

# 2017 NEW YORK'S LEADING FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS



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**LEADERS**  
IN THE **LAW**



The Law Offices of  
Anthony A. Capetola



Quatela  
Chimeri, PLLC



# LEADERS IN THE LAW

PRESENT

## 2017 NEW YORK'S LEADING FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS

**Leaders In The Law** is proud to present its annual New York's Leading Family Lawyers section in New York magazine.

The importance of family law attorneys cannot be overstated. These professionals can help you make sound decisions when planning for, or experiencing, life events such as marriage, divorce, adoption, among others.

Those who live in the greater metropolitan and tri-state area are fortunate to have access to many of New York's finest family lawyers. That's why Leaders In The Law is highlighting the achievements of the field's most accomplished practitioners. The lawyers and firms featured in these pages have helped thousands of people make calm, wise decisions during some very confusing and difficult experiences. They are also available during your time of need – no matter how complex the situation may be.

Feel free to view our online edition at <http://nymag.com/nymag/advertorial/familylaw/2017>. We also invite you to visit our website [leadersinthelaw.com](http://leadersinthelaw.com) to help you find out more about the leading lawyers in New York.

We hope you find this section useful. We welcome your feedback, so please send your thoughts to me at [kevin@leadersinthelaw.com](mailto:kevin@leadersinthelaw.com).

Sincerely,



Kevin Vermeulen  
CEO, Leaders In The Law

## Johnson & Cohen LLP

### Matrimonial and Family Law

The attorneys at Johnson & Cohen LLP bring decades of combined legal expertise to the area of family law and divorce, with extensive experience in resolving difficult matters through settlement negotiations and, if necessary, litigation.

"We have an established history of effectively representing our clients by protecting their rights and creating long-term solutions for them and their family," says Cohen, who is the current Chair of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section. "The judiciary, other attorneys, and our clients have consistently recognized our high standard of service and excellent track record in helping individuals retain what they value the most in family law cases."

Johnson & Cohen is ranked Tier 1 in White Plains for family law by U.S. News - Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms," and has also been AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®—the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. In addition, both attorneys have been included in Super Lawyers and The Best Lawyers in America for years, and were selected as Best Lawyers' White Plains Family Law Lawyer of the Year (Johnson for 2012 and Cohen for 2015 and 2018).

"The hallmark of our success is our accessibility to our clients and our creative abilities to find sound and fair solutions to difficult problems," notes Johnson, who like Cohen is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and a past Chair of the NYSBA Family Law Section. "We take the time to truly understand our clients' situations and develop solutions tailored to their needs."



Left to Right Top Row: Mitchell Cohen, Susan Yellen, Martin Johnson (Partners)  
Bottom Row: Maureen Dunn, Eric Holzer, Amy Eisenberg (Associates)

### Johnson & Cohen LLP

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# The Law Offices of Anthony A. Capetola



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

## Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP



Seated, from left: Gretchen Beall Schumann, Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Martha Cohen Stine (not shown, Kristen E. Marinaccio)  
Standing, from left: Lindsay R. Pfeffer, Robert Pagano, Tim James, Paul C. Kurland, Evridiki Poumpouridis, Amanda Laird Creegan, Laura A. Tucker

The 11-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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Standing (L to R): Stephen W. Schlissel, Arnold S. Klein, Jeanine M. Rooney, Nanci Hamilton:  
Seated (L to R): Elena Karabatos, Jennifer Rosenkrantz, Joseph A. DeMarco, Lisa R. Schoenfeld

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## Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC

is one of the most experienced, respected and creative boutique family law firms in the New York metropolitan area. Whether it requires dealing with complicated financial matters, child custody, child support, spousal maintenance, or any of the other issues arising in a divorce context, our approach is simple: combine experience, creativity, skill, dedication, and compassion to develop and effectuate a strategy that is right for the particular client. SOK's attorneys are consistently recognized by professional associations and their peers as leaders at the forefront of Matrimonial Law, including The Best Lawyers in America®, Ten Leaders of Divorce on Long Island, and Super Lawyers. Five members of the firm are fellows of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and hold or have held distinguished positions for the Nassau County Bar Association.



