



FALL 2019 EDITION

THE TOP 50 ATTORNEYS OF 2019

THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED INDIVIDUALS IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Featuring

JASON P. SHARP

Of Counsel at Foley & Lardner





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The staff of *The Top 100 Magazine* would like to express their gratitude for having the privilege of working with the brightest, most accomplished and esteemed professionals in the legal profession.

Through the combined efforts of our account directors, writers, production staff, and artists, as well as the cooperation of everyone who is featured in this extraordinary edition, I believe we are presenting our greatest publication to date.

I know that our readers will be equally impressed by these stories and appreciate the tremendous fortitude, dedication, and perseverance of these individuals, along with the many sacrifices they have made in the pursuit of their dreams.

It is my sincere wish that each and every one of these amazing professionals continue to experience success and my pleasure to present *The Top 50 Attorneys* of 2019.

Joseph Nunziato
CEO, Redwood Media

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THE TOP 50 ATTORNEYS OF 2019

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DINAMARY HORVATH MAXE LAW

Tell us about your practice.

I am the founder and principal of Maxe Law, a firm that focuses on employment law specializing in workplace investigations, Title IX investigations and compliance training. I am based in Rockport, Massachusetts and provide services on the east coast.

With the rise of the Me-Too Movement and the heightened awareness of misconduct in the workplace, there has been a significant increase in reports of interpersonal conflict, inappropriate behaviors, and threats of violence. It is prudent for companies and educational institutions to hire outside investigators to analyze these situations – and that is what I do.

I conduct impartial investigations of employment complaints into allegations of workplace misconduct including discrimination, harassment, retaliation, violence, bullying, dishonesty, ethical and policy violations and whistleblowing. I conduct training sessions on compliance related topics including discrimination prevention, sexual harassment prevention, and diversity and inclusion, always tailoring them to the specific needs of my clients.

Who are your Clients?

My clients include educational institutions, private employers, and public entities. I am routinely hired by them directly, or as a result of referrals from their go-to employment litigation defense firm (who do not conduct investigations for their clients in order to avoid disqualification from defending the related litigation). At Maxe Law, we are dedicated to providing professional, compassionate legal service to our clients for their overall well-being.

"MAXE LAW is dedicated to providing **PROFESSIONAL**, compassionate **LEGAL SERVICE** to our clients for their overall **WELL-BEING.**"

Maxe Law Specializes In:

- ▶ WORKPLACE INVESTIGATIONS
- ▶ TITLE IX INVESTIGATIONS
- ▶ EMPLOYMENT LAW COMPLIANCE TRAINING

What sets you apart from other law firms in the same realm?

When there are conflicts in the workplace, the employer must obtain reliable facts in order to reach a resolution. As an impartial investigator, I hear both sides and through analysis provide a thorough report with my findings of facts. My role as an investigator is not to advocate or represent any of the parties involved in the investigation. I am a neutral party that is assessing the current workplace in a way that demonstrates compassion, professionalism, and responsiveness. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to interact and communicate effectively with employee witnesses, members of leadership, and other key stakeholders throughout the course of the investigation is critical. I maintain high ethical standards and integrity, with a deep respect for privacy and confidentiality. My ability to relate on a multicultural level, provide training and conduct investigations in both English and Spanish, positions Maxe Law as a leader in this field.

Do you have any additional certifications regarding the type of work that you do?

I am a certificate holder with the Association of Workplace Investigators (AWI), and a Convener for the AWI New England Local Circle. I am also certified by the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) to conduct anti-discrimination and investigation training, as well as a certificate holder in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. I have recently been appointed as a new member of the Board of Directors for the Association of Workplace Investigators.

How did you end up focusing on employment law?

I grew up in New York and attended Long Island University, CW Post Campus earning a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and a Master of Arts in Political Science. I attended law school and received my Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Prior to establishing my practice, I litigated employment law matters with Jackson Lewis LLP, where I advised and counseled employers on a wide variety of employment law issues. I also served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Hartford in Connecticut and was responsible for employment matters, policy development, and litigation management.

When and how did you decide to start your own firm?

As a new mom, I wanted the flexibility to spend quality time with my daughter, Isabella Maxe, and build my firm to assist employers with navigating challenging situations. My experience in employment law set



the foundation for me to eventually start my own practice. In 2016, after relocating from Connecticut to Massachusetts, I established Maxe Law.

How do you balance being a mother and a working professional?

