

2017 **NEW YORK'S** **WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW**

A portrait of Judith A. Livingston, a woman with dark, wavy hair, smiling. She is wearing a black top, a pearl necklace, and a light-colored, textured blazer. Her hands are clasped in front of her. The background is a blurred indoor setting with white chairs and a railing.

**Judith A. Livingston of
Kramer, Dillof,
Livingston & Moore**
Securing Top Awards For The Injured

A Special Advertising Section
presented by

LEADERS
IN THE **LAW**

LEADERS IN THE LAW PRESENTS

NEW YORK'S WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW

Leaders In The Law proudly recognizes the women lawyers who practice in the greater New York area. 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, from personal injury and family law to immigration and commercial litigation. We invite you to use this section as a resource to help eliminate the guesswork of selecting legal counsel. The women lawyers and female-led firms found in these pages may be available during your time of need — no matter how complex the situation may be.

Our online edition is also accessible at NYMag.com. 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



NANCY D. KELLMAN

Family and Matrimonial Law

Nancy D. Kellman, J.D., has practiced matrimonial law exclusively for over 30 years, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. Ms. Kellman has substantial litigation experience and handles complex matters relating to custody and support of children, property division and spousal support. She provides exceptional representation with her depth of experience, integrity, respect, and a strong commitment to the individual interests of each client. In addition to traditional litigation, Ms. Kellman practices both collaborative law and mediation. As a trained collaborative law practitioner, she is skilled at achieving fair settlements outside of the courtroom, helping parties to resolve their disputes in a team-based approach. As a mediator, she helps parties navigate through a difficult and challenging time in their lives, helping them to fully understand their options and to make their own informed decisions.



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DAVIDA S. PERRY

Workplace Discrimination, 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. She has achieved landmark decisions, namely *Thoreson*, where the court ruled that sexual harassment can be proven by the victim's testimony alone and *Bracker*, where the appellate court held 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.

She has obtained many favorable awards; most gratifying was a \$6.6 million jury verdict for a plaintiff who endured sexual harassment and retaliation. Other notable awards include jury verdicts in favor of a retaliation plaintiff for \$2.5 million, a sexual harassment plaintiff in the amount of \$1.33 million, and a substantial verdict in favor of the plaintiff in a pregnancy discrimination case.

