

# ClassNotes

1964

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**Ron Mandelbaum** was featured in *Coronado Magazine* and “Island Icons,” a Coronado Historical Association oral history project about residents and their contributions to the island resort city near San Diego. Mandelbaum is a part-time judge for the San Diego County Probate Court.

1968

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**Alan E. Weiner**, founding tax partner at Holtz Rubenstein & Co., was selected by *Long Island Business News* as a 2025 Icon Honors recipient, honoring Long Island business leaders over 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership within and outside their fields.

1969

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**Jeffrey D. Forchelli**, the chairman and co-managing partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana, was recently named Trustee Emeritus for his service on the Law School’s Board of Trustees. He has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in the 32nd Edition of The Best Lawyers in America in 2026 for land use and zoning law and real estate law. Forchelli has been recognized annually since 2018.

1973

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**Hon. Robert E. Grossman (ret.)** has rejoined Duane Morris as of counsel in the firm’s business reorganization and financial restructuring practice group in its New York City office. Grossman served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Eastern District of New York from 2008 until his retirement in June 2025 and was a partner at Duane Morris prior to his appointment to the bench.

**Hon. Joan B. Lefkowitz (ret.)** joined Lachtman Cohen & Belowich as a partner to launch the firm’s mediation practice. She served 41 years on the New York State Supreme and Family Courts.

1974

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**Harriet Newman Cohen**, the founding partner of matrimonial and family law firm Cohen Stine Kapoor, was interviewed in *New York Weekly* about her forthcoming memoir, *Passion and Power: A Life in Three Worlds* (Bloomsbury, Feb. 5, 2026). In the book, Cohen describes what it was like to be a divorce lawyer in the 1970s when there were few women in the field and she was often mistaken for being a client.

**Gary M. Rosenberg**, founding member, current chairman, and former managing member of Rosenberg & Estis, a fixture in New York real estate law since launching in 1975, was named as one of the Real Estate Transaction of the Year finalists as part of the 2025 ALM Law.com New York Legal Awards.

## 1975

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**Leonard Grunstein** was featured in a profile in the *Jerusalem Post* about “his legacy of leadership, law and lasting impact,” looking back at a legal career that lasted more than three decades during which time he cultivated a reputation as one of the pre-eminent real estate law and finance specialists.

**Harold W. Paul** was appointed to the board of directors of TOMI Environmental Solutions, bringing more than 40 years of legal and securities expertise, along with extensive board leadership experience across technology, financial services, and other industries.

## 1977

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**Hon. Matthew D'Emic** spoke about “The Ultimate Professional Legal Ethic” at a recent Columbian Lawyers CLE event. He serves as administrative judge for criminal matters in Kings County Supreme Court and presiding judge of the Brooklyn Mental Health Court.

**Martin Edelman**, chairman of the Judicial Screening Committee for the Kings County Democratic Party, spoke with the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* about how the process of vetting judicial candidates has evolved over the last few decades.

## 1978

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**Richard A. Danzig**, who practiced law for more than 40 years, is also an artist and an author, and has just published another installment in his Chance Cormac legal thriller series *The Collectors* (October 2025). The new book takes readers from New York City’s high-stakes art world to a deadly black-market operation in Costa Rica.

## 1979

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**Sheila Lewis** was appointed to the New Mexico Public Defender Commission, bringing over 25 years of experience as a criminal and social justice attorney and advocate.

## 1980

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**Hon. Miriam Cyrulnik** was celebrated by dozens of judges, lawyers and bar association presidents, among other guests at a retirement gala in Brooklyn, after 22 years on the bench as a criminal court judge. She was appointed to the Criminal Court of the City of New York in 2003 and has served on the bench of the Kings County Supreme Court, Criminal Term, since January 2011.

## 1981

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**Carlos Naudon**, who is Ponce Bank President and CEO, was named recipient of the 2025 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, recognizing over 40 years of dedication to business, community service, and immigrant advocacy. Naudon immigrated to the United States at age 13 in 1964 from Santiago, Chile.

## 1983

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**Frank Aquila**, chair of the Law School’s Board of Trustees and senior M&A partner at Sullivan Cromwell, was named to *Forbes’ 2025 list of America’s Top 250 Lawyers* for his highly regarded work as one of the world’s leading mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance lawyers. He has also written or co-authored several recent articles for Reuters’ Practical Law and Bloomberg Law on topics such as cross-border M&A considerations for non-U.S. acquirors targeting U.S. public companies and how AI is changing the M&A market.