As a working mother and attorney, I enjoy the most gratifying aspects of both family life and my chosen career. There are always challenges, but I am truly inspired and motivated by my daughter and my husband, who encouraged me to start my own practice. I am also very fortunate to have an amazing bond with my step-daughter, Sarah and am very grateful to my extended family— my parents and my in-laws, who have been extremely supportive of me, my family and my career. If you work hard and build a practice through respect, courage, and the ongoing commitment to truly helping others, you can achieve sustainable and gratifying success.



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RYAN K. BONNER

Partner, McNickle & Bonner, LLP

As a practicing attorney, real estate broker, and owner of a successful real estate agency, as well as a real estate investment company, Ryan K. Bonner credits his excellent education and his extensive experience in law and real estate with helping him successfully serve his clients and his community.

As an attorney and managing partner with McNickle & Bonner, LLP, a law firm that handles diverse legal cases and issues, Ryan concentrates on real estate law and transactions, estate planning and administration, and elder care and Medicaid planning. In addition to his legal casework, Ryan oversees the business operations for the firm. This role includes designing and improving operational systems, handling human resources responsibilities, researching and developing new practice areas for the firm as well as locating, negotiating, and establishing new office locations.

McNickle & Bonner, LLP, originally founded in 1929, has a long and distinguished history. Today, it is a highly successful general practice law firm that expertly handles cases in almost every aspect of the law. The team of experienced attorneys at McNickle & Bonner, LLP focus on personal injury, commercial litigation, municipal representation, real estate, estate planning and administration, elder care and Medicaid planning. The youngest of the three partners, Ryan joined McNickle & Bonner, LLP in 2006, joining two well established, renowned attorneys, who now each have over 40 years of experience in the practice of law. The Firm has offices located in Grove City and Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, and serves clients in Mercer, Butler, Lawrence, Venango, Beaver, and Allegheny counties.

Ryan explains that the Firm offers personalized service and builds strong relationships with all of their clients. They are extremely accessible and are considered a small town law firm with large law firm capability. He explains, "We are all active members of the community and we view our clients as friends and neighbors first. We are always available; whether a client pops into our office unannounced, gives us a call, sends an email, or runs into one of us in the grocery store. We are always at their service."

As a result of providing excellent service to clients over his 12+ years in the practice of law, Ryan has received several prestigious awards, including:

- 2018: *Top Lawyers in PA* by The Legal Network (Highest in ethical standards and professional excellence)
- 2019: *Top 10 Real Estate Attorneys in PA* by American Jurist Institute
- 2018/19: *10 Best Real Estate Attorneys* by American Institute of Legal Counsel
- 2017/18: *10 Best Elder Law Attorneys* by American Institute of Legal Counsel
- *Premier 100 Trial Attorney for PA* by the National Academy of Jurisprudence
- *Best Attorneys of America Lifetime Charter Member* by Rue Ratings of America
- *Top American Lawyers Lifetime Charter Member*
- *Distinguished Alumni of Notre Dame* by Bristol Who's Who

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MCNICKLE & BONNER, LLP

In addition to serving their clients through the law practice, the attorneys of McNickle & Bonner, LLP also serve the community in several other ways. All have served as directors for various community organizations. Ryan has served on the board of directors for the Grove City Chamber of Commerce, the Grove City Area United Way, Grow Grove City, a charitable organization dedicated to the revitalization and beautification of Grove City, and the Grove City Foundation, a charitable organization that manages several charitable funds and scholarships for the benefit of the Grove City community and its people.

It is not only that small town feel and personalized service that attracts clients from generation to generation, however. All three of the attorneys in the firm have graduated from prestigious schools, achieved academic honors, and delivered top level service from the start of their careers. The law firm is routinely nominated for awards in the legal field for service and expertise, as is each attorney, individually. Everyone at McNickle & Bonner, LLP takes to heart the law firm's motto, "Tradition, Commitment, Service" by demonstrating those qualities to clients every day.

After graduating from Grove City Area High School in 1999, Ryan attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, majoring in finance, in May of 2003. He earned his law degree (J.D.) from Penn State University - Dickinson Law School in May of 2006.

Ryan's appetite for multiple careers began in 2007, when he joined the Mercer County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney. In that role, he prosecuted all types of criminal cases, including murder, rape, child sex crimes, and other violent crimes.

In 2011, after four years with the District Attorney's Office, Ryan moved into private practice full time, with a concentration in real estate. Combining his passion for real estate with the expertise gained through his real estate law practice, Ryan founded Bonner Real Estate LLC, a real estate investment company, in 2014. Ryan quickly followed that up by opening a real estate agency, Bonner & Bibza Realty, in 2015.





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NHAN NGUYEN

Law Office of Nhan Nguyen, MD, JD

As both a doctor and a lawyer what inspired you to study both fields?