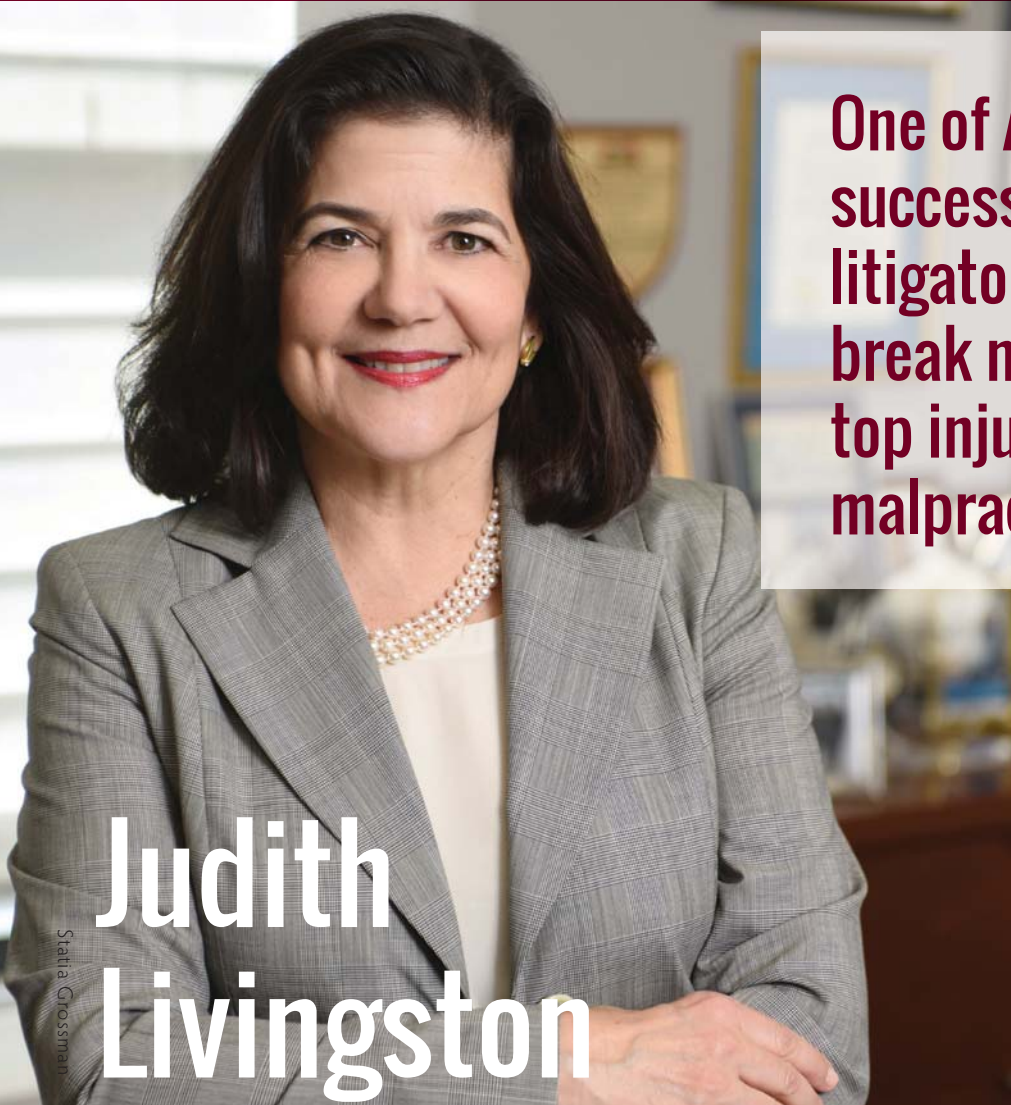
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Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore



Stata Grossman
**Judith
 Livingston**

One of America's most successful woman litigators continues to break new ground with top injury and medical malpractice awards.

plaintiff's firms in New York. And already in 2017, KDLM has obtained a \$29 million verdict—one that cannot be appealed—for a former New York University athlete who was rendered a paraplegic after falling from a fire escape.

"It's very upsetting when injustices occur," Livingston says. "But in our practice we've been able to use our knowledge of the law to right wrongs and give our clients back some measure of dignity."

Methodical and precise in her approach, Livingston has been called a "legal legend" by Law Dragon. Befitting this status, she has been named to every major list of

Judith Livingston has long been considered one of the most successful plaintiff's attorneys in the United States, with clients and peers alike praising her determined advocacy and significant recoveries. Among her results, Livingston has won 33 trials with verdicts in excess of \$1 million (more than any other female litigator in the country) and has also negotiated almost a half-billion dollars in settlements for her clients. In addition, her firm, Kramer, Dillof, Livingston & Moore, recently achieved the largest automobile accident verdict in New York history and a ground-breaking \$172 million verdict for a botched 911-EMS response.

"The most important advice I can give anyone is to find purpose in the law; purpose that is bigger than yourself," says Livingston of her success. "This can be a noble profession. And when you put others' needs ahead of your own, it is also a truly satisfying profession, and one you can be proud of."

For Livingston, the areas of law where she has found the most purpose are those that have allowed her to serve as a voice for people in need—namely, medical malpractice and personal injury law. In working alongside KDLM's other senior partner, her husband Tom Moore, she has helped the firm become one of the top

top attorneys for more than two decades; and she was the youngest attorney and the first woman inducted into the Inner Circle of Advocates, a prestigious organization that honors the top 100 plaintiff's trial lawyers in America.

"I encourage young lawyers to pursue plaintiff's work because it truly is one of the most rewarding practice areas," says Livingston, who speaks to law schools and bar associations across the country on subjects ranging from trial strategy to women in the courtroom. "It's a 24/7 commitment, but the satisfaction that comes from helping people who have suffered irreparable tragedy is unlike any other."

