NEW YORK’S 2018 LEADERS IN THE LAW

Morelli Law Firm
Serious Lawyers. Serious Results.

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LEADERS IN THE LAW

The Law Offices of Anthony A. Capetola  The Law Office of Robert F. Danzi  Newman Ferrara LLP
Morelli Law Firm is the preeminent firm for all civil litigation, successfully pursuing a diverse array of cases such as personal injury, sexual harassment/employment discrimination, mass torts and medical malpractice, among others. With a consistent track record of delivering landmark, often record-setting verdicts and settlements, the firm is a formidable force, attracting some of the most high-profile and discussed cases of our time. In just the last few years, the firm represented comedian Tracy Morgan in his highly publicized lawsuit against Walmart, and tennis star Eugenie Bouchard in her suit against the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Led by its founder Benedict Morelli, the firm has secured more than a billion dollars on behalf of its clients. “There is no case we’re not prepared to pursue,” Morelli says. “While many of our cases are high-profile like Tracy’s, we represent all of our clients with the same vigor and focus.”

Recently, Morelli Law Firm was retained to represent victims of the 2015 Philadelphia Amtrak crash, including Eli Kulp, a nationally renowned chef who was rendered quadriplegic in the derailment. As part of the case, the firm played an instrumental role on the court-appointed Plaintiff’s Management Committee, and led the charge in getting Congress to raise its cap on damages. The firm, along with other members of the Management Committee, negotiated an unprecedented $265 million settlement for the victims—the largest railroad accident settlement in U.S. history. Morelli Law currently represents victims of the September 2016 Hoboken, NJ, train crash, as well as the October 2016 Long Island Railroad crash.

“The safety of our railways is a growing and concerning issue,” notes Morelli, who is quickly becoming a go-to attorney for train derailments. “Accountability is key.”

Hard work has defined Morelli’s career since his early days as a law clerk at a personal injury law firm. After being admitted to the New York State Bar, he quickly worked his way up the ranks, becoming a partner and a senior partner.

“I’ve always been at home in the courtroom,” says Morelli, a past president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association and continuous honoree by The Best Lawyers in America since 1997. “When I speak to a jury, I always do so with respect and I never lie to them.”

Much of my success is due to the trust I’ve been able to build with juries.”

In 1998, Morelli founded his own firm to better represent his vision and values: “I wanted to be in a position to give a voice to anyone who has been wronged, whether physically, emotionally, or financially. To do that, I knew we needed to be a client-centered and results-oriented firm, with the knowledge and experience to get the job done.”

Morelli and his team have held fast to that vision. Today, the firm is known nationwide for its tenacious approach and experience handling a variety of cases from employment discrimination, civil rights, and complex product liability matters to auto accidents, labor law, and commercial cases.

Among his most high-profile results, Morelli achieved a confidential settlement with Wal-Mart on behalf of Tracy Morgan and five other plaintiffs who were injured in an accident involving one of the company’s trucks. He’s also racked up an impressive list of record-setting verdicts, including a $92 million verdict in a 2011 sexual harassment trial, which stands as the largest single-plaintiff sexual harassment verdict in U.S. history; a $40 million medical malpractice verdict that was featured in the National Law Journal; and a $22.5 million verdict in a 2010 polio vaccine case that remains the largest vaccine verdict in U.S. history.

Even more recently, Morelli secured a $362 million verdict for a 26-year-old construction worker who was injured on the job after falling 20 feet from a roof. The result, which followed a six-month trial, is believed to be the largest personal injury verdict for a single plaintiff in the history of the Queens County Supreme Court.

Beyond individual cases, Morelli and his firm have also been involved in many large-scale pharmaceutical cases—often in a leadership capacity—involving multiple plaintiffs. These include suits against the manufacturers of Vioxx, Avandia, Bextra, Propecia, and more. He currently represents over a thousand women in cases against Johnson & Johnson, all of whom allege that the company’s talcum powder caused their ovarian cancer. He also represents more than a hundred individuals who were injured by defective IVC filters.

“I’ve been fighting for victims of corporate greed, incompetence, and negligence for decades—and I have no plans on slowing down,” Morelli says. “These victims, who have suffered a great deal, often have very few options. We are proud to give them the justice they desperately deserve, and need.”
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 focussed 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.”
After representing more than 5,000 clients in personal injury cases ranging from birth injuries, bicycle accidents, and slip and falls to construction and auto accidents, defective products and police misconduct, Greenberg & Stein, P.C. has established itself as a premier provider of high-quality legal services in a crowded legal field.

Notably, the firm has won more than $200 million for clients—an achievement that firm president and founding partner Seth Greenberg attributes to the more than 75 years of professional experience the firm’s attorneys bring to the practice. “Our expertise has proved vital in pursuing justice for injured clients,” says Greenberg, who, as the firm’s managing partner, is primarily responsible for its day-to-day operations. “We know what information will compel insurance companies to pay a fair settlement, and we are skilled at using the most effective strategies to negotiate with adjusters and claims representatives.”

With a passion for obtaining justice and compensation for those who have suffered personal injury, Greenberg joined forces with partner Joshua N. Stein to form Greenberg & Stein in February of 1998. The law firm has since grown to five attorneys and practices personal injury law exclusively.

Today, the firm’s attorneys are well known for their staunch advocacy, particularly on behalf of construction workers and others injured while working. As part of its practice, the firm also works to help clients obtain workers’ compensation and/or No-Fault benefits, so that all medical bills are paid and money still comes into the household while the client—who is often the only family breadwinner—cannot work. “We have a long history of protecting and vindicating the rights of people whose lives were devastated in preventable accidents,” notes Stein, who is the lead trial attorney at the firm and heads the litigation department. “As our track record shows, we have made it our mission to serve injured and disabled clients, and hold accountable those responsible for their injuries.”

Among its high-profile results, Greenberg & Stein achieved a jury verdict of $5.48 million in 2015 on behalf of a health aide who fell while working in a hospital; the aide sustained injuries to her back, knee, neck, and shoulder that ended her career. VerdictSearch reported that the award was one of the top 25 verdicts in the state of New York for that year.