Upon graduating from Baylor University, *magna cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa*, I attended the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, prospectively to become a surgeon or anesthesiologist. While going through my medical training, I felt compelled and motivated to understand the legal side of the healthcare industry, as the regulatory climate affecting medicine had begun to dramatically shift. Thus, I decided to go to law school, attending the University of Houston Law Center, with a focus on healthcare law, business law, and intellectual property. I concurrently also earned a Master of Science degree in finance at the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. This combination of my education and experience has really been a benefit to me in practicing law, enabling me to focus on assisting clients holistically, from business, health, and legal perspectives

With your diverse background and education, what inspired you to ultimately choose to practice law?

My family immigrated to the United States as refugees, following the Vietnam War, with very few resources. After being helped by the American people and assimilating into a new culture, I was inspired to take advantage of an elite education system that would not have been available to me in Vietnam or otherwise. I take great pride in being able to use my education to help other people.

After studying medicine, law, and business, I ultimately chose the legal profession because the legal facets of the healthcare industry intrigued me, both intellectually and emotionally. There are so many different perspectives and issues involved across all my practice areas that offer intellectual challenges, problem-solving opportunities, and critical thinking analyses. In the healthcare space for example, I have to work with the FDA, physicians, medical companies, biotechnology/pharmaceutical enterprises, regulatory compliance businesses, and more.

"I ultimately chose the **LEGAL PROFESSION** because the legal facets of the healthcare industry **INTRIGUED** me, both **INTELLECTUALLY** and **EMOTIONALLY**."

What does your law firm specialize in?

We focus on healthcare, litigation, intellectual property, entrepreneurialism, and personal injury/bodily harm. Many of our clients need assistance with legal issues related to hospitals, healthcare practices, or other medical related issues. For personal injury cases, we work with our clients to ensure that they get both the medical and legal assistance that they need and deserve. We successfully research, mediate, and litigate on behalf of all of our clients.

Our healthcare focused practice specializes in any legal matter that pertains to regulatory and compliance issues, delivery models and services, finance and investments, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical devices, information technology, intellectual property, disciplinary issues and other matters. We offer legal assistance and consulting services to hospitals, healthcare institutions, clinicians, investors, medical practices, financial institutions, consultants, and other law firms involved in intellectual property, business and healthcare.

Why did you choose to mainly focus on personal injury representation?

After studying both law and medicine, I felt that I had the practical, real world experience to really understand my clients' issues, especially when it comes to injuries or other medical related issues. As a trained physician, I understand the big picture on both sides; much more than someone who has just studied theoretical law. In addition to studying medicine and law, I also have a master's degree in finance and worked in

business development, so I combine all of my knowledge and experience to assist my clients in the best possible way. After I graduated from law school, I was offered positions at other firms, but I wanted to work for myself and provide the best service possible, so I decided to open my own firm.

With my diverse background in business, medicine, and law, I have the in-depth knowledge, skills, and experience to help clients navigate the complex areas of personal injury and insurance claims to help maximize the amount of damages needed for recovery. I have successfully litigated on behalf of hundreds of clients for millions of dollars in settlements. It takes a unique understanding to evaluate injuries and read medical charts properly in order to best represent our clients' injuries for their recovery. Because this experience is in-house, we have a perspective and benefit for our clients that many other law firms do not possess.

What part of your career gives you the most satisfaction?

I get the most satisfaction from the gratitude I see in my clients when they are genuinely happy and satisfied with the care and the service that my firm has provided. We work closely with our clients, representing and litigating tirelessly on their behalf to secure what they need to recover and live a comfortable life. Very few firms can focus on both the clients' medical AND legal needs – we are one of those.

What's the inspiration for your work?

I find inspiration within myself. Wanting to provide for my family is a primary factor but I also want to give back to my community because it has allowed us to prosper and flourish. I am eager to show others, who have limited resources, that they too can achieve success through hard work and dedication. Lastly, I am driven to help those in need; our injured clients. I started out in medicine because helping people was a source of pride. Now that my career shifted to law, that pride still drives and motivates me today.

What do you plan for the future?

I am very excited for the future of the firm. We are expanding our marketing efforts to help more injured clients across the city, and hopefully the region and state, perhaps even a nationwide presence and getting into mass torts. We anticipate litigating more cases to best represent our clients' interests in personal injuries, but also civil and business litigation. With these blessings of growth, we want to expand our team, bringing on more experienced attorneys and support staff to work hard for our clients. Even though I have been in the business since 2003, it seems like we're only getting started.

The Law Office of Nhan Nguyen, MD, JD, MSF in Houston, Texas, has more than 14 years of combined legal experienced in personal injury and medical law and litigation. We have spent our careers representing injured parties and fighting to hold people and businesses accountable for negligence, carelessness and misconduct that have caused serious and fatal injuries.