## 1984

**Karlene Dennis** has been appointed executive director of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, the nation's first commission dedicated to advancing racial equality in the courts. In this leadership role, she will oversee the Commission's work to promote equal access and full participation by people and communities of color in the judicial process and the legal profession.

## 1985



**James Glasser** received the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award at ALM's New England Legal Awards. A partner at Wiggin and Dana, Glasser was honored for his outstanding career and dedication to mentoring young lawyers.

**Robert G. Leonard** joined K&L Gates as a partner in its asset management and investment funds practice. Leonard, who joins the firm's New York office from Dechert, concentrates his practice on the formation, structuring, and representation of domestic and offshore hedge funds, funds of funds, and other private investment vehicles for emerging and established managers.

**Joanne Seminara**, whose lifelong commitment to public service and legal education shaped her Bay Ridge, Brooklyn community, is the namesake of the new P.S. 413 Joanne Seminara School of Law and Medicine, which opened this fall. The K-5 school reflects her legacy as a trusted legal educator, drawing on her decades of public outreach and frequent appearances on local television.

**Steven Scheinfeld**, a member of the Law School's Board of Trustees since 2018, accepted the 2025 Pro Bono Champion award on behalf of Fried Frank at Pro Bono Partnership's 28th Anniversary Gala.

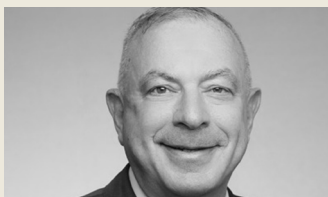
**Karen Wackerman** has joined Pullman & Comley as counsel. She is a business and finance attorney who focuses her practice on corporate law, investment management regulation and health care law.

## 1986

**Hon. Connie Mallafre-Melendez**, the first and only Cuban-American elected to the New York State Supreme Court, was honored at a Hispanic Heritage celebration presented by the Brooklyn Bar Association, the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, the Latino Judges Association and the Dominican Bar Association.

**Hon. Saliann Scarpulla** was designated as justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department, by New York Governor Kathy Hochul. First elected to the New York City Civil Court in 2001, she was subsequently elected to the Supreme Court in 2012 and appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department, in 2020.

## 1987



**Scott Stuart** was appointed as the new CEO of INSOL International in September 2025, bringing 35 years of leadership experience in the restructuring and insolvency field, most recently serving as CEO of the Turnaround Management Association.

## 1988

**Andy Siegel**, who transitioned from a successful career in personal injury law to marketing and business with senior roles at companies including Atlantic Coast Media Group, Gaia, and American Marketing & Development Services, was recently featured in an article on [The Mobile Rundown](#) for his role in launching RoboBurger.

**Stanley Wilcox**, executive vice president of regulatory affairs for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), retired in August after nearly seven years leading the organization's regulatory affairs. Wilcox joined the national office staff of the NCAA in October 2018 to oversee all NCAA regulatory functions.

## 1989

**Howard Hershenthorn**, a member of the Law School's Board of Trustees since 2022, and partner at Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenthorn, Steigman & Mackauf — was named one of the Top 10 attorneys on the New York Metro Super Lawyers list.

**Patricia Epstein Putney** (née Cohen) was selected to the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) — an invitation-only national organization of experienced trial lawyers and judges dedicated to preserving the right to a civil jury trial and promoting the highest standards of integrity and civility within the legal profession.

**Bruce Teitelbaum**, a Manhattan-based developer, was featured in [Crains New York](#) and photographed at the site of his planned One45 project in Harlem, a 1,000-apartment complex which recently received City Council approval. In the interview, Teitelbaum spoke about how he moves tough projects forward.

## 1990

**Marc Agnifilo** secured a major victory on behalf of Sean “Diddy” Combs by winning acquittals on the most serious racketeering and sex trafficking charges, averting a life sentence for the music mogul. In a [podcast interview with legal writer David Lat](#), Agnifilo discussed his distinctive approach to the case, including his decision to fully admit to problematic evidence upfront rather than trying to minimize or explain it away. This became a cornerstone for the overall defense. Agnifilo was also named to [Forbes' 2025 list of America's Top 250 Lawyers](#).

**Mercedes Colwin**, a founding partner of Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani's New York office, was named as a Distinguished Leader as part of the [2025 ALM Law.com New York Legal Awards](#). She handles a wide variety of litigation, including employment law, commercial litigation, class actions, products liability, professional liability, wage and hour class actions, defamation and related First Amendment claims, civil rights violations and criminal law.