Greenberg & Stein previously obtained one of the state’s top construction accident verdicts in 2017, when the firm secured a $2 million award on behalf of a laborer whose fall from a scaffold resulted in face and spine fractures. Stein, who is a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum and has been included in New York Super Lawyers since 2014, also worked pro bono through the American Association for Justice’s Trial Lawyers Care program to obtain a $1.7 million award for the family of a 9/11 victim.

“We firmly believe that all accident victims are entitled to justice,” says partner Ian Asch, who focuses on motion practice and appeals, and has been recognized for his excellent writing at the Supreme Court level. “As a boutique firm, we pay attention to every case we handle, tailoring our strategies to meet each client’s individual legal needs.” Indeed, client service is a priority at Greenberg & Stein—every phone call is taken, all questions are answered, and clients are kept informed about the status of their case. Moreover, the firm ensures that every case is fully prepared for trial, allowing it to take claims to court if insurance companies fail to offer fair settlements.

Ultimately, our devotion to achieving client satisfaction through personalized service sets us apart from many other firms,” notes partner Scott A. Steinberg, who brings a strong background in all aspects of both motion work and trial/litigation to his practice. “We have personally seen the confusion, devastation, and chaos that people experience following an accident, and that’s why we strive to help clients get their lives back on track in the fastest, easiest way possible.”
For nearly 40 years, injured victims and their families have turned to Robert F. Danzi—a true patient’s advocate—for justice. A trailblazing trial lawyer in the fields of medical malpractice, personal injury, labor law, toxic torts, and negligence, Danzi has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements for clients.

The Law Office of Robert F. Danzi is also led by partners Christine C. Coscia and John R. Danzi. Its lawyers remain industry leaders due to an unwavering commitment to client service, ever-expanding legal knowledge and total confidence while preparing for trial. “We are compelled to be worthy of the calling we have received, “ says Bob. “Nobody can do it all alone, “ he says. “We have to be fighters in the courtroom or at the negotiating table. The firm is also led by partners Christine Coscia and John Danzi, and has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements throughout New York.

“The family can focus on her future now, and getting her the best possible care.”

Indeed, victims and families impacted by medical malpractice, catastrophic injury, wrongful death continually turn to the Law Office of Robert F. Danzi when they need compassionate lawyers who can also be fighters in the courtroom or at the negotiating table. The firm is also led by partners Christine Coscia and John Danzi, and has secured hundreds of millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements throughout New York.

“The family can focus on her future now, and getting her the best possible care.”

It’s that sort of commitment that earned the firm an AV Preeminent-ratings from Martindale-Hubbell—the organization’s highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards—as well as its Client Distinction Award. John Danzi noted that the teamwork exemplified during the aforementioned case is what all clients can expect of the firm. “We offer an all-hands-on-deck approach upon accepting a case. That’s what makes us stand out in this field,” he said. “We all have our parts to play, in and out of the courtroom, and always provide our clients with the best possible options.”

When Robert F. Danzi reflects on his nearly 40 years in practice, the injury lawyer known as “the patient’s advocate” immediately attributes his law firm’s success to teamwork. “We are a true patient’s advocate,” he says. “started the firm as a solo practitioner, but always had a strong support system. I believe in hard work and attention to detail, which is why everyone in our office provides the same degree of dedication to our clients—because these are the times they need it most.”

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Leaders In The Law presents New York’s Leading Lawyers, a special section that highlights the achievements of the tri-state area’s exceptional practitioners. New York offers the best of many industries, one of which is its legal community as you’ll see in these pages. Between multimillion-dollar verdicts, custody battles, injury and malpractice matters, and precedent-setting resolutions, the tri-state area’s lawyers continually excel in their pursuit of justice. But finding the right lawyer amid such a vast talent pool can be challenging, which is why we have compiled this directory of New York’s preeminent lawyers. Their areas of practice are as diverse as New Yorkers themselves, but they all share an unwavering dedication to their clients. Whether your needs stem from personal, medical, financial, familial matters or another reason, the lawyers profiled here will help you reach a favorable outcome.

To enhance your results further please use our online site which you can access by scrolling to the bottom of the front page of nymag.com.

Sincerely,

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Oresky & Associates, PLLC

Construction, Automobile & Personal Injury

Personal Injury Attorney Jacob Oresky has served as an ally to victims of serious accidents for over 25 years. “When someone has been injured or killed—whether because of a construction accident, car accident, or any other catastrophic accident—my team steps in and goes right to work to protect the client’s interests. I know how important it is to investigate first,” Oresky states. “After decades in the practice, my greatest satisfaction remains hearing a client say: ‘You changed my life.’ That’s when I know I have truly helped someone.”

Indeed, Oresky prides himself on his personal touch: he makes a point of getting to know the people he represents, and has built many long-term relationships with his clients. In this way, he is better able to understand the extent and impact of his clients’ injuries, and, in the process, more effectively litigate their cases: “We’re a smaller firm, and because of that, clients aren’t just a file number,” he says. “I’m actively involved with my clients’ cases, and put 100 percent effort in attempting to make certain they receive the maximum compensation they are entitled to under law, it’s only by having empathy for their situations, and being proactive about litigating their cases, that we can make a difference.”

As a result of this approach, Oresky & Associates has won more than $300 million for its clients, with many multimillion-dollar verdicts and settlements. The New York Law Journal has also listed Oresky and his firm as one of the tri-state area’s leaders in the law. Oresky & Associates has won more than 300 verdicts in New York State over the past eight years. Most recently, Oresky’s firm secured a $6.5 million verdict in April 2018 in a construction accident case where the insurance company—convinced Oresky’s client would settle—made an initial offer of $250,000.

From the moment he was retained as counsel, Oresky was determined to ensure his client would settle—made an initial offer of $250,000. Indeed, Oresky prides himself on his personal touch: he makes a point of getting to know the people he represents, and has built many long-term relationships with his clients. In this way, he is better able to understand the extent and impact of his clients’ injuries, and, in the process, more effectively litigate their cases: “We’re a smaller firm, and because of that, clients aren’t just a file number,” he says. “I’m actively involved with my clients’ cases, and put 100 percent effort in attempting to make certain they receive the maximum compensation they are entitled to under law, it’s only by having empathy for their situations, and being proactive about litigating their cases, that we can make a difference.”