DIANA L. GRAMENOS

Principal/Owner, Gramenos Law Group, LLC

Ever since embarking on her legal career in 2004, Diana Gramenos has always had the ambition to manage her own law practice. After a couple of years in private practice, Ms. Gramenos focused her efforts on becoming a legal expert in the Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income Benefits (SSI) fields. In 2008, Diana ultimately achieved her professional goal and founded her own firm, The Law Offices of Diana L. Gramenos, in Lansing, Michigan.

Diana, a Chicago, Illinois native, credits her father for inspiring her to become an attorney. Her father, James Gramenos Sr., was a federal administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration, who sat on the bench for nearly 30 years. After graduating law school in 2007, Diana thought she would pursue a career in criminal law (a field her father was also seasoned in as a young attorney in Chicago in the 1960s), but after a year of handling court-appointed criminal cases for the State of Michigan, she shifted her focus and ultimately found her niche and now exclusively represents claimants before the Social Security Administration.

Diana earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Eastern Michigan University and went on to receive her J.D. from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. After law school, she worked as a sole practitioner (The Law Offices of Diana L. Gramenos) in Michigan. In 2010, Diana moved her practice to the east coast and obtained a dual-law license in the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania; however, after much consideration, she returned to her beloved City of Chicago in 2011. After passing her fourth bar examination in the State of Illinois, Diana swiftly set out to practice law and focus on the areas of SSDI and SSI representation. Diana chose to

dissolve her prior law practice and joined an attorneys' solo practice in Chicago's West Loop as a junior partner. From there, Diana was offered an 'of counsel' position at a prominent Workers' Compensation law firm in the busy Chicago Loop, wherein she aided the firm in growing their in-house SSDI and SSI department.

In 2012, Diana was recruited by a leading nationwide legal funding company that commissioned her to build their own in-house SSDI benefits department. Subsequent to that large undertaking, Diana established a partnership and was the co-owner and managing attorney of a high volume, nationwide firm, where she litigated nearly 1,000 SSDI and SSI claims throughout the country. In early 2018, Diana and her partner amicably dissolved the partnership so that Ms. Gramenos could pursue her legal dream of again owning and operating her own law practice under her own terms.

Diana launched The Gramenos Law Group in April 2018 and in just one year, the firm has grown from a handful of cases to well over 100, with zero marketing spend. The vast majority of her clients are disabled workers who have paid into the *Social Security Fund* for 25 years or more, and suddenly became ill or injured, and are no longer capable of full-time work. Diana works tirelessly on their behalf to fight for the benefits that they desperately need and that are rightfully owed to them. Her most gratifying moment in each approved case is the moment when she is able to tell her client that their case has finally been approved after nearly two years or more of fighting hard on their behalf. Diana adds that her vision as a young female entrepreneur and attorney, "Is to become a local and national presence when it comes to representing Social Security Disability claimants." Diana believes in an honest and compassionate approach, whether in discussing a new or existing case with a client, building a referral relationship with a local firm or organization, or leading by example in her personal life.

In addition to her professional and academic accomplishments Diana is also involved in the local Chicago community and works closely with local non-profits, like Westside Justice Center (www.westsidejustice.org), the Progress Center for Independent Living (www.progresscil.org) and Access Living (www.accessliving.org), to name a few. Her largest business partnership was established in 2018, with one of Chicago's leading law firms, the Vrdolyak Law Group. Ms. Gramenos single handedly secured the Gramenos Law Group as their primary referral source when it comes to trusting their clients in another attorney's hands for all their SSDI or SSI needs. Diana hasn't stopped there and continues to establish fruitful and mutually beneficial referral relationships with firms, large and small, around the country. When not investing her time in the growth of her practice, Diana is devoted to her health and wellness and teaches yoga as a hobby several times a month. At all other times, she enjoys being with her young daughter, Catherine.



SHERWIN BELKIN

Founding Partner, Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP

"I try to not only know the law as it exists, but to be attuned to potential changes in the law. This helps clients make the best short term and long term decisions."

Sherwin Belkin is a leading expert on rent regulations in New York City. As a successful attorney and founding partner of the law firm, Belkin Burden Wenig and Goldman, LLP, Sherwin focuses on diverse legal issues pertaining to real estate, with specific emphasis on administrative law, real estate development, rent regulation, litigation and appeals.

After graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in political science, Sherwin earned his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School. He then began working as associate counsel to an agency that administered New York rent regulations and then worked as a law assistant at an appellate court that heard appeals from many housing disputes. After gaining valuable knowledge, experience, and rising to partner at a real estate law firm, he and three of his colleagues started their own firm.

