a woman who died as a result of a delayed diagnosis of lung cancer; a \$2.5 million verdict for the family of a woman who bled to death while waiting for emergency aneurysm surgery; and a \$1 million verdict for a truck driver who sustained a ruptured Achilles tendon when he was hit by a forklift.

"Part of our success is that we're very selective about the cases we accept, as that enables our team of lawyers to provide each client with personal attention every step of the way," John says. "We approach trials using the most up-to-date technology to create compelling courtroom presentations. We never allow ourselves to be at an information or preparation disadvantage."

Andrea Bonina believes the key to getting the best results starts with understanding their clients' struggles. "We represent people whose lives have been turned upside down, and we take that responsibility very seriously. We know our clients are counting on us to improve their lives, and we view that as a sacred trust."

John Bonina, Andrea Bonina and associates Deborah Trerotola and Amy Insler have all been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®. John Bonina has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America every year since 2007, and both partners have been selected to New York Super Lawyers since 2007. John Bonina is a past-President of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers and a Chair of the Medical Malpractice Committee of the Brooklyn Bar Association. Andrea Bonina is a past President of the Brooklyn Bar Association and is a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association. Both partners frequently lecture on medical malpractice, product liability and trial tactics throughout the state.

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