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Oresky has been practicing law since 1987, and opened his own practice in 1992 after working as an associate at a large law firm. His dedicated, long-term team of staff and attorneys has been with him for much of this time, and share his commitment to the firm’s clients: “When you provide a service where someone is putting their life in your hands, it’s important to be transparent, and to always give them your best,” Oresky says. “Everyone who works here shares this philosophy, and the evidence of that is our track record.”

Jacob Oresky

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Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Attorney Advertising.
Every client’s case is different. But they each need what we deliver, a true understanding of their suffering. We couple that understanding with a commitment to service so that our clients feel what we know, that they are number one. Towards that end we bring to bear painstaking preparation, the relentless pursuit of our client’s cause and unbridled passion for our clients. Our adversaries know this to be true, as do the people we come before in court. It is this combination that brings about the many astonishing results we have achieved for the people who trust us with their cases.

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

The firm’s founder, David Perecman, has been practicing trial law for almost 40 years and in that time has achieved much for his clients. In recognition of that he has been selected for almost 40 years and in that time has achieved much for his clients. In recognition of that he has been selected for many years running by The Best Lawyers in America, Super Lawyers, U.S. News and World Report’s Best Law Firms and Multimillion Dollar Advocates Forum. His verdicts and settlements have been heralded in the New York Law Journal as among the highest in the state of New York year after year. His $9.9 million settlement for a laborer who fell from a scaffold was the highest in the state for a construction accident and the second-highest over all categories for 2015. In 2016, the firm secured nine of the top verdicts and settlements in New York State including Mr. Perecman’s $11.9 million verdict for a Local 79 asbestos remover who fell and injured his back.* He has appeared on CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, WPIX, and Fox 5 and in The New York Times, The Daily News, The New York Post and Newsday. Last Spring, David and his son Zachary, along with another associate, Peter Rigelhaupt (also recognized by Super Lawyers) achieved what David considers to be one of his proudest moments.

He successfully argued a case before the state’s highest court, The New York Court of Appeals, and won the right to go to trial against The City of New York and several police officers for the false arrest and malicious prosecution of a woman who he claimed spent four years in jail after being coerced by the police into confessing to a brutal murder which she did not commit. The city later paid her $4 million.

*Later settled for $5 million

For the plaintiff’s injury law firm of Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C. (AL&S), the recipe for success continues to be simple because it has served its clients well for more than 50 years. “Our approach has always been to work hard and work smart,” said managing partner Mitchell J. Sassower, who leads the firm alongside name partner and senior trial attorney D. Carl Lustig III. “It’s a straightforward, but effective strategy and it’s proven and documented by our track record.”

Indeed, the firm achieved a milestone few others firms can claim – securing more than $1 billion for clients. This is the result of decades of powerful advocacy on behalf of construction workers and victims who have been seriously injured or killed. The lawyers at AL&S are among the most respected attorneys in New York, renowned for their abilities in all personal injury matters, including construction accidents, premises liability, motor vehicle accidents and medical malpractice. The billion-dollar achievement serves as a testament to their longevity and resilience, and Lustig and Sassower said they are more inspired than ever to continue their mission.

In addition to their strong work ethic, the firm delivers the highest level of client service from the moment a client enters their office. The entire AL&S staff provides compassionate guidance throughout the legal process, and they are mindful that the well-being, finances and future of their clients are on the line. “We stand out because of our ability to empower clients during challenging times,” said Lustig. “Our clients often gain remarkable confidence as our collaborations take shape, even when up against the most well-funded insurance companies and defendants. We operate on a contingency basis and always strive to make clients whole again through financial compensation.”

Their professionalism has been recognized in and out of the courtroom, as both Sassower and Lustig are AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale-Hubbell® and have been annually listed by Super Lawyers, which only recognizes up to five percent of the lawyers in New York. Lustig is the president of the New York City Trial Lawyers Alliance, a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum and the American Board of Trial Advocates, and has been honored by The National Trial Lawyers as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in New York State. Sassower and Lustig and have been named among the nation’s top 1 percent of attorneys by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. This honor is reserved for a select few with high standards and who demonstrate the highest ideals and integrity in the legal profession.

These accolades and leadership positions reflect the respect they have earned among judges and colleagues, securing the firm’s stature at the forefront of the legal community. Lustig maintains that their well-recognized excellence invariably benefits their clients through the high regard in which they are held by their adversaries and insurance companies. “We pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of legal developments in our field,” said Sassower. “Injured workers and victims continue to hire us because we provide the personal attention they deserve.”

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Berkman Bottger Newman & Rodd, LLP

As one of the only Manhattan family law firms offering all three options for divorce—litigation, collaborative law, and mediation—Berkman Bottger Newman & Rodd understands the needs of its clients, and offers individualized and thoughtful approaches to family disputes. “In our practice, we emphasize comprehensive, compassionate, and cutting-edge service,” says Jacqueline Newman, who joined the firm in 1998 and now serves as its managing partner. Newman is the author of the “Soon-To-Be Ex” series of divorce guidebooks for men and women that provide candid counsel on the rules and realities of divorce. Her ability to find creative solutions to difficult and complex problems, particularly in high-net-worth cases, exemplifies the expertise offered by the firm’s 15 lawyers—many of whom are AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization’s highest award for legal ability and ethical standards—and many have been acknowledged in the Super Lawyers publication.

“We work closely with our clients to establish the best process for their case,” notes founding partner Barry Berkman, who focuses on mediation and collaborative law. “Not every divorce calls for a lengthy, difficult, and expensive trial, and we frequently guide our clients to successful, highly satisfactory out-of-court resolutions.” When matters do require judicial intervention, the firm offers the acumen and experience that comes with having litigated hundreds of cases in court. “We are in the position to authentically and convincingly present our clients’ cases to the court,” says partner Evan Schein, who has made litigation his focus. “Clients can count on us to help them navigate these complex and sometimes highly contentious matters.” Berkman Bottger Newman & Rodd has offices in Manhattan, Westchester, and New Jersey. Visit www.berkbot.com to learn more.

For a boutique litigation firm, Newman Ferrara has had an extraordinary impact in matters ranging from real estate and civil rights issues, to securities fraud and shareholder litigation, class actions, and other complex, multiparty litigation. Indeed, thanks to its history of substantial results, the firm is now a go-to practice for partners at some of New York’s largest law firms, as well as investors, consumers, and those who have suffered civil rights violations.