Thirty years later, Belkin Burden Wenig and Goldman, LLP, is a prominent, boutique, real estate law firm that has grown from the original four partners to nearly 50 attorneys that focus on all aspects of real estate law. As a practicing attorney in the real estate industry for over 40 years, Sherwin is always focused on the constantly evolving laws that affect the industry. As a result, he strives to provide the best legal advice and cutting edge service to his clients and tries to prepare them ahead of time to be in the most optimal position before any changes to the laws go in effect.

Sherwin likes to live by the motto, "Avoid the woulda's, coulda's, and shoulda's" in both his personal and professional life. He explained that when he started his firm, this motto guided him into making the right decision, and he feels that it was the best thing that he ever did, "I was confident that I could do it and I have no regrets."



As one of New York City's leading experts on rent regulations, Sherwin has been interviewed and quoted as an expert by numerous prominent publications including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Real Deal*, *Crain's* and *New York Daily News* and many others.

Sherwin has also lectured on a wide variety of real estate issues at seminars sponsored by various organizations including the Rent Stabilization Association, Community Housing Improvement Program and the Association of Housing Court Judges.

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GREG QUIMBY

Owner, The Law Office of Greg Quimby

Greg Quimby attributes his success as an attorney to much more than a twenty-year career in law. As a former police officer, a licensed certified public accountant (CPA), MBA graduate, and a father and grandfather, Greg relies on his professional, personal, and educational experiences to provide his clients with personal services and elite representation.

Greg is a dedicated attorney and the founder of his firm, the Law Office of Greg Quimby, P.C. As a professional with an impressive and diverse background, Greg comments, "I believe that I am uniquely qualified to represent clients primarily because I understand relationships. I have a PhD in family. I've been married to the same woman for 44 years, and have 2 children and 6 grandchildren."

Greg is the chief litigating attorney for his firm, which primarily handles family law. Greg's daughter, Erica, is also an attorney with the firm and together they manage an experienced team of attorneys, paralegals and support staff.

Greg explains what makes the practice run so well, "All four of our attorneys are litigators, highly capable of taking cases through mediation and into the court room if necessary. We also have one attorney who concentrates on probate and estate planning. Our office is located only block and a half away from the courthouse, which is extremely convenient as all of our attorneys practice regularly in the courthouse." Greg is extremely proud of his team of attorneys and staff and adds that they all contribute various areas of strength and expertise to help the firm prosper.

Greg's diverse experience in law enforcement, finance, accounting, and law, has provided him with a deep understanding and insight into many issues that help him to serve his clients. Because of his vast experience in these areas, other attorneys often consult with Greg or refer cases to him that pertain to those issues.

His impressive educational and professional journey has spanned over forty years and began when he graduated from Boston College in 1973. After graduating from college he became a police officer with the Prince George's County Maryland Police Department. While working in law enforcement, he furthered his education, and received an associate degree in accounting in 1983. In 1985, he became licensed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Greg then relocated



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**"I HAVE A PHD IN FAMILY.
I'VE BEEN MARRIED TO THE
SAME WOMAN FOR 44 YEARS,
AND HAVE 2 CHILDREN AND 6
GRANDCHILDREN."**

with his family to Colorado Springs and began working as a CPA. In Colorado, he continued his education and received a Master of Business Administration degree (MBA) in finance from the University of Colorado in 1988.

After gaining valuable experience in the accounting and finance industry, Greg attended the University of Denver, College of Law and graduated in 1993 with a scholarship for litigation. Greg then worked as a prosecutor for five years both in Colorado Springs and in Trinidad, Colorado, starting as a deputy district attorney and was eventually promoted to assistant district attorney and the chief trial deputy. His prosecutions included homicides and serious child abuse cases. He never lost a homicide. In 1998, Greg decided to start his own business and founded his own law firm.

While Greg is professionally committed to supporting families through the services of his law practice, he is also deeply devoted to his family, his children, and grandchildren, and is inspired by the following quote by Thomas Paine, "If there must be trouble, let it be in my day that my child may have peace."



To honor his love for family and his daughter, Greg designed a statue that was cast in bronze, and titled, "My Little Girl". He created it to memorialize his special bond with his daughter, Erica.



J. ROBERT BELL III, ESQUIRE

MASS TORT AND PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

Since the first day of his legal career, Rob Bell has gained a wealth of hands-on legal experience. While in law school, he acquired complex knowledge and indispensable insight into the medical device and pharmaceutical industry. "I started learning everything from the bottom up - working up mass tort cases, doing deposition prep, screening cases, interacting with clients and reviewing thousands of pages of medical records and documents. At that time, it was invaluable experience and an interesting niche to learn about."

