2018 NEW YORK’S WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW

Burger & Green, LLP
Rosenberg & Estis, P.C.
Ganfer & Shore, LLP

A Special Advertising Section presented by LEADERS IN THE LAW

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Ganfer & Shore, LLP is a significant force in New York commercial litigation and real estate law. Six of the firm’s attorneys were recognized this year as New York Women Leaders in the Law. Sandra Jacobus, Margery Weinstein, Daniella Zelefsky and Bianca Costa Rodriguez have extensive experience in transactional real estate matters. They represent foreign and domestic corporations, trusts and individuals in the acquisition, sale and financing of commercial and mixed-use buildings, condominiums and cooperative units, and private homes – including luxury residential sales often covered by the media. They also counsel many cooperative and condominium boards in real estate corporate governance matters. Additionally, they represent numerous landlords, tenants and sub-tenants in leasing transactions and many types of clients in construction and architect agreements.

Complex commercial litigators Dawn Wilson and Madeline Greenblatt represent investment banks, broker-dealers, corporations, and directors and officers in securities litigation and enforcement proceedings. They also assist small companies and entrepreneurs in resolving their business disputes, and advocate on behalf of property owners, investors, developers and lenders regarding construction, design, title and regulatory issues. When shareholder and unit owner disputes arise, they assist and represent the firm’s cooperative and condominium board clients.

Above all, these women are dedicated to preventing, alleviating and bringing closure to conflicts so that their clients can focus on their businesses and lives.

Cardi & Edgar, LLP

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.

Firm Attorneys:
Dawn M. Cardi
Chad L. Edgar
Robyn L. Enes
Diane Ferrone (Of counsel)
Joanna C. Kahan

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Luise A. Barrack became the firm’s first Managing Member of Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. in 2010 and heads the firm’s litigation department. Ms. Barrack maintains a diverse client roster, comprised of not-for-profit companies, owners, developers, and educational institutions, many of which she has represented for nearly three decades. Ms. Barrack also serves on the leadership council of the YMCA of Greater New York.

As the Managing Member of Rosenberg & Estis, Ms. Barrack had one primary goal: to enhance the breadth of the firm’s services in every aspect of residential and commercial real estate. Thanks to this strategy, the firm has grown from 45 attorneys to more than 80 attorneys today, distinguishing the firm as one of the largest real estate practices in New York City.

“We did not set out to be New York City’s largest real estate law firm—just the best,” Barrack notes. “There are a wide variety of disciplines in real estate. As a client centric firm, we want to be able to handle all of our clients’ real estate needs, due diligence to transactions, lender work, land use and litigation.”

Given its depth of knowledge, Rosenberg & Estis is the first choice among the city’s most prominent developers, landlords, and institutions. Concrete examples of the firm’s work can be seen throughout New York City, including One Bryant Park, One World Trade Center, and Four Times Square.

“As far as local knowledge and dealing with New York real estate, no one knows it better than our attorneys,” Barrack says. “Whether we are working on large-scale development projects or smaller ventures, we create unique solutions for clients that help them overcome roadblocks, resolve disputes, and complete deals.”

Barrack, the first woman to serve as its Managing Member, has been an integral part of Rosenberg & Estis for more than three decades. Before entering private practice, she served as an assistant district attorney for four years, and brought to the firm a fearlessness that can only come from having tried criminal cases. Ms. Barrack has brought that same tenacity to her dual role as head of both the firm and its litigation department.

“In leaving the district attorney’s office to go into private practice, I looked for work that would be just as challenging, and I found that at Rosenberg & Estis,” Barrack says. “I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have joined a firm that practices law at the level at which we practice, and also to have shaped the growth of the firm.”
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 firm’s 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 provides the highest level of legal services and is proud to be one of New York’s most respected family law practices whose reputation for excellence and successful outcomes are widely known. As published in the September 25, 2017 issue of The New Yorker, Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP was identified by Super Lawyers as one of the top 50 law firms professionals should know about.
Burger & Green, LLP

Divorce, Child Custody, Child Support, Pre- & Postnuptial Agreements

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.

Frazer & Feldman, LLP

Education Law, Labor and Employment Law and Special Education Law

Florence T. Frazer is a founding partner of Frazer & Feldman, LLP, a firm concentrating on the representation of public school boards of education. With over 25 years’ experience in public sector labor law, including service as Assistant Director of the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations, she has negotiated hundreds of collective bargaining agreements. She serves as general counsel to boards of education, providing guidance on the Affordable Care Act, APPR, and student and employee rights.

Laura A. Ferugiari became a partner in January 2005. Laura handles special education matters, impartial hearings and appeals, attends Section 504 and CSE meetings, student discipline and manifestation determination hearings. She has successfully handled employee discipline and discrimination cases before the Office for Civil Rights, State Division of Human Rights and the EEOC and successfully defends appeals to the commissioner of Education, SRO, Appellate Division and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Laura oversees budget votes for all of our school district clients.

Christie R. Jacobson became associated with the firm in 2006. Christie handles appeals to the Commissioner of Education on matters including residency, homelessness, student discipline, transportation and interpretation of the Education Law. Christie advises clients regularly about the Affordable Care Act, FERPA, FOIL, McKinney-Vento and residency matters. Christie was recently re-elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Nassau County Bar Association.
Leaders In The Law is proud to present its annual New York's Women Leaders In The Law section in New York magazine. These legal professionals are a credit to the profession and drive their firms' success. Many of these lawyers lead their own firms or practices, while others are rising stars who will be at the industry’s forefront for years.