“We provide comprehensive and multifaceted services, which are bolstered by our more than three decades of experience, as well as by the targeted approach we take to our clients’ needs,” says partner Lucas A. Ferrara. “The reason we’re able to achieve the sort of results that are typical of a larger law firm is because we never compromise the quality of our service or the personal attention our clients expect and deserve.”

Newman Ferrara represents many of the city’s largest property owners and managing agents, and has a reputation for its expeditious and cost-effective representation, whether the matter involves a purchase or sale of real property or a convoluted dispute. Most recently, the firm secured a $24 million award for its expeditious and cost-effective representation, whether the matter involves a purchase or sale of real property or a convoluted dispute. Most recently, the firm secured a $24 million award for a landlord in a lease dispute with a commercial tenant who switched lawyers four times over 16 months of litigation and seemingly tried to delay the case with a convoluted dispute. Most recently, the firm secured a $24 million award for a landlord in a lease dispute with a commercial tenant who switched lawyers four times over 16 months of litigation and seemingly tried to delay the case with numerous bankruptcy filings. As lead counsel in a federal securities fraud class action, the firm secured a $232 million settlement against the social media game company Zynga Inc., which was accused of misleading shareholders about its prospects following a 2011 initial public offering. The firm also achieved a notable civil rights victory when a federal district court judge recently upheld a $2.2 million wrongful death verdict against the City of New York over an incident where a man experiencing a mental health crisis was killed in his home by NYPD officers.

“We are committed to pursuing socially meaningful cases, and will prosecute them in the most efficient manner and with the highest level of professional competence,” notes partner Jonathan H. Newman. “And with our boutique structure, we can ensure each client receives tailored service and unfettered access to our team of experienced attorneys.”

In addition to teaching at law schools and universities, lecturing at CLE programs, and co-authoring some of the state’s leading practice treatises, the firm’s attorneys are regularly called upon by the media to offer their unique insights on the latest legal developments and trends. Several attorneys at the firm have also been awarded an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell—the organization’s highest award for legal ability and ethical standards—and many have been acknowledged in the Super Lawyers publication.
Jewell Law, PLLC

Matrimonial & Family Law

Jewell Law knows family matters—from prenups and postnups to divorce.

Jewell Law, PLLC, has a long history of counseling clients seeking to resolve deeply personal familial and family law matters that are often urgent, stressful, and of great importance.

The firm, powered by experienced attorneys, advises clients in all areas of family law—from prenups and postnups to divorce, including child custody and support, spousal support and property distribution, and enforcement actions. Jewell Law attorneys are committed to protecting their clients’ interests in every aspect of a relationship—from first date to marriage to parenthood, and to separation or divorce.

“Our emphasis is on resolving cases quickly and to our client’s satisfaction,” says Managing Partner Ken Jewell. “While we are always prepared to litigate, we seek to avoid unnecessary wars. We want the client feeling satisfied when the process ends.”

“We counsel our clients to seek closure instead of revenge,” says Jewell. “For many clients, divorce is the end of a marriage, not the end of their world. Our job is to ensure clients move through the process positively and cost-efficiently. We want the right outcome for the client as they see it, whether their agreements are negotiated or litigated.”

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“We counsel our clients to seek closure instead of revenge,” says Jewell. “For many clients, divorce is the end of a marriage, not the end of their world. Our job is to ensure clients move through the process positively and cost-efficiently. We want the right outcome for the client as they see it, whether their agreements are negotiated or litigated.”

“The American Institute of Family Law Attorneys has named Jewell one of its ‘10 Best’ for client satisfaction. Jewell is also a multi-year Super Lawyer, and many clients have benefited from his combined degrees in law and psychology.

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 attorneys 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.

A vibrant, dedicated, and aggressive defense firm, and one of the oldest and largest boutique litigation and appellate firms in New York, Martin Clearwater & Bell LLP focuses on medical malpractice defense, health care litigation, employment and labor law, general liability, professional liability, and nursing home and managed care litigation. The firm has diversified into other areas of civil litigation over the past 20 years, evidenced by the dynamic growth of its Employment and Labor Practice Group, which is headed by an experienced partner from a national employment firm. At the same time, in an effort to better serve its expanding client base, the Firm has grown geographically, opening offices in the Rochester, NY area, New Jersey and recently Connecticut.

MCB’s professional staff of skilled attorneys includes more than 30 partners, whose talent and stability have come to define the character of the Firm. “Our commitment is to build and maintain lasting relationships with our clients,” says senior MCB partner Anthony M. Sola. “We understand that to successfully represent our clients, we must have an appreciation of their needs and expectations. And to that end, we learn our clients’ businesses, obtain knowledge of their operations, and anticipate their legal needs in order to provide both aggressive representation and long-term risk management solutions.”

Above all, MCB is results driven. The Firm is sensitive to its clients’ need for consistent, timely information and communication regarding all aspects of their legal matters. This responsiveness, along with the Firm’s uncompromising quality, has made it the go-to defense choice for some of the country’s leading teaching hospitals, major insurance companies, and individuals. New York’s largest hospital health care systems along with the state’s largest professional liability insurer rely on MCB. One of the Firm’s clients, an Associate General Counsel at a major university medical center, notes of its enduring relationship with MCB: “We have long depended on MCB’s experience and results in complex medical and health care matters, and now rely on its expertise in other practice areas.”

Given this reputation, MCB is consistently recognized by the bench and bar as a leader in its fields. MCB has been honored by The American Lawyer as a Top 100 New York Law Firm and has three senior partners who are fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In addition, a number of the Firm’s partners have been selected by their peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers publications; and the majority of the Firm’s partners are AV Preeminent-rated by Martindale-Hubbell—the organization’s highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards.
Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton, P.C.

Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Each of our cases is prepared with the assumption it will ultimately resolve in the courtroom. Defendants understand this and that places us in the best position to achieve remarkable recoveries,” notes Managing Partner Gregory Hach. “Some of our most notable results have been achieved after a client, frustrated by the legal process, hired our firm to fight for them. One client that had been pressured by a previous attorney to settle for less than $100,000 was able to recover over $2 million after retaining Hach & Rose. An injured construction worker told us that his attorney recommended a settlement of $250,000 in jury verdicts and settlements with the proven ability to effectively advocate on behalf of their clients.