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Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP

Family Law

Founded by esteemed and experienced family lawyers, Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Martha Cohen Stine and Gretchen Beall Schumann, the 10-attorney firm of Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann offers decades of experience in family law. When you're facing complex personal and financial issues arising from separation, divorce, child custody, and other family law disputes, or you're getting married and need a prenuptial agreement, you want the best matrimonial lawyers – negotiators and litigators – to represent your interests. You'll find them at Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP – the eight female attorneys pictured here and their two male partners.

The Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann team of lawyers adheres to the highest ethical standards. Whether negotiating an intricate financial or custody settlement,

From left to right, seated: Gretchen Beall Schumann, Harriet Newman Cohen, Bonnie E. Rabin, Martha Cohen Stine
From left to right, standing: Lindsay Pfeffer, Evridiki Poumpouridis, Amanda Laird Creegan, Laura Tucker

or litigating a hotly contested equitable distribution/custody/support dispute, or otherwise, Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann maintains strict confidentiality with respect to every client's concerns.

Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann is proud to be one of New York's most highly respected family law practices whose reputation for excellence and whose superior record of success is widely known.

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Ganfer & Shore, LLP

Commercial Litigation, Securities Litigation, Real Estate

Ganfer & Shore, LLP is a significant force in New York's commercial litigation and real estate legal sectors. Among its talent are seven attorneys who were recognized this year as New York Women Leaders in the Law.

Sandra Jacobus, Margery Weinstein, Daniella Zelefsky and Bianca Costa Rodriguez bring extensive experience in transactional matters through their representation of 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 top luxury sales regularly recognized 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, Manali Misra and Jamie Sinclair, each with her own unique background and skills,

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. In addition, they assist and represent the firm's cooperative and condominium board clients when shareholder and unit owner disputes arise.

Both groups of these leading women lawyers share the satisfaction of preventing, alleviating and bringing closure to conflicts so that their clients can turn their focus back to their businesses and lives.

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Seated: Margery N. Weinstein (Partner), Sandra L. Jacobus (Partner)

Standing: Daniella Zelefsky, Bianca Costa Rodriguez, Manali Misra, Jamie L. Sinclair, Dawn Wilson (Not Pictured)

Stafia Grossman

Rosenberg & Estis, P.C.

Commercial and Residential Real Estate,
Commercial Litigation, Landlord-Tenant Law



Luise A. Barrack

When Luise A. Barrack became the managing member of Rosenberg & Estis in 2010, she 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, Rosenberg & Estis has grown from 45 attorneys to more than 80 attorneys today. And now, for two years in a row, *The Real Deal Magazine* has distinguished the firm as the largest real estate practice among New York City law firms.

"We did not set out to be New York City's largest real estate law firm—just the best," Barrack notes. "Within real estate there is a wide variety of disciplines; as a client-centric firm, we want to be able to handle all of our clients' real estate needs, including in areas such as lender work, mortgage foreclosure, and land use and zoning."

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 the attorneys here," Barrack says. "Whether we're 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 in the firm's history 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 a large volume of criminal cases. She 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."

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**Laurie Berke-Weiss**

Employment Law

Laurie Berke-Weiss practices all aspects of employment law. Corporations, non-profits, local businesses, executives, lawyers, physicians, architects, and teachers number among her clients. Laurie negotiates employment contracts and severance agreements, handles partnership issues, provides advice and counsel on workplace policies and procedures, and conducts workplace investigations. She also litigates claims concerning sex harassment, discrimination and wrongful termination, Family Medical Leave Act including pregnancy issues, and non-competition agreements. Laurie is AV rated. She has over 30 years' experience in state and federal litigation, arbitration and mediation. Laurie is a leader in the New York legal community, having served as President of the New York Women's Bar Association and Chair of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association. Currently, she chairs the City Bar's Advisory Committee on the New Lawyer Institute. Laurie is a graduate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations and Fordham Law School.