Today, Rob is a successful mass tort and personal injury attorney who focuses on legal issues pertaining to medical devices and pharmaceutical litigation, products liability, medical malpractice and personal injury. He is an integral member of the team of lawyers at Osborne & Francis, PLLC, a nationally renowned law firm with offices in Boca Raton and Orlando, Florida.

Rob graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance. He continued his education, earning his J.D. from Stetson University College of Law, where

he excelled in his trial advocacy classes and was an esteemed member of the *Honors Program*.

In his role as an attorney, Rob represents and advocates on behalf of clients adversely afflicted by defective medical devices and harmful drugs in the most complex mass tort cases on both a national and local level. He has resolved "hundreds of medical device cases" and has a plethora of experience litigating in state and federal courts across the country. Whether through settlement or litigation, Rob strives to make a significant impact for every single one of his clients.

Rob's law firm, Osborne & Francis, PLLC, specializes in national medical device and pharmaceutical cases, products liability, medical malpractice, personal injury litigation and civil rights cases.

Rob is an active member of the American Association for Justice, Palm Beach County Justice Association, Palm Beach County Bar Association and Stetson Law Alumni Association.

Contact Rob Today, No Matter Your Location:

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ARRINGTON & PHILLIPS ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Aurielle Brooks relies on her years of prior experience in the entertainment industry to expertly serve her clients as an attorney. As a successful woman working in a predominately male dominated industry, Aurielle has proven herself as an elite attorney who is passionate about providing her clients with knowledgeable, focused and committed legal expertise.

Aurielle received a B.A. in political science and a minor in professional and applied ethics from Valdosta State University in 2014. She obtained a scholarship to Atlanta's John Marshall Law School thereafter, allowing her to plant greater roots in her hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where she also received her J.D. in 2017.

Based in Atlanta as an associate attorney for the law firm of Arrington & Phillips, LLP, Aurielle focuses on entertainment, intellectual property, and business law. Her role involves negotiating complex deals with large companies and talent on behalf of her clients, including multi-platinum recording artists and producers, large and small businesses, actors, and production companies.

Aurielle primarily assists clients with legal matters relating to entertainment, such as negotiations of album releases, licensing music to major networks and companies like Netflix and Disney, publishing, distribution, copyright, and trademark registration, and other transactions. With over five years of previous experience, working in the entertainment industry, Aurielle is well-suited for this role and provides expertise in all areas related to entertainment law. While attending John Marshall, Aurielle began working with Def Jam Records, while also working to build her own management consulting firm with a colleague. Working at Def Jam, Aurielle was immersed in a world of music, entertainment, and high profile clients, and learned all aspects of the industry, behind the scenes. She also spent four years as a managing partner at The Chosen Circle, LLC, a management-consulting firm, where she secured endorsements, sponsorships, and developed marketing and branding strategies for high profile clients and businesses.

Aurielle's passion for the arts and music inspired her to become the attorney she is today. She grew up teaching herself to play multiple music instruments and dancing. Her passion for the arts, coupled with her interest in impacting the lives of those who share their artistic talents, led her to pursue a career in entertainment law. Aurielle believes the key to happiness and success is "putting one's passion to action." In her own words "Ultimately, this path has shown me that I possess the tools to inspire and greatly impact so



many, especially young women, by showing them that there is no ceiling to the heights they can reach."

As a highly skilled negotiator, with law licenses in both Georgia and New York, Aurielle works with multi-platinum artists and producers in varying aspects across the country. She is dedicated to her clients and adds that she always encourages them to chase their dreams and never quit, whether they are just starting out or hoping to expand their careers.

Aurielle is a member of the New York Bar Association, the Georgia Bar Association, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, *Alpha Kappa Alpha* Sorority, Incorporated, the Black Entertainment Sports Lawyers Association, and many other organizations. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she is also involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. At this early stage in her legal career, Aurielle has already served as a resource to others by speaking on numerous panels, discussing entertainment and social issues in the world today.

Making an impact through her passions is a goal Aurielle is well on her way to achieving.

Aurielle Brooks, Esq., Arrington & Phillips, LLP

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Photo credit Regan Morton Photography.

J. Kevin Edmundson

The Experience You Need When It Matters Most

J. Kevin Edmundson is passionate about his family, music, sports, and is most comfortable in a pair of jeans. He wasn't born in Texas, but as they say, he got here as soon as he could. "I am a family first kind of guy. My practice is very important to me and my clients, of course, but spending time with the family is a significant priority."