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New York Post My Boss Harassed Me for Being Native American

Tompkins’s Lawyer: Schwartz, laundered his client’s position. “Doormen and porters are subjected to horrible abuse in too many buildings. Minorities, especially Native Americans like Mr. Tomahawk, are victimized even worse,” Schwartz said.

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

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

“We appreciate Con Edison’s rapid resolution of this dispute and the sensitivity of the posting and its frank discussion of homosexuality. Ms. Chirichella is especially Native Americans like Mr. Tomahawk, are victimized even worse,” Schwartz said.

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

Residents Sue To Stop Partial Shutdown of the L Line

“A year from now, the L train is supposed to stop running between Manhattan and Brooklyn for 15 months of repairs to the line’s East River tunnel. But if more than two dozen block associations have their way, the shutdown from Bedford Ave. in Brooklyn to 8th Ave. and 14th St. in Manhattan will be delayed — if it happens at all.”

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

“Two women who first exposed Con Edison as a hotbed of sexual harassment and discrimination claim state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman barely included them in a deal that netted workers as little as $5,000 each.”

“Young Residents Sue To Stop Partial Shutdown of the L Line

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

Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, LLP

“We believe that behind every significant case there are the emerging shadows of tragedy, change and uncertainty. As a firm, it is our quest to help the families we represent as they pass through these shadows every step of the way. We offer the requisite litigation skills to maximize a case’s recovery. Yet our services transcend legal expertise. We are professionals who offer the time and dedication to our clients in order to attain a common goal: positive closure. Each case represents an individual story with its own unique concerns, circumstances and objectives. Our experience has allowed us pathways of communication when working with families who’ve suffered deeply due to birth injuries, orthopedic injuries, traumatic brain injuries and deaths. We address the full magnitude of their physical, mental and emotional injuries so that the same can be forcefully and poignantly communicated to a jury. We use our advocacy, skills and resources to touch the lives of others so that they, as judges, are ultimately willing and able to sense our client’s loss and compensate them fully.”

“We focus our practice on complex cases involving catastrophic accidents and injuries, worker injuries, construction accidents, motor vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, premises liability and wrongful death. We have a reputation as one of the premier personal injury and medical malpractice firms in New York city. The firm’s lawyers are well known in the profession. Several of the partners teach at law schools and are regularly asked to participate in conferences, panel discussions and continuing legal education classes sponsored by national and state bar associations.

All of the practicing partners at Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool have been named to the most current edition of Super Lawyers, an honor limited to no more than 5 percent of attorneys who practice personal injury law. Queller, Fisher, Washor, Fuchs & Kool, L.P., as well as all of the partners, has received an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell, a distinction voted on by peers in the legal community and considered by Martindale-Hubbell to be the highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. The firm’s partners carefully review and select each case. We are dedicated to providing personalized representation to clients, which means we value quality over quantity. We treat clients as individuals, not commodities. With fewer cases, our attorneys have more time to spend with clients and to focus on building strong arguments. As a result, Queller Fisher’s clients receive the attention necessary to maximize their potential recovery.”

With decades of expertise and a proven track record of winning, Benedict Morelli has become a sought-after advocate in complex, newsworthy cases.

Over the years, Morelli Law Firm has built a reputation as the civil litigation firm you call to handle high-profile, challenging cases against some of the world’s largest and most powerful corporations. It is the firm’s impressive history of taking these cases to trial—and winning—that has helped distinguish it from its competitors.

“Trying cases is a lost art,” says firm founder Benedict Morelli. “We’re not looking for a quick settlement at the expense of our clients. We are uniquely qualified to handle cases from start to finish and will do what it takes to receive the justice our clients deserve. It is our ability to successfully litigate cases that allows us to take on any adversary, big or small.”

Most recently, Morelli achieved a verdict in a high-profile case against the United States Tennis Association on behalf of Canadian tennis star Eugenie Bouchard. The jury ruled in Bouchard’s favor after less than an hour of deliberation, finding the USTA was responsible for a head injury she suffered in a trainer’s room during the 2015 U.S. Open.

Aft er a late-night match at the 2015 U.S. Open, Bouchard was caused to slip and fall on a sliding substance that had been applied to the tile floor of the trainer’s room within the women’s locker room. As a result, Bouchard sustained a serious head injury, and was forced to withdraw from the Open, where she was still slated to compete in the women’s singles, women’s doubles, and mixed doubles brackets. Her injury also caused her to withdraw from several subsequent tournaments.

“When Genie came to me, it was clear she was seriously suffering from her injury,” Morelli says. “We knew it wouldn’t be easy taking on the USTA and that the case would receive significant public scrutiny—but I promised Genie we would bring her justice, and that’s what we did.”

Morelli and team took the case to trial in federal court in Brooklyn. Aft er an hour and a half of deliberation, the jury ruled in Bouchard’s favor, fi nding the USTA liable for her accident, “Morelli says. “We knew it wouldn’t be easy taking on the USTA and subsequent tournaments.

With decades of expertise and a proven track record of winning, Benedict Morelli has become a sought-after advocate in complex, newsworthy cases.

Empathy, passion, and resilience have been trademark characteristics of The Jacob Fuchsberg Law Firm in our past 40 years of experience. We are a firm focused on fighting for the rights of those who have been placed in vulnerable positions, and are in need of legal support. Our attorneys have a breadth of experience advocating for those with cases pertaining to medical malpractice, personal injury, foster care neglect, nursing home neglect, construction workers’ compensation, and products liability, to name a few. We also advocate for cases involving civil rights violations such as police brutality, protection of prisoners’ rights against cruel and inhumane treatment, and employment discrimination. In addition, we work for justice on a broader scale through class-action and whistleblower Qui Tam lawsuits. We focus on approaching each case with an individualized and fresh mindset—as no two personal circumstances are the same.