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**Laura A. Brevetti**White-Collar Criminal Defense,
Business Litigation

Over the past 25 years, Ms. Brevetti has built a highly respected and successful white-collar criminal defense and business litigation practice. She is a superbly skilled, tenacious, and zealous advocate for her clients, and has been recognized by her peers as one of Manhattan's Super Lawyers and a preeminent-rated lawyer in her specialties. Ms. Brevetti represents individual and corporate clients at trial and arbitration; conducts complex internal corporate investigations of allegations of fraud, bribery, and violations of employment and corporate policy; advises companies on matters of governance, compliance, and crisis management; and defends individuals and financial entities facing government and SRO enforcement investigations and actions in securities and other areas. Recently, Ms. Brevetti completed a tenure as a General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of a NYSE-listed company, managing attorneys, supervising litigations and major outside law firms, conducting internal investigations, and responding to government and SRO regulatory inquiries.

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**Dana T. Davidson**

Immigration Law

**I AM HONORED TO BE
RECOGNIZED AMONG THE
'WOMEN LEADERS IN THE LAW'**

Meet Dana T. Davidson, one of New York's leading immigration attorneys. Davidson Law Group is a full-service immigration firm with offices in New York City and Long Island. We represent a large portfolio of clients around the world, ranging from multinationals, including internet, pharma, and finance companies, colleges and school districts, to individuals and families striving to build a better life in America. Our attorneys are committed to excellent client service in helping to navigate the complex and evolving immigration laws of the United States. We have a reputation for innovative problem solving, strategic solutions, cost effective representation, and compassion.

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**Maureen McBride**

Criminal Law

Maureen McBride is a former New York City prosecutor who specializes in all areas of criminal defense. She has 25 years experience in criminal law. In 2006 Ms. McBride founded her own firm to use her trial skills and expertise in criminal law to provide quality defense to those who are most in need. Ms. McBride began honing her trial skills while in law school, where she was a member of the Law Review, recipient of the Criminal Law Book Award and graduated Cum Laude. Ms. McBride represents her clients in the Metropolitan New York area with compassion, intelligence and is dauntless in the pursuit of justice.

Ms. McBride is a member of the Board of directors of the Nassau County Criminal Courts Bar association where she is active in advocating for reforms in criminal law. She also sits on the Criminal Law and Procedure Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association.

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**Danielle J.
Seid-Vazana, Esq.**

Matrimonial and Family Law

Danielle J. Seid-Vazana is a Matrimonial/Family Law litigator who represents individuals in highly contested custody and divorce actions from commencement through conclusion, including the drafting of pre- and postnuptial, separation and divorce agreements, and in the litigation of support, paternity, relocation disputes, family offense and child neglect proceedings. She compassionately guides clients through what is often a very stressful and emotional experience.

She is a member of the NYS Bar Association and the NYS Family Law Committee. She was named a Rising Star in 2013, 2014 and 2015 by SuperLawyers, recognized as "Top 10 Under 40" in 2014 and 2015 by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys, and is recognized as an American Academy of Trial Attorneys 2015 Premier 100 Trial Attorney and is a Rue Ratings' Best Attorneys of America. In 2016, she received Hofstra's "Outstanding Women In Law" Award.

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Designers, 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 25 years.

Katten

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Law Office of Victoria Wickman



Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury

The Law Office of Victoria Wickman is primarily focused on medical malpractice but also specializes in personal injury and traumatic brain injury cases. Ms. Wickman began her law career by working in a local personal injury law office while attending college and law school. While there, she developed a passion for those who have been mistreated and injured. Ms. Wickman earned her Juris Doctorate from St. John's University School of Law in 2001. After graduation, as an associate for two prestigious law firms, she secured multimillion-dollar settlements in cases involving personal injury and medical malpractice, including failures to diagnose cancer, improper surgeries and improper infant deliveries. This continued success led her to open her own firm in 2009. As a sole practitioner, she dedicates her time and energy to her clients. She is highly regarded in her field and was selected as a Rising Star in 2013, has been a Super Lawyer from 2014 to the present and ranked AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. Ms. Wickman is the Vice-Chair of the Medical Malpractice Committee of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and a member of the Kings County American Inns of Court and the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association. She speaks fluent Italian.

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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.

Firm Attorneys:

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