Kevin watched his father, also a lawyer, work his fingers to the bone in Washington, DC. "I decided I didn't want to do it that way. I wanted to create a lifestyle that allowed me to balance the pressures of the office with the joys of home life and raising kids." So how did a kid who grew up in the suburbs of the Nation's Capital end up in Texas? Well, Kevin took a very circuitous route. After graduating from high school, Kevin attended the University of Alabama, a place he knew nothing about and had never visited. That was part of its appeal, sort of like running away from home. "It was radically different from where I grew up. It was a great adventure and I had a blast," he said. Kevin learned how to adapt in an unfamiliar environment and thrived at throwing himself at new things.

After college, Kevin returned home and earned his law degree from the Catholic University School of Law. After ten years of practice in DC, first at a large national law firm, and later, as a

young enforcement attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he decided it was time to run away again. He set out for Texas and continued his career with the SEC in its Fort Worth office. He rose quickly through the ranks and served as an assistant director of enforcement and chief trial counsel. Kevin recalls his time with the SEC fondly. "I really enjoyed my sixteen years with the Commission. I got to work with some of the brightest lawyers that I know, and the complexity of the cases was always fascinating."

When asked about his most famous case, which exposed and stopped Alan Stanford's \$8 billion criminal Ponzi scheme, Kevin simply replied, "I got an opportunity to work with a great group of people on that case. It was a challenge for many reasons, but we figured out a way to get the job done."

In 2013, Kevin began another new phase in his life—and made another move. He, his wife of 21 years, and their two sons relocated to Austin, where Kevin started his own law practice. He recalled those earlier years. "We didn't know anyone in Austin and I had no clients. We just did it and figured we would sort it all out later." Kevin's "no fear" approach to life is what he commits to his clients. A partner with Austin-based Brophy Edmundson Shelton & Weiss PLLC, Kevin represents and

BROPHY | EDMUNDSON | SHELTON | WEISS

advises corporate and individual clients in securities fraud litigation, regulatory investigations, internal investigations, whistleblower complaints, FINRA arbitrations, securities compliance issues and complex commercial litigation. His legal savvy is rooted in his many years with the SEC and enhanced by the solid expertise from his partners at the firm. "I tell my clients that they pay me to worry about and handle their problems."

There is never a debate in the courtroom about his qualifications. He is often asked to offer his expert opinion in securities cases. Recently, Kevin provided expert testimony in a high-profile criminal case against a Texas state senator, which the jury found had engaged in securities fraud. "I don't really know, but maybe my testimony had an impact on the jury and was helpful to the prosecution team."

His firm's motto, "The experience you need when it matters most," and Kevin's wealth of experience during his 30-year legal career has certainly mattered to many. But, as with talking about any of his successes, he finds it hard to toot his own horn and eagerly gave credit to others.

"I have been very fortunate in my legal career. As a young lawyer, I represented a White House official who was under the microscope in an independent counsel investigation. I have had the opportunity to work with many high-level government officials and corporate executives in several noteworthy cases. If you listen, work hard and pay attention to what really matters, your efforts will be rewarded."

QUICK HITS

Hobbies:

Kevin enjoys playing the guitar and has recorded an album with his church group in Nashville.

Favorite Musician:

"Keith Richards, of course."

Best BBQ in Texas:

"I'm a Coopers man!"

Favorite Legalese:

"That's not the law and never has been."

Other Than Your Sons, Most Respected Sportsperson:

"Currently, Jalen Hurts."

Proudest Moment As A Father/Husband:

"Just watching my sons grow up and admiring the special relationship they have developed with my wife, Debbie."

"If you listen, work hard, and pay attention to what really matters, your efforts will be rewarded."

Our Firm:

BESW is a civil litigation and transactional boutique law firm located in Austin, Texas. BESW is dedicated to providing zealous advocacy, deep experience and expertise, and an unwavering commitment to its clients.

Our Practices:

BESW's litigation practice spans a wide variety of civil matters, including business disputes, shareholder and securities matters, real estate and construction. SEC/TSSB investigations and enforcement actions, and employment disputes. Our transactional practice includes structuring Certified Capital Company (CAPCO) funds, New Market Credit transactions, real estate and construction matters, and employment agreements.

Our People:

BESW's professionals have decades of experience zealously advocating for clients in a wide variety of matters, in federal and state courts, and before regulators and arbitration tribunals, in Texas and across the country.