**Lou Grandelli** was featured in a Q&A with [Resident](#), a luxury lifestyle magazine, on his humble beginnings from a Brooklyn boy to founding one of New York's top-rated personal injury law firms. Grandelli credits the Law School for his bursting success, explaining that “for the first time I was surrounded by only very smart students,” prompting him to work extra hard to keep up.

**Yolanda Guadagnoli**, who was recently installed as president of the Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, spent nearly four decades in the New York City Law Department, where she served as Brooklyn borough chief of the tort division.

**Kevin Lauri** recently marked his 30th anniversary at national employment law firm Jackson Lewis, where he has served as firm chair since 2019. Since joining the firm in 1995, he has guided its growth and innovation while remaining deeply committed to client service and attorney mentorship.

**Rich Schaffer** was re-elected as supervisor of the Town of Babylon, N.Y., in the November 2025 election. A chairman of the Suffolk County Democratic Committee since 2000, he was a Suffolk County legislator from 1987 until 1992, served as town supervisor from 1992 to 2001 and was elected to the supervisor position again in 2012.

## 1991

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**David Pratt** joined McDermott Will & Schulte as a partner based in Boca Raton, Fla. He previously chaired the nationally ranked private client services group at Proskauer Rose. He advises a highly loyal client base of ultra- and high-net-worth individuals, including entrepreneurs, private equity and hedge fund principals, medical professionals, and multigenerational families.

**Andrew Finkelstein**, managing partner of Finkelstein & Partners; Jacoby & Meyers; Fine, Olin & Anderman; and Finkelstein, Blankinship, and Frei-Pearson & Garber; and Diller Law, was sworn in as the 58th president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Finkelstein, a trial attorney and esteemed author of *I Hope We Never Meet*, brings more than 30 years of expertise to the association.

## 1992

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**Kate Enroth** was named as a trustee of the Preservation Society of Newport County in Newport, R.I. Enroth, who previously practiced at Davis Polk & Wardwell and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, brings extensive volunteer experience with Boston neighborhood organizations.

**Mark A. Kornfeld** joined the Sarasota, Fla., office of Fox Rothschild as a partner in the litigation department. Kornfeld, whose background ranges from complex bankruptcy proceedings to high-profile class action to corporate governance cases, brings more than 30 years in the industry. He will also maintain an office in New York.

**Sean Ryan** was recently elected mayor of the city of Buffalo, N.Y., after having served as state senator, representing Buffalo and its Upper West Side and Elmwood Village neighborhoods, since 2021.

## 1993

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**Deborah E. Riegel**, a member of Rosenberg & Estis' litigation department who sits on the Law School's Board of Trustees, has been ranked for the third consecutive year by Chambers USA. The honor recognizes her consistent excellence in handling high-stakes real estate and rent regulatory litigation. She was also named to the 32nd edition of The Best Lawyers in America for 2026.

**Benay Taub**, who is a mediator in New York, has joined the Lung Cancer Research Foundation's Board of Directors. Through the appointment, Taub, who was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in 2024, continues to help raise awareness and advocate for increased funding in life-saving cancer research.

**Paul Zimmerman** was named chief legal officer of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, bringing more than 30 years of legal experience across global nonprofits, federal agencies, and mission-driven organizations.

## 1994

**Meeka Bondy**, a veteran media, entertainment, technology, and intellectual property attorney with more than 30 years of in-house counsel and law firm experience advising the world's most innovative companies was elected to the Law School's Board of Trustees.

**Patricia Roberts**, the chief operating officer at Gift of College, was quoted in a [GoBankingRates](#) article about affordable ways for GenXers to go back to school.

**Lisa Bova-Hiatt** was interviewed in [Leaders](#) magazine. She was appointed in 2023 as the chief executive officer of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), North America's largest public housing program, bringing more than 25 years of knowledge and experience in the public sector to the position.

## 1995

**Gregg Giaquinto** was named CEO at City National Rochdale, bringing more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry to his new role after having recently served as president and a key member of the executive leadership team.

**Holly Pekowsky** joined Sills Cummis & Gross as of counsel in the firm's intellectual property practice and is based in New York. She focuses on all aspects of trademark law.

**Steve Semian** joined Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas as partner in the New York office in the business and corporate practice group, bringing extensive experience in secured and unsecured financing transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and securities and corporate finance.

## 1996

**Frances Arricale** was named deputy city manager to the City of Malibu, bringing a wealth of leadership experience spanning law, government, business, and nonprofit sectors. Most recently, she served as senior counsel in California state government and previously worked for the City of New York.

**Angelo Bonvino** was recognized as a 2025 Law360 MVP for his achievements in the private equity category at Paul Weiss, where he is global co-head of the firm's mergers & acquisitions group and a partner in the private equity M&A group.