Finding the right lawyer for any legal need is a difficult and important decision. The lawyers found in these pages focus in various practice areas. We invite you to use this section as a resource to help eliminate the guesswork of selecting legal counsel. These exceptional women lawyers may be available during your time of need — no matter how complex the situation may be.

Feel free to view our online edition at nymag.com/nymag/advertorial/womenleaders/2018. We also invite you to visit our website leadersinthelaw.com to learn more about New York's Women Leading Lawyers.

We hope you find this section useful. We welcome your feedback, so please send your thoughts to me at kevin@leadersinthelaw.com.

Sincerely,
Kevin Vermeulen
CEO, Leaders In The Law
DAVIDA S. PERRY
Workplace Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Employment Law

DAVIDA S. PERRY, the Managing Partner at Schwartz Perry & Heller LLP has spent her legal career fighting for the rights of victims of workplace discrimination. Among her landmark achievements is a ruling by the Court that sexual harassment can be proven by the victim’s testimony alone, as well as the appellate court order affirming that the New York City Human Rights Law was constitutional. This paved the way for victims of discrimination working in New York City to avail themselves of one of the most protective and comprehensive human rights laws in the country. Most gratifying was a $6.6 million jury verdict for a plaintiff who endured sexual harassment and retaliation. Notable as well, as examples, are jury verdicts in favor of an employee who suffered retaliation for $2.5 million and a jury verdict in favor of a victim of sexual harassment in the amount of $1.33 million. Ms. Perry is often called upon to lecture before business groups and associations on workplace discrimination and sexual harassment. Ms. Perry is a proud supporter of the “#metoo” and “#timesup” movements. There is definitely no going back!

RUTKIN, OLDHAM & GRIFFIN, LLC
Family Law

Sarah “Sally” Stark Oldham has more than 35 years’ experience working with families in Connecticut. Since 1988 she has focused on matrimonial law, helping clients address the financial consequences of divorce while recognizing the psychological impact of the process on those involved. Her deep understanding of family issues goes far beyond her legal training. For a decade before she entered the practice of law, she was a school psychologist in various Connecticut public schools, as well as in private practice in Westport. At Rutkin, Oldham & Griffin, LLC, Ms. Oldham handles dissolutions of marriage involving complex financial, custody and visitation issues. She is also experienced in post-judgment matters, especially relocation cases. Ms. Oldham has been a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and the International Academy of Family Lawyers since 2001.

LAURE SALERNO, ESQ.
Lombardi & Salerno, PLLC
General Practice Law Firm

Laure Salerno is a founding partner of Lombardi & Salerno, PLLC. Her practice is concentrated in civil litigation, matrimonial and family law, real estate and business law related matters. For 30 years Laure has represented individuals and business entities, providing high caliber professional advice with personal care. She solves her clients’ problems creatively and cost effectively. Because of her wide range of experience, she provides one-stop-shopping for the legal needs of her clients.

An experienced matrimonial practitioner, Laure handles divorce, custody and child support matters. A respected real estate attorney, Laure represents buyers and sellers of real property, and handles all real estate related matters. Laure also manages the myriad business law needs of her clients.

Laure graduated NYU School of Law with distinction. She is admitted to practice in New York, Florida and Utah, and has been awarded the highest possible AV Preeminent rating in legal ability and ethical standards.
Karen Artz Ash

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Disclaimers, apparel manufacturers and other clothing businesses seek out Karen Artz Ash, national co-chair of Katten’s Intellectual Property department and co-head of the Trademarks and Trademark Litigation practice, because of her experience in all aspects of intellectual property, trademarks and copyrights. She has worked in fashion law for more than 30 years and is an adjunct professor at New York Law School. She was recently recognized in the Crain’s list of “Top 100 Women Attorneys.”

Laura Ann Kelly

Laura Ann Kelly is a founding partner of Donnelly Minter & Kelly, LLC. With 25+ years’ experience, Ms. Kelly concentrates her practice in trust and estate planning and administration and business succession planning for principals and shareholders of closely-held businesses. Ms. Kelly also frequently provides counsel on structuring charitable trusts and private foundations, nonprofit corporate governance, and creative solutions to achieve clients’ philanthropic goals.

Ms. Kelly is a member of the New Jersey Bar (1992) and New York Bar (1993). She is a member and past President (’05-’06) of the Estate Planning Council of Northern NJ and a member and past President (’05-’06) of the New York Bar (1993). She is known as one of the top estate planning attorneys in the state with close ties to government and non-profit organizations.

Laura A. Brevetti

Laura A. Brevetti has built a highly respected and widely sought after practice in the areas of White-collar Criminal Defense, Business Litigation, Business Transactions, and Corporate Counseling. She is a member of the New York State Bar, the New York City Bar and the Bar Association of the City of New York.

Ruth Jin

Ruth Jin is an exceptional corporate and securities law attorney with in-depth knowledge of laws and regulations and tremendous experience in negotiating and crafting legal mechanisms that solve clients’ challenging issues. Ms. Jin’s clients range from entrepreneurs to Fortune 500 companies. She regularly advises businesses through all stages of growth from start-up/capital financing to IPO. She has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and alternative public offerings, and very familiar with legal issues related to US-China transactions. Prior to founding Jin Law Group, she was an associate at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe. She has her law degrees from Georgetown University, University of Tokyo and Peking University. She is fluent in English, Chinese, Korean and Japanese.