# Quatela Chimeri, PLLC

## When Divorce and Business Matters Intersect

Under the very best of circumstances, the family dynamic has complexities. When you factor in a decision to divorce and intertwine substantive business matters, your movement forward in life can be somewhat debilitating.

"Our firm not only recognizes that divorce isn't one dimensional, but our firm's business model is predicated on just that. Our approach is both focused and holistic," said Christopher J. Chimeri, partner at Quatela Chimeri. "Like other firms that concentrate exclusively on divorce and family matters, we have attorneys who handle those matters exclusively. Additionally, and equally important, our firm is rounded out by seasoned attorneys who specialize in federal and state commercial and civil litigation as well as transactional business matters, yielding a broader base of experience on which to draw upon in complex financial divorce matters," Chimeri added.

"In high net-worth divorces, the outcome may impact a business interest, retirement assets and family legacies. Our business law acumen and team of experienced commercial and civil litigators fortifies our strategic advocacy to help ensure your overall interests are protected," said Chimeri. His partner, Joseph Quatela, a seasoned litigator with over 30 years of experience, added, "As a premier trial and appellate advocacy firm, you can rest assured that our trial lawyers excel at drilling down forensically to ascertain accurate valuation. Our goal is to achieve optimal results for our clients with cost efficiency to allow you to move forward with confidence."

**"Our goal is to achieve optimal results with cost efficiency to allow you to move forward with confidence."**

**– Christopher J. Chimeri**

## Responsive and Welcoming

Pressing issues, questions and concerns don't arise conveniently and schedule themselves neatly within business hours, and our firm understands that. The attorneys at Quatela Chimeri are available to you when you need to speak with us, very often outside normal business hours. "We pride ourselves in being available to meet with you later in the evening or on weekends when necessary," expressed Chimeri.

That responsiveness can yield immediate results. The firm has a proven track record of obtaining relief from courts in emergent circumstances. In one instance, the firm was consulted and retained at 11:00 a.m., and five hours later, successfully obtained an injunction preventing the terms of an unjust court order from being implemented to the detriment of a family's children.



## Pioneers in Advocacy

Quatela Chimeri is also widely recognized for welcoming clients that have not been with met with the same level of enthusiasm by other civil law firms. Led by Chimeri, the firm's unwavering dedication to the LGBT community is noteworthy for providing guidance and advocacy for same-sex couples and LGBT individuals for more than 25 years. Chimeri was the lead attorney on several recent landmark appellate decisions involving gay and lesbian couples. He has successfully argued on behalf of numerous clients to allow the estranged same-sex partner of a biological parent to seek custody and visitation rights.

What sets Quatela Chimeri apart from other firms is our wealth and breadth of experience. Legal specialties are not mutually exclusive. You want to enter your decision to divorce with a team of attorneys with strengths in various areas of the law and emerge a more confident version of yourself. We take the time to understand your goals to craft solutions that align with your priorities.

*As you take this leap forward, we are there for you every step of the way.*

**QUATELA | CHIMERI PLLC**

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ALLAN D. MANTEL

## STEIN RISO MANTEL McDONOUGH, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



KEVIN M. MCDONOUGH

# Committed to Excellence

For more than 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 expertise of their tax and commercial litigator partners, Dennis Stein and 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 Messrs. Mantel and McDonough. Mr. Mantel is a past President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (New York); is a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; and has been awarded an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell (20 years). Messrs. Mantel and McDonough both also have been selected, by peer evaluation, to *The Best Lawyers in America*.

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## BERKMAN BOTTGER NEWMAN & RODD, LLP

In Life There Should Be Options. In Divorce There Should Be Options Too.



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# Brian D. Perskin & Associates P.C.