**Dyan Finguerra-DuCharme**, a partner at Pryor Cashman, where she co-chairs the firm's Intellectual Property and Fashion Groups, was named to [Forbes' 2025 list of America's Top 250 Lawyers](#).

**Leslie Kunkin**, who opened West of Hudson Real Estate in Montclair, N.J. with four other women four years ago after shifting from law to real estate, was featured in a Q&A in [Homes.com](#).

**Ari J. Markenson** recently published a chapter entitled "Representations and Warranties in Healthcare Transactions" in the *Health Law Handbook 2025-2026 Edition* (Thompson Reuters, October 2025).

**Robert Rosenberg** joined Moses Singer as a partner in the firm's growing intellectual property, entertainment/media & technology, and AI & data law practice groups. Previously, he spent more than two decades at Showtime Networks and served as the company's executive vice president and general counsel.



**Jeffrey Scott**, a newly elected member of the Law School's Board of Trustees, was recognized as a [2025 Law360 MVP](#) for his work in securities at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he is a partner in the firm's litigation group and co-head of its securities litigation practice.

## 1997

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**Rob Acton** was nominated for a Tony Award as co-producer of *Gypsy on Broadway*, starring Audra McDonald. It was up for Best Revival of a Musical, along with four other nominations. Acton is the founder and CEO of Cause Strategy Partners.

## 1998

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**James Knapp** joined Garfunkel Wild as a partner in its litigation, white collar defense, and compliance practice groups. He joined after serving as chief of the Long Island Division's Civil Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, where he was charged with overseeing all the office's defensive and affirmative litigation, with more than 20 years of experience as an assistant U.S. attorney.

## 1999

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**Christopher Beaver** has joined Foster Garvey as counsel in the firm's business and corporate finance practice. With over 25 years of experience as a U.S. corporate attorney and U.K. solicitor, he brings deep expertise in fund structuring, cross-border M&A, and regulatory matters across sectors, including technology, healthcare, and financial services.

**Douglas Eisenberg**, the founder and executive Chairman of A&E Real Estate, was honored by the RED (Real Estate Development) Awards for bringing exceptional vision and leadership to multifamily investing since founding his company in 2011 and transforming it from a single 49-unit building in Fort Greene into one of New York City's largest vertically-integrated real estate management and investment firms.

**Bryan Reyhani** joined Taft as a partner in its expanding fintech practice. Reyhani previously worked at Lowenstein Sandler.

## 2000

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**Sylvia Di Pietro**, the founder of her own law firm, who specializes as an advocate for women, particularly around trusts and estates, was recently featured on Close Up Radio in an interview with Jim Masters.

**Meredith R. Miller**, after 19 years at the Touro Law Center, has joined the faculty at Albany Law School as Professor of Law.

**Emily Rudowitz** was featured in *Business Insurance* magazine which noted that she applies her extensive reinsurance expertise to teaching Reinsurance Association of America seminars for newcomers to the sector. She joined Acrisure Re, then known as Beach Re, six years ago to develop its contracts department.

**Joshua M. Silverman** was named president of global products and experiences at Paramount, now a Skydance corporation. Silverman, a veteran of Mattel, the Walt Disney Co., and Marvel, will oversee Paramount's consumer products, live experiences, publishing, partnerships and ecommerce, working with leaders at brands including Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon.

## 2001

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**Hon. Erin Guven** was appointed to the New York State Court of Claims by Governor Kathy Hochul, bringing more than 20 years of experience as an attorney dedicated to public interest to the role, including most recently as the Westchester Family Court Support Magistrate.

**Jon C. Popin** joined Nutter as a partner in its real estate department. Popin is highly experienced in land use and zoning laws governing property use and development, with a particular focus on New York City.

## 2002

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**Joseph Yi** has been appointed to lead Palette Hotels' investment platform, where he will oversee its corporate and third-party asset management portfolio and drive strategic growth initiatives. He brings more than two decades of experience in acquisitions, capital markets, and asset management.

## 2003

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**Hon. Catherine Chen** has been appointed to Baltimore City Circuit Court by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Judge Chen has served on the bench of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City since 2018. She brings extensive experience from criminal and civil practice, including work as a Special Victims Unit prosecutor and earlier roles representing juveniles in New York City.

## 2004

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**Grace C. Bonilla** was appointed to New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani's all-female transition team, bringing decades of city leadership and engagement experience. A lifelong public servant and champion for equity, Bonilla leads United Way of New York City.