In our time of advocating for people in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, we have received cases that have been too challenging for less versatile law firms. ‘We use our ever-expanding perspectives to forge original arguments and path in order to win varieties of cases. This perspective arises not only from the many years of dedication and our breadth of casework, but also by working as a multi-faceted team—our attorneys ranging in legal focus and experiences. We dedicate ourselves to each person’s case with creativity and persistence to achieve justice for clients faced with emotional, physical, and mental harm. ‘We believe that your story deserves to be heard, and fought for."

The Jacob Fuchsberg Law Firm: We can help when the unimaginable happens.
Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP
Mass Tort Litigation and Product Liability Defense

When Fortune 500 companies face legal challenges in the areas of mass tort, product liability, and commercial litigation, they turn to award-winning law firm Darger Errante Yavitz & Blau LLP (DEYB). Name partner Craig Blau notes that the boutique firm provides expertise in these complex areas of law while bringing individualized attention to every client.

“We’ve become the ‘go-to’ firm in asbestos defense litigation,” says Blau. “Our partners spent years honing their legal skills at top law firms and have proven their expertise in asbestos defense litigation at national, regional, and local levels.” Locally, DEYB serves as New York City Defense Liaison Counsel, where it coordinates asbestos litigation for dozens of law firms and hundreds of companies. Its successes have led to nationwide recognition by Best Lawyers, Best Law Firms, and Super Lawyers. DEYB has also been profiled three times in Forbes as a leader in mass tort litigation and in 2016 was named the nation’s best litigation boutique by Wealth & Finance International.

The firm’s prestige has attracted an array of clients and top legal talent; DEYB has doubled in size to almost 50 employees—including 22 lawyers, 20 paralegals, and 2 nurses—since its formation in 2011.

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

“This can be a challenging area of the law but we’re always prepared,” Blau says, “Many of the firm’s partners worked for years at large international law firms before starting DEYB, and collectively we offer more than 100 years of mass tort and product liability experience.”

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Schwartzapfel Lawyers P.C.
PERSONAL INJURY, CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PREMISES LIABILITY, MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Schwartzapfel Lawyers serves as a powerful advocate for people who have suffered serious injuries or lost loved ones as a result of someone else’s wrongdoing. The firm focuses on construction site injuries and handles its clients’ personal injury, social security disability, and workers’ compensation claims all under one roof. It has developed a premier reputation for obtaining among the highest verdicts and settlements in New York State.

“We invest all of our resources, skill, experience, and expertise into getting our clients the money and benefits they deserve,” says Steven J. Schwartzapfel, who founded his firm in 1981 after defending accident cases and seeing firsthand the tactics and strategies insurance companies engaged in to delay and deny legitimate claims.

In the more than three decades since then, Schwartzapfel’s firm has achieved a 99 percent litigation success rate on all personal injury cases accepted and prosecuted—a testament to the dedication and knowledge the firm’s attorneys bring to the practice.

Schwartzapfel has regularly been listed in Super Lawyers, as well as recognized as a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by both the American Trial Lawyers Association and the National Trial Lawyers Association. Schwartzapfel, Christopher Holbrook, and Michael Reiner are all members of the elite Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Above all, though, Schwartzapfel says that the testimonials he receives from satisfied clients are the most meaningful of his recognitions.

While Schwartzapfel Lawyers have consistently returned multimillion-dollar settlements and verdicts for their clients, what speaks most to their outstanding service is the abundance of 5-Star Google reviews and client testimonials, which stand as a testament to their dedication to excellence and their commitment to results on behalf of their clients.

“AAfter being seriously injured on my job site, the insurance company didn’t want to pay. Schwartzapfel assured me that with their help I would have enough money to retire on and that’s exactly what happened” - Dominic Figurito

“Everyone in the law firm was very professional. They were there for me. They are the only law firm I would recommend to my family and friends.” - Joanna Foster

“Schwartzapfel changed my life. I wouldn’t recommend anyone else.” - Lawrence Wellbrock

“Schwartzapfel Lawyers are an amazing team that helped tremendously during a difficult time. I highly recommend their services.” - Nikki Muggle

“The settlement you won for me has changed my life. I would recommend you to all my friends and family.” - Michael Giannino

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In founding Frazer & Feldman, LLP, attorneys Florence Frazer and Jack Feldman have established one of the nation's most proficient and well-respected law firms—a practice that is uniquely positioned to provide general, special education, and labor counsel services to public school districts and boards of education.

"Many of our clients have been with us for 15 years or more, and I think that speaks to the quality of our work and the efficacy of our approach," says Feldman, who along with Frazer has been AV Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization's highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards, for more than 25 years.

As part of this practice, Feldman guides clients through all stages of the special education process, from brainstorming difficult issues to attendance at CSE meetings and manifestation determinations. He has successfully represented school districts in impartial hearings, Office of State Review appeals, and appeals in state and federal courts.

Frazer has considerable experience in her area of concentration—public sector labor law—beginning with her service as assistant director to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations more than 25 years ago. Since entering private practice, she has negotiated hundreds of collective bargaining agreements on behalf of management.

"Weber Gallagher is first and foremost a client-driven law firm—able to quickly assess cases and provide clients with legal strategies centered on their business goals," says Scott W. Bermack, who for 30 years was also licensed as a New York board of, and as general counsel to, the National Retail and Restaurant Defense Association. Among his experience, he has concentrated much of that time in the arena of retail defense, and serves on the executive committee of the National Retail Federation. "That firm, Weber Gallagher, has since grown to 10 offices and is uniquely positioned to provide general, special education, and labor counsel services to public school districts and boards of education.

"In approaching these matters, we work hard to achieve our clients' goals, but we also strive to avoid creating rancor that could impact subsequent labor-management relations," says Bermack. "Our success on behalf of our clients stems, in part, from our overarching philosophy of mutual respect between labor and management."

Derivative Case
In one of the firm's recent cases, a New York County jury returned a verdict of $13.2 million for an injured construction worker who fell four feet from a ladder. The worker suffered a ligament tear in his right shoulder that required surgery, and knee. The legal team pushed the insurance company right to the trial deadline when the insurance company finally caved in and paid the money.