## Intelligent and Aggressive Representation

### Divorce, Child Custody and High Net Worth Cases

Experienced Divorce and Family Law Firm Brian D. Perskin & Associates P.C. is a New York City law firm that handles all types of divorce and family law issues, including contested matrimonial and custody matters, prenuptial, postnuptial and separation agreements, uncontested divorce cases, international custody and Hague disputes, and cases involving domestic violence and Orders Of Protection. Our highly skilled legal team has decades of collective experience serving clients throughout all five boroughs of New York City as well as Westchester and Long Island. No matter the issue, you need an attorney on your side to safeguard your interests and future by providing a custom solution for your case. We assist our clients with compassionate

Standing, left to right: Richard Miller, Gabrielle Hagege, Anna Latman, Jennifer L. Cohen-Vigder  
Seated, left to right: Dina Botwinick, Brian D. Perskin, Evan S. Seckular

and supportive guidance when it is needed most. Undergoing a divorce or family law dispute frequently has the highest of stakes—the state of your family and finances may be in question as well as the wellbeing of yourself and the individuals who you value the most. At Brian D. Perskin & Associates P.C., we are intimately familiar with these high pressure situations, and we are here to help you achieve your goals in the most efficient and strategic manner possible. Our lawyers recognize the common pitfalls that inexperienced practitioners make and are well-suited to develop a plan of action unique to you to best attain your objectives. We provide unmatched intelligent and aggressive representation for our clients.

**Brian D. Perskin & Associates P.C. – New York Divorce Lawyer**  
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### Divorce, Child Custody, Child Support, Pre- & Postnuptial Agreements

## Burger & Green, LLP

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, immigration 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 listed in Super Lawyers. Both Burger and Green are also members of the American Academy of Certified Financial Litigators and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Seated, from left: Nancy M. Green, Esq. (Partner), Barbara Burger, Esq. (Partner)  
Standing, from left: Gregory Stanger (Legal Assistant), Rosa Marzano (Outside Counsel), Germana F. Giordano (Outside Counsel), Jacqueline Green (Associate)



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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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## The Law Offices of Diahn McGrath

Family Law, Trusts & Estates

Diahn McGrath practices all forms of family law in New York, from pre-nuptial agreements to probate of estates.

McGrath is passionate about giving individual attention to the personal and financial needs of her clients, and has a litigator's instinct for winning.

McGrath has served two terms on the Trusts, Estates and Surrogate's Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, and has been appointed Guardian ad Litem in Supreme and Surrogate's Court matters, both small and large, in New York and all of the surrounding counties.

She achieved an AV on her first rating and was listed among Avenue Magazine's Legal Elite in 2011 and was one of the New York Law Journal's Top-Rated Lawyers in 2014. McGrath made several guest appearances as an expert on children's issues on Court TV.

The McGrath firm is a small, boutique practice giving personal attention to all clients.

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## Cardi & Edgar, LLP

Experience For When You Need It Most

Matrimonial & Family Law,  
Criminal Defense Law, Employment Law

Cardi & Edgar LLP is a boutique law firm that focuses on matrimonial and family law, criminal defense and civil litigation with an emphasis upon commercial and employment disputes.

The firm was founded in 2013 by Dawn M. Cardi and Chad L. Edgar. The firm was formed after a successful association of its founders for over seven years under the predecessor firm Dawn M. Cardi & Associates, which was founded in 1992 by Ms. Cardi. Cardi & Edgar continues the tradition of providing sophisticated legal counsel using an informed, strategic and holistic approach designed to reach the best resolution possible for corporate and individual clients.

The Firm provides a full range of legal services to individuals, families and businesses in New York City and surrounding areas.