**Hon. Susan Quirk** was designated as justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, by New York Governor Kathy Hochul. Under the state's Constitution, the governor designates Justices of the Appellate Divisions from among the elected Justices of the State Supreme Court. Quirk was elected to the Supreme Court in Brooklyn in 2022.

**Jeffrey Rendin** was added as lateral counsel at Nixon Peabody as the firm strengthened its project finance, infrastructure, and real estate departments. He brings more than 20 years of experience representing a range of clients, including property owners, developers, lenders, and real estate investors, in connection with all aspects of condominium and cooperative law.

## 2005

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**Jordan Bernstein**, a corporate, real estate, and business transactional attorney with a niche practice serving hoteliers, restaurateurs, chefs, food and beverage manufacturers, and other hospitality, fashion, and retail businesses, was a featured speaker at the Restaurant Finance Monitor's annual Restaurant Finance & Development Conference in Las Vegas, which was held at the Bellagio, Nov. 10-12, 2025.

**Rebecca Landau** joined Latham & Watkins in its New York office as a partner in the real estate practice. Landau represents institutional lenders, financial institutions, and private capital providers in complex commercial real estate financings and structured transactions.

**Sara R. Werner** has joined Lowenstein Sandler as a partner in the firm's investment management and emerging companies & venture capital groups and is now based in New York. With more than 20 years of experience, she advises venture capital, private equity, and private credit funds—and the investors and companies they work with.

## 2006

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**Nithya B. Das**, general manager, governance and chief legal officer at Diligent, was [interviewed by Tech Edge](#) during a fireside chat on Oct. 1, 2025, from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange during the NYSE Private Equity IPO Summit. She discussed important steps companies need to make in the IPO process, operational excellence, technology and AI in the office of a CFO, and more.

**Philippe Knab** was named as a member of the governing board of the Oregon Public Defense Commission. He is the director of the eviction defense and reentry program at the Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid and was previously a public defender at The Bronx Defenders, a supervising attorney at The Legal Aid Society in New York City, and a supervising civil rights prosecutor with the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

**Jodi Siegel Stein**, a founding member of Brooklyn Law School's Women's Leadership Circle, and partner in Sheppard Mullin's real estate, energy, land use and environmental practice group, was selected by Connect CRE for its 2025 Women in Real Estate Awards in the New York & Tri-State region. The annual awards "honor women whose talent, drive and fresh ideas have helped them succeed and become influential in commercial real estate."

## 2007

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**Adam Lubow** has entered private practice as a civil rights lawyer in Cleveland after 18 years of public service as a public defender and U.S. Department of Labor attorney. His practice focuses on plaintiff-side wage and hour litigation, employment discrimination, Section 1983 actions, Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, and criminal defense. He also teaches continuing legal education courses.

**Alexis Wolf** has joined Krauss Shaknes Tallentire & Messeri as partner in New York, bringing deep experience as a matrimonial and family law attorney with particular expertise analyzing financial questions in complex high-net-worth divorces.

## 2008

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**Jake Bedor** joined Fox Rothschild as a partner in the real estate department in the New York office. He will be part of the new and fast-growing cooperative and condominium law practice, helping boards navigate disputes among unit owners and with neighboring buildings, both amicably and through litigation.

**Jackie Hakimian** was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Great Neck Library, in the role of assistant treasurer.

**Victoria Levin**, a longtime Richmond County District Attorney's Office prosecutor, was named the executive assistant district attorney for Special Victims and Pathways to Justice. This newly expanded leadership role aims to strengthen services for survivors and advance justice-driven reform.



**Sara Schuman** has joined Beacon Global Strategies, a strategic advisory firm specializing in global public policy, defense, and national security, as managing director of its new international trade practice.

**Seth Zuckerman**, in July 2025, launched Zuckerman Legal Group, a high-end criminal defense firm specializing in both white-collar and traditional criminal cases. He previously served as an assistant district attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office and was a partner at both Am Law 100 and boutique law firms. He was interviewed in [Law.com](#) about the firm's opening.

## 2009

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**Lana Kleiman**, executive director of Charleston Legal Access, South Carolina's first and only non-profit, sliding-scale law firm, is part of the Liberty Fellowship Class of 2025, making a lifetime commitment to use her creativity, energy, and resources to tackle the most urgent social issues in South Carolina.

**Moya O'Connor**, a partner at Kahana Feld, was elected to a two-year term as president of the Association of Black Women Attorneys. She is also the founder and CEO of the Caribbean Attorneys Network.

**Mahsa Saeidi** earned her first Emmy award in the New York City market, further highlighting her success as an investigative reporter for CBS News New York, where she is helping to build a new investigative unit focused on accountability and impact.