Practice Areas:

- Business Litigation
- Shareholder Litigation
- SEC Investigations and Enforcement
- Real Estate Development and Construction Litigation
- Employment Litigation
- FINRA Arbitrations
- SEC Whistleblower and False Claims Act Cases
- Corporate Work and Strategic Counseling

Partners:

- J. Kevin Edmundson
- Joseph F. Brophy
- Ryan Shelton
- Jesse Z. Weiss

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Michael Burwick credits his success to living a balanced life. As an attorney, a philanthropist and a married father of three, Michael explains that there are three parts to the triangle in his balanced life: work, family, and civic engagement. In Michael's world, he makes a constant, ongoing effort to pay attention to each of these three aspects and, by doing so, that is what makes his life a successful one.

As a student, Michael was very focused on his education and he concentrated on public policy, law, and finance as his areas of study. He received a B.A. in sociology from Boston University and went on to earn his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. He additionally received two LL.M. degrees from Georgetown Law; one LL.M. in securities law and financial regulation and a second LL.M. in taxation.

In 1995, Michael began his legal career as an assistant attorney general and he later served as legal counsel to several committees in the United States House of Representatives. He then founded a tax and securities practice that led him to become general counsel and chief compliance officer for a mid-sized broker-dealer and registered investment adviser.

In September 2018, he joined the Wagner Law Group as a securities and tax attorney where he concentrates on tax and securities law with a sub-focus on real estate securities, securities litigation, ERISA, and general corporate work. He advises clients on how best to comply with the rules and regulations promulgated by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, as well as the Internal Revenue Service and the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Wagner Law Group was founded in 1996 and, while it is a boutique law firm, it is nationally recognized as one of the top ERISA, employee benefits, employment law, human resources law, and executive compensation firms in the country. Michael attributes the firm's distinction, its culture, ethos and unceasing focus on excellence to its founder, Marcia Wagner, whom he also considers a mentor, "ERISA is one of most complicated areas of the law. Marcia and her team are the best and the brightest in the industry – they are a highly knowledgeable team of experts who take their work very seriously in this and all other areas in which the firm concentrates."

In addition to his professional achievements, Michael is heavily involved in several charitable organizations. He has been a member of the board of directors of Autism Speaks for the past five or six years and he was recently nominated to be the next chairman of the board for the New England chapter of Autism Speaks.

To complete his triangle of success, Michael loves to spend time with his wife, Nicole Greene Burwick, an accomplished fashion designer, and his three children, Rachel Bee, Spencer Benjamin, and Henri Babette. Playing sports and attending Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and Celtics games feature prominently.

Before meeting Nicole, Michael was a single father to twin five-year-olds and their sole caregiver. It was an extremely challenging time for him, trying to juggle his home life and professional responsibilities. He believes that all life experiences should be considered learning experiences and he lives by the motto, "Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

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ADI AMIT

Attorney, Founding Partner of Defender of Business

As the founder and owner of a renowned employment defense firm, Adi Amit may be the busiest defense attorney in South Florida when it comes to the FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act) overtime and minimum wage law. Currently, nearly one in every seven employment related lawsuit is filed in the U.S. Southern District of Florida. Adi explains, "Nowadays, there is a significant need in South Florida for defending businesses and their owners against overtime and minimum wage claims brought by current and former employees. We have an advantage because we have handled countless of such cases in the past few years, from dismissal to successful jury trials, and can offer this in-court experience and lessons to our clients."

Adi's law firm, Defender of Business, specializes in assisting small and medium-sized companies with defense strategies against a rising wave of employment-related litigation cases. Adi points out that his firm gives these smaller companies a strong voice in defending themselves against different areas of employment and labor cases including discrimination, harassment, "me too" claims, unpaid wages, FMLA claims and non-compete agreements. Adi is passionate about working hard and defending his clients and he is proud to be their strong voice in court. He always has their best interest in mind in everything that he does.

While they are a highly successful and well-known firm in South Florida, they still offer affordable rates that are fully disclosed up front to all of their clients. This allows them to completely focus on their clients and relieve any worry associated with their fees. As a result of their honesty, hard work and dedication, they develop strong relationships and friendships with their clients who then go on to refer their services to other businesses. The firm also offers free seminars to businesses that cover various areas of employment law and you do not have to be a client to attend one of these seminars.

Born in Israel, after completing his military service, Adi graduated from Florida International University and received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law. He worked as an associate attorney and then became a partner at his last firm before using his experience and knowledge in employment law to found his own firm. As founder and owner of a firm that tirelessly defends businesses, Adi adds, "We always support the business side. When people see our name and logo – they don't confuse who we are or what we do – we defend businesses."

Adi is a member of the Florida Bar Association, the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida, and was featured as a *Rising Star* by *Super Lawyers.com*.



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SANDRO O. MONTEBLANCO, ESQ.

Managing Partner, Monteblanco & Associates

What areas of the law does your firm focus on?

Monteblanco Law