"The Legal team of Morgan Levine Dolan, P.C. and Fatos Dervishi were able to win a $4 Million dollar settlement from the insurance company for a personal injury attorney with offices in the Bronx, Fatos Dervishi has years of experience handling cases in New York. Mr. Dervishi, who grew up in Albania, obtained his law degree in 1989 from the Tirana University School of Law. He then worked as a special agent of the General Investigations Office with an office in Tirana, before being elected Deputy Attorney General by the Albanian Parliament in 1994. He served as Deputy Attorney General of Albania from 1994 to 1999. In 1999, Mr. Dervishi immigrated to the United States, with his family joining him a few months later. Upon his arrival in Washington, D.C., Mr. Dervishi met with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, as his trip was sponsored by the U.S. government. Beginning in 2003, he attended Pace University School of Law and graduated with a Master of Law degree in May 2004. He has since been admitted to the New York State Bar, and practices in all of the state's courts. On June 13, 2011, Mr. Dervishi was further admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A decade after immigrating to the United States, Mr. Dervishi partnered with Jared T. Levine and Duane R. Morgan to establish the Law Offices of Dervishi, Levine & Morgan, P.C. in 2008. Mr. Dervishi also remains extremely active in the Albanian-American community, serving as a liaison for its members and assisting recent and long-time residents with their legal and other needs.

NOTEWORTHY CASES:
In one of the firm’s recent cases, a New York County jury returned a verdict of $13.2 million for an injured construction worker who fell four feet from a crane on the 2nd Avenue Subway project due to a misstep on the crane’s ladder. The worker suffered a ligament tear in his right shoulder that required surgery, and also experienced post-concussion symptoms such as short-term memory loss and difficulties with his executive functioning. The case was tried by partner Duane R. Morgan, a talented trial lawyer.
Over the past four decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys in New York City. Mr. Zucker has been given an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization’s highest rating for professional excellence, based on voting by his peers. In addition, Mr. Zucker has been selected to the 2015 and 2016 editions of New York Super Lawyers and the New York Law Journal Motor Vehicle Verdicts and Settlements Hall of Fame.

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

Among its significant recoveries, the firm obtained a verdict of $10.5 million for a child who suffered severe brain injury due to obstetrical malpractice. It also secured a $6 million settlement for the death of a 32-year-old married plumber, which was the largest reported settlement in New York in 2014 for injury or death suffered by a passenger in a motor vehicle accident.

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

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

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

With over 80 attorneys, Rosenberg & Estis is one of the largest real estate practices in New York. Built on long-term relationships and results, the firm wins and maintains the respect of clients and peers alike based on excellence and outcomes.

Over the course of its 40-plus year history, Rosenberg & Estis has made its mark on the New York skyline. From the outset, the firm’s sole concentration has been real estate, giving its lawyers a vast breadth of knowledge and expertise with a unique and concentrated perspective.

Rosenberg & Estis provides representation and advice in every aspect of real estate, from performing due diligence and evaluating financing, to handling joint ventures, acquisitions and leasing, and the litigations and negotiations which sometimes ensue when due diligence is not enough. Rosenberg & Estis’ wealth of experience in the New York real estate market and real estate law makes it the ideal thought partner for owners, developers, not-for-profit corporations, educational institutions, sponsors, equity investors and lenders in both real estate transactions and in all court venues, including landlord-tenant court, State Supreme Court, Federal Courts and the Appellate Terms, Appellate Divisions, and Court of Appeals.

Having unparalleled mastery of and experience in one of the most expensive and competitive markets in the country, Rosenberg & Estis is known for its tenacious and successful representation in all aspects of commercial and residential real estate litigation, transactions, administrative law proceedings and appeals. Clients benefit from the firm’s commitment to exceptional service and its unique ability to anticipate roadblocks and address any issues with creative solutions.
Steven L. Kessler
Asset Forfeiture, White-Collar Criminal Law, Complex Civil Litigation

Mr. Kessler is a graduate of Cornell Law School, and is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL). He has received the Super Lawyer accolade and is a member of the Southern District of New York bars. He has tried numerous cases in Federal Courts, the New York State Courts, and has testiﬁ ed before numerous legislative committees. His legal ability and ethical standards have been recognized by his peers and the New York State Bar Association. He is a frequent lecturer on health care fraud and abuse, corporate compliance, reimbursement, and provider contracting. He has also authored several chapters and served as an Editor of the Fifth Edition of the Legal Manual for Physicians that was published by the New York State Bar Association in conjunction with the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Jaroslawicz & Jaros PLLC
Personal Injury

Gurfein Douglas, Attorneys at Law
Personal Injury & Medical Malpractice

For over 45 years the attorneys at Gurfein Douglas have been fighting for the rights of people with catastrophic injuries from auto accidents, malpractice, construction, work related, product defect and wrongful death cases. Each client gets the personal attention of the senior partners whose dedication, knowledge, passion and commitment to their case is what one would expect from “Leaders in the Law”. In addition to their law degrees, Mr. Gurfein holds a degree in engineering and Mr. Douglas holds a degree in biochemistry. Mr. Gurfein is a past president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Douglas is the past editor-in-chief of the New York Litigation Review.

Seiden & Kaufman
Personal Injury, Products Liability, Wrongful Death

Seiden & Kaufman is a founding member of Seiden & Kaufman. He has practiced exclusively personal injury law for more than 30 years. Mr. Seiden has recovered millions of dollars for injured victims of accidents and surviving family members in wrongful death actions.

Steven J. Seiden
Mr. Seiden has successfully handled thousands of cases in the New York State Courts, Federal Courts, and Court of Claims arising from all types of motor vehicle accidents, premises accidents, and construction accidents. Mr. Seiden has also been appointed by numerous attorneys in cases involving catastrophic injuries to serve as lead counsel. In 2018, Mr. Seiden was named in New York Super Lawyers.

The MacLean Law Firm, P.C.

The MacLean Law Firm is a boutique estate and trusts litigation firm offering over 25 years of experience first-tier estates and trusts legal counsel. We represent individuals and institutions as beneficiaries, executors, trustees and guardians in all types of Surrogate’s Court and Supreme Court litigation. We counsel and help individual beneficiaries and fiduciaries enforce their rights and fulfill their duties in probate and in the administration and accounting of estates and trusts. We solve estate planning and asset protection challenges for clients, helping them create lasting legacies for their families and communities.
Richard Harris Rosenberg’s expertise in criminal defense has driven successful representation of his clients for more than 30 years in federal and state courts. Long recognized by his peers as a preeminent advocate, Mr. Rosenberg’s experience and commitment have enabled him to achieve positive results in an array of complex criminal prosecutions.