**Jonathan Selkove** was awarded the Thomas E. Dewey Medal, which is given to outstanding assistant district attorneys in each of the District Attorney's offices within New York City and the Office of Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York. Selkove is an ADA with the Queens County District Attorney's office and the homicide bureau deputy chief.

**Sylvia E. Simson** was named one of the 2025 Rising Stars as part of the 2025 ALM Law.com New York Legal Awards. Simson, a litigator with a diverse practice focused on a broad range of complex commercial litigation, is a shareholder in Greenberg Traurig's New York office.

## 2010

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**Cassia J. Beierle** was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel by Kearny Bank. She joined the company at its Fairfield, N.J., corporate office in 2022 as senior vice president and general counsel.

**Elliot Coz** joined Dorsey & Whitney as a partner in the commercial litigation group in New York, where he concentrates his practice on corporate, commercial, and real property litigation.



**Josh Fox** was named partner at Proskauer Rose. He first joined the firm as a senior associate in the labor and employment department, and worked his way up to partner in the department. He's also a member of the sports and labor-management relations groups.

**Michael Kwiatkowski** joined Moritt Hock & Hamroff as counsel in its creditors' rights, restructuring & bankruptcy group, bringing deep expertise in bankruptcy litigation and out-of-court debt restructuring.

## 2011

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**Ashley Allison**, a Democratic political strategist and CNN commentator, acquired The Root, a website for and about Black America, from G/O Media, a digital media holding company controlled by a private equity firm. Allison, who marks the first Black owner of the publication in years, **told CNN** that she plans to invest in video content, strike new partnerships with experts, and launch in-person experiences for readers.

**George Bauer**, a partner at Bleichmar Fonti & Auld who represents institutional investors in complex securities and investment-related disputes, was named a 2025 Rising Star by Law360 in the securities category.

**Lisa M. Casa**, a partner in Forchelli Deegan Terrana's employment and labor practice group, was elected to serve as vice president of the Federal Bar Association's Eastern District of New York chapter. She was also appointed as Nassau County Bar Association chair of the labor and employment law committee.

**Michael J. Famiglietti**, a partner at Rosenberg & Gluck, was granted membership to the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, one of the most prestigious groups of trial attorneys in the United States, after securing a \$2,500,000 settlement on behalf of a client.



**Jason Jia**, the managing partner and founder of Jia Law Group, a Wall Street-headquartered firm he launched in 2018, was elected to the Law School's Board of Trustees.

**Nick Kaluk** was named partner at Debevoise & Plimpton, effective July 1, and is based in the New York office as a member of the firm's restructuring and special situations groups, where he advises debtors, investors, and other stakeholders in major Chapter 11 matters and complex restructurings. He brings experience shaped by a clerkship with Judge Allan L. Gropper of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

**Rosalind Kwast's** Kwast Law in Manhattan was named as one of New York City's Top 50 Real Estate Law Firms — making it one of only two woman-owned firms recognized this year.

## 2012



**Anna Ashurov**, a Board of Trustees member whom Business Insider named a Rising Star back in 2018, reconnected with the publication for a [Q&A piece](#) on making big career leaps. Ashurov, a featured speaker at our 2025 Convocation, said innovation is the through line in her seemingly non-linear career journey from investment bank Goldman Sachs to beer giant Anheuser-Busch to the world's largest asset manager, BlackRock, where she now oversees growth strategy and client relationships for its fintech platform Aladdin.

**Nikolaus Caro**, a partner at DavisPolk who represents private equity firms and their portfolio companies, public and private companies, and other borrowers and investors in a wide range of financings, was named one of Law.com's 2025 Rising Stars.

**Ben Falber**, a senior attorney at Con Edison who has helped craft clean energy transition policies for both New York and some of the Empire State's largest utilities, was named as one of Law360's Rising Stars of 2025.

**Jason Labate** was re-elected to the Board of Directors of Bricks and Mortals NY, an interfaith nonprofit in NYC that helps faith-based organizations maximize their real property for their communities. He is a partner at Goldstein Hall.

**Jonathan Lax**, in May 2025, was appointed chief of the business and securities fraud section at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. He leads a team investigating and prosecuting complex financial and cyber-related crimes and has served as a federal prosecutor in the EDNY since 2014.

**Leonard Offutt** was named vice president and trust officer of Essex Trust, a division of Essex Bank, bringing more than 12 years of experience in trust and estate planning and administration.

**Hon. Abby Perer** was appointed to the New York State Court of Claims by Governor Kathy Hochul. Previously, Perer served as in-house counsel for Syracuse University for nearly 10 years, a litigation associate for DLA Piper. She was also once a legal intern for the Office of New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman.