Taken together, the Firm's principals have nearly 50 years of experience in the practice of law. Ms. Cardi has considerable experience as a matrimonial and family lawyer, state and federal criminal defense attorney, and civil litigator. Given the range of her background, Ms. Cardi provides clients with a unique combination of negotiation and litigation experience. Mr. Edgar's experience as a general commercial litigator at a large firm and then at boutique firms ensures that his clients receive sophisticated counsel, which is then tailored to individual needs and circumstances. Such tailoring is especially important for Mr. Edgar's clients who tend to be employees or smaller employers either prosecuting or defending against employment discrimination and wage and hour claims.

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

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# Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP

## Divorce, Matrimonial & Family Law

Saltzman Chetkof & Rosenberg LLP is determined to obtain the maximum results whether by way of creative settlement or litigation, with a commitment to treat clients with compassion and respect, and permitting our clients to leave the family law process with their dignity intact. SCR LLP is listed among U.S. News & World Report's "Best Law Firms" in Family Law.

Firm partners Michael Chetkof and Lee Rosenberg are recognized in Best Lawyers in America and as New York "Super Lawyers." Former Nassau County Bar Association Matrimonial Law Committee Chair, Lee Rosenberg, also serves on the National and New York Boards of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Partner, Allyson D. Burger has also been selected as a New York Super Lawyers "Rising Star" and is Chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division's Children and the Law Committee, after serving as Chair of its Family Law Committee.

The firm represents clients throughout the Long Island-New York City metropolitan area in a wide variety of family and matrimonial law proceedings, including:

- Divorce, separation & annulment
- Custody, visitation & parenting
- Child & spousal support
- Modification & Enforcement
- Domestic violence matters
- Out-of-court settlement
- LGBTQ/Non-traditional family and domestic partnership issues
- Prenuptial & antenuptial agreements
- Abuse & neglect proceedings
- Collaborative law & mediation
- Guardianship and Elder Law



Standing, from left: Homer C. Liwanag, Natalie A. Corriss, Allyson D. Burger, Lisa M. Key, Michelle Petzolt  
Seated, from left: Michael Chetkof, Lee Rosenberg

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### Howard B. Leff, P.C.

#### Divorce, Matrimonial and Family Law

Howard B. Leff is an experienced Matrimonial and Family Law attorney, having tried custody, support, equitable distribution, family offense, and many Family Law matters over the past 38 years.

Howard maintains a very active appellate practice and has represented the prevailing party on many recent Appellate Division, Second Department cases. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association and Family Law Committee thereof, as well as the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations and Family Law Committees.

Howard was an active member of the Executive Committee of the Matrimonial Bar Association of Suffolk County, as well as the past President of and lecturer for that Association. Additionally, Howard has lectured for the Suffolk County Academy of Law over the last six years on various topics. He has also received an "AV" rating by Martindale Hubbell, the highest rating an attorney can receive in our profession.

Howard B. Leff is a member of the prestigious New York Family Law American Inn of Court and has participated in presentations given to that association on valuing business degrees, certifications and business interests and the new law on Enhanced Earnings.

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### Adria S. Hillman

#### Divorce, Custody, High Net Worth Matters

#### Adria S. Hillman Attorney at Law, P.C.

concentrates on complex, multi-jurisdictional divorce, financial and custodial issues (including forensic evaluations, access calendars, mental health issues) for high net worth individuals.

- Expertise in valuations in a wide range of industries including financial services, real estate, retail and entertainment.
- Strategic analysis of alternative resolutions - mediation, collaborative divorce, negotiated settlements and litigation including trials and appeals.
- Specialists in negotiating and drafting complex agreements before and during marriage for high net worth individuals.
- Available, accessible, discrete, judicious and responsive.
- Senior, experienced counsel and paralegals.
- Close collaborations with forensic experts and parenting professionals.

Ms. Hillman has received an AV Preeminent Rated by Martindale Hubbell and has been appointed as a special master and neutral evaluator in litigated cases and is a founding member of the New York Women's Foundation, in which she has served in multiple capacities. Ms. Hillman is a longstanding member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York Women's Bar Association as well as a sustaining member of the New York State Bar Association and a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section.

#### Adria S. Hillman, Attorney At Law, P.C.

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