These cases have involved mail and wire fraud, misuse of office by public officials, health care and securities fraud, money laundering, narcotics importation and distribution, Hobbs Act strikes, racketeering, material support of terrorism and weapon related offenses. Mr. Rosenberg attributes his success to vigorous preparation, thoroughness, advocacy and a keen understanding of the dynamics of the criminal justice system.

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Jeffrey C. Hoffman
Litigation, White-Collar Crime, Commercial Litigation

Jeff focuses primarily in white collar defense and investigations matters, with 40+ years of criminal defense experience in representing politicians, business leaders, lawyers, and many others in a myriad of federal and state cases. He has tried more than 100 criminal jury trials, including (but not limited to) mail fraud, securities fraud, bank fraud, mortgage fraud and Ponzi schemes. He has also represented clients charged with money laundering, criminal forfeiture of property and restitution, in jurisdictions with related extradition proceedings. Approximately 25% of Jeff’s clients are lawyers who he has also represented in disciplinary proceedings, and 80% of his jury trials were in federal courts throughout the U.S.

Michele Arbenn
Real Estate Finance, Municipal Finance, Trade Finance

Michele is a Partner who concentrates her practice in the areas of commercial lending, real estate finance and municipal finance. She has extensive experience representing financial institutions and not-for-profits in all aspects of secured and unsecured financing, including: acquisition loans, construction loans, lines of credit and term loans, and letter of credit enhanced and private placement of tax-exempt and taxable municipal bond financings. She also represents financial institutions in affordable housing transactions. Michele is the Chair of Windels Marx’s Woman, which focuses on business development and networking for every female lawyer at the firm. She also leads the firm’s Mentoring Program and serves on the Executive Committee of the Brooklyn Arts Council.

Sanjay Mody
Infrastructure, Real Estate, Finance

Sanjay’s practice spans infrastructure, real estate, and finance. He advises public authorities and private sector clients and is a frequent commentator on policy matters involving infrastructure and economic development. Sanjay previously served as Senior Advisor to the Chairman of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, where he advised the Chairman’s Office on policy, legal, and financial issues relating to the agency’s major capital projects, including the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, airport terminal redevelopment, and a new cross-Hudson rail tunnel, among others. He clerked for the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.
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Pierre E. Debbas, Esq. Real Estate

Pierre E. Debbas is a partner and founding member of Dubilaw. Pierre has extensive experience in the purchase and sale of residential and commercial real estate in New York City, commercial leasing, real estate related financing matters, representations of co-op and condos boards, foreign investors and small businesses. Pierre is frequently quoted in national and regional publications including the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. He is regularly featured in several of the city’s largest real estate brokerage firms. In addition, Pierre is certified by the Dept. of State to teach continuing education courses on the topics of residential and commercial real estate in New York State.

Ray Beckerman

Ray Beckerman is the managing partner at Ray Beckerman, LLP. Ray has represented major newspapers in the acquisition, sale and operating of properties for retail, commercial and property management transfer stations. He has developed a unique specialty in the representation of publishers, editors, and owners of newspapers, magazines, online and print publications and editors. Ray also has extensive experience in overarching, antitrust and defamation cases. Ray is the former Town Attorney of Westchester and represents the Chestnut Hill Municipal Planning Federation. Ray produces audio and video content for the Westchester County Bar Association Web site and has been a member of the Westchester County Bar Association Web site and has been a member of the Westchester County Bar Association for over 30 years.

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

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

Michael H. Schwartz
Bankruptcy

For over 35 years, Mr. Schwartz has gone the extra mile for his clients. His legal proceedings against Banks and Credit Card Companies is legendary. Mr. Schwartz has been quoted in the NY Times and Wall Street Journal. He has been a guest speaker on bankruptcy law for numerous Bar Associations and other groups. Mr. Schwartz is a graduate from Max Gardner’s Bankruptcy Boot Camps and Mortgage Modification Boot Camps. Selected as a NY Metro Super Lawyer for 2018.

Hon. Joseph P. Spinola
MEDIATOR

Former NYS Supreme Court Justice Joseph Spinola has become one of the most popular and successful mediators in New York. In 2018 he was voted the #1 Mediator in the U.S. by lawyers in the National Law Journal. He also was voted the #1 Mediator in the New York Law Journal for a record five consecutive years. Spinola has extensive experience mediating a wide array of civil disputes and the unique perspective of trying cases as a defense attorney, plaintiff’s attorney, and judge – which gives him the ability to understand all sides and aspects of the cases he mediates.

Jason Boyarski
Entertainment & Media

Jason Boyarski, founding partner of Boyarski Fritz LLP, is a top-rated entertainment and media lawyer with a broad array of experience. With past posts at highly distinguished companies in media and entertainment (including Warner, Universal, BMG, WFL Gotshal & Manges, NBC, and Sony), Jason’s vast background makes him a trusted advisor to the entertainment, media, and technology communities. Jason’s practice is on the cutting edge of multi-industry trends and well-rooted in entertainment deal-making, intellectual property, content licensing, and new media transactions. Jason’s diverse client roster includes entertainment companies, recording artists, songwriters and producers, celebrity personalities, social influencers, mobile apps, management and production companies, marketing agencies and consumer goods brands.

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Lawrence P. Schnapf
Environmental Law

Lawrence P. Schnapf is an environmental attorney with offices in New York City. With 35 years of experience, Larry primarily concentrates on environmental risks associated with corporate, real estate and brownfield transactions, commercial financing including asset-based lending, syndicated loans, mezzanine loans and distressed debt; bankruptcy, workouts and corporate restructuring. He has extensive experience with brownfield redevelopment and financing, including representing affordable housing developers and assisting local development corporations or not-for-profit organizations with their brownfield planning programs. Larry is the author of “Managing Environmental Liability in Transactions and Brownfield Redevelopment” published by JurisLaw Publishing, and an adjunct professor of environmental law at New York Law School.

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Publishing: October 1st

Publishing: December 10th

Including top verdicts and settlements of 2018