**Peter Sayer** joined Tarter Krinsky & Drogin as Counsel in its construction practice as part of the firm's ongoing strategic expansion of the construction group, a core practice area aligned with client demand.

## 2013

**Megan Dubatowka**, partner at Harris St. Laurent & Wechsler, was named in the 2025 Lawdragon 500 X - Next Generation, for her work in commercial and employment litigation.

**Sean McCarthy** joined Reichman Jorgensen Lehman & Feldberg as counsel in the New York City office, bringing experience as a litigator, including a decade of expertise in technology-related patent disputes.

## 2014

**Austin F. Cheng** was named to Ambulatory Surgery Center Association's inaugural 10 Under 40 Honors Program, recognizing rising leaders in the field. After serving in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and pursuing a career in law, Cheng returned to New York in 2019 when his mother, Katy Chiang, fell ill. She had founded Gramercy Surgery Center in 2006 as New York's first wholly woman-owned, non-surgeon-owned multispecialty ASC. Determined to honor her vision, Cheng stepped in to carry the Center forward and now serves as its CEO.

**Jenny Chung Quraishi** rejoined Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi as litigation counsel. She returned to the firm after three years as assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

**Lauren Valle** was recently promoted to principal litigation attorney at the Glennon Law Firm in recognition of her outstanding contributions and leadership. She focuses her practice on business litigation, including partnerships, corporate and contract disputes, and where these matters intersect with employment, trust and estate, and matrimonial litigations.

**Hilary Weiss** was promoted to head of Americas for Liberty Global Transaction Solutions (GTS), part of Liberty Mutual Insurance. She joined Liberty Mutual in 2018 as associate vice president, Americas M&A, before moving to Liberty GTS in 2021 as head of the company's Eastern zone.

**Karolina Klyuchnikova**, after nearly three years at the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, has joined Scott+Scott as part of its securities litigation practice group. She is a litigation attorney, experienced in government investigations and complex securities cases.

## 2015

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**Michael A. Brodlieb**, an experienced litigator who represents health care clients in high-stakes civil, commercial, and employment disputes, joined Baker Donelson as of counsel as the firm expands its health care litigation group.

**Ryan E. Schlotterback** was named managing attorney of Baillie & Hershman's Greenwich, Conn., office. He brings deep experience in residential and commercial real estate transactions to the firm, which focuses on comprehensive real estate legal services.

## 2016

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**Maggie Hu** has been honored by Marquis Who's Who as an Emerging Leader in real estate and business law, a recognition that reflects the reputation she has built as founder of MG Law Group and her expertise in real estate transactions, corporate consulting, and strategic advising.

## 2017

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**Stephanie Marie Furino** was named senior associate at Abrams Fensterman, and is based in the firm's Brooklyn MetroTech office.

**Aysha Randazzo** has been promoted to executive agency counsel at the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Office of Legal Affairs.

## 2018

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**Blake E. Benton** and **Noelle E. Stone** were married on Dec. 5, 2025, in West Palm Beach, Fla. The couple met through mutual friends while attending Brooklyn Law School. Originally from Micanopy, Florida, Stone is returning home after seven years in the tri-state area to continue her legal career in West Palm Beach at Stephens & Stevens, where she will be focusing on marital and family law. "Brooklyn Law School challenged me to grow as an advocate, professional, and person. I am proud to take that foundation with me as I begin this new chapter at Stephens and Stevens," said Stone.

**Ankit Kapoor**, a founding partner at the Manhattan-based law firm Cohen Stine Kapoor, was profiled in a [New York Weekly](#) article that described how he went from NYPD police officer to an attorney specializing in matrimonial and family law.

**Christopher Shay Aitken** married Eleanor Tracy Conroy in August. The story behind their relationship, which dates back to childhood, was featured in the [New York Times](#), in an article headlined, "The Sisterhood of the Cape Cod Wedding Dress." Aitken is a lawyer and senior compliance officer at the Audax Group, an investment company.

## 2019

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**John R. Eyeran, Jr.**, has been promoted to partner at Quatela Chimeri, where he practices across transactional, litigation, and appellate matters. He brings strong experience and versatility to his new role, contributing across multiple areas of the firm's practice.

**Veronica Mishkind** was promoted to counsel at Coffey Modica. Based in the Tarrytown, N.Y., office, Mishkind has been a member of the firm's medical malpractice and professional liability practice group since 2022.

**John W. Reilly**, who joined Brooklyn Law School this fall as assistant director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation published [The Brand-New Lawyer's Guide to Passing the Bar, Learning the Trade, and Building a Sustainable Career](#) (Carolina Academic Press, 2025).

**Grace Chamoun Taranto** joined Krauss Shaknes Tallentire & Messer as an associate in New York. She joined the firm from Blank Rome, bringing extensive experience as a family law attorney who handles divorce, child custody, support, and complex financial matters.

## 2021

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**Emerald A. Gearing** joined Robinson Bradshaw in its Charlotte, N.C. office as a corporate finance attorney with experience representing public and private company borrowers and lenders in complex finance transactions.

**Oren Silverman** joined Rivkin Radler as an associate in the firm's insurance coverage practice group. Previously, he served for nearly two years as a law clerk to Magistrate Judge Robyn F. Tarnofsky of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

## 2022

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**Molly J. Drescher**, a real estate associate at Drescher, was named a Most Promising Newcomer finalist by the 2025 New York Legal Awards, sponsored by the New York Law Journal and Law.com. Drescher represents clients in a broad range of complex real estate transactions, including the acquisition, disposition, development, and financing of various classes of commercial real estate. She also serves as a director of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association and on the board of the Young Mortgage Bankers Association.

**Cole Love** of Kirkland & Ellis was awarded the American Bar Association's On the Rise: Top 40 Young Lawyers award. Love is a trial attorney who has represented clients nationwide in high-stakes civil cases and has done extensive pro bono work, advocating for victims of abuse and indigent criminal defendants. He worked closely with Restatement drafter Professor Aaron Twerski on the latest edition of his leading Torts treatise.

**Sydney Segal**, an attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services who was previously on the cast of Survivor, headed back to TV and grueling obstacle courses with a run on The Challenge: Vets & New Threats Season 41. She was featured in a profile on [SoapCentral.com](#).

**Callie Wilson**, who cultivated her TikTok following with videos showcasing self-care amidst the stresses of academic life, passed the Bar Exam but opted to continue to focus her career on content creation and was featured in an [article on Time.News](#) about people who chose that path over day jobs.

## 2023

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**Tarra Chen** has joined Legal 1031 Exchange Services as exchange director. Chen will serve clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, including Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia, providing specialist guidance and education on tax-deferred exchanges.

**Zachary Hirschfeld** joined Phillips Lytle as an associate in its land, environment and energy practice group in New York City as the firm strengthens its bench in the group.

**Anastasia Kyriakos** joined Yankwitt as an associate in White Plains, N.Y., where she will handle a wide range of commercial disputes. She brings valuable insight from her time clerking in the New York State Supreme Court, including the Commercial Division.

**Slay Latham** authored a story that ran in [The Bay Area Reporter](#) on the importance of remembering gay history and the correlation to modern day rights.

**Steven L. Rozenfeld**, an associate attorney at Troutman Amin, wrote an article for TCPAWorld, which covers The World of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) on how informational texts may qualify as solicitations and another on how the Fourth Circuit generally assumes that the TCPA extends to wireless numbers.

**Jared Weiner** joined Foran Glennon as an associate in the firm's New York office, where he focuses his practice on commercial litigation matters.

## 2024



**Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn**, a Brooklynite and proud Haitian-American whose Caribbean upbringing influenced her to give back to the community, was spotlighted in Brooklyn's [Caribbean Life local newspaper](#). She was recognized for her work as a state assemblywoman and chair of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, receiving the Outstanding Public Servant Award.

**Majer Ma** joined Squire Patton Boggs as an associate in the firm's private credit and direct lending practice group in the New York office. Ma specializes in representing financial institutions, private funds and corporations in negotiating, structuring, and commercial lending transactions.

**Carter Overbey** joined Goldberg Segalla in the firm's global insurance services practice group in Manhattan. Overbey focuses his practice on complex coverage matters and insurance coverage litigation throughout New York State.

**Philip Schuss** joined Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman in its Miami office, where he will focus on real estate and business transactions, banking, and representation of financial institutions.

**Grace Vetromile** crushed the Chicago Marathon with an incredible time of just 3:04:52. She just finished her term as a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va.

## 2025

**Stephanie Flores'** powerful article, "Silent Suffering: Demanding Individual Accountability for Sexual Assault Against Disabled Children in School Environments," was awarded second place in the 2025 Scribes Law Review Article Competition presented by Scribes-The American Society of Legal Writers. She is a law clerk at Dentons.

**John Godoshian** started a position as a law clerk at Davis Polk & Wardwell.

**Michael Krasna** started a position as a law clerk at Fried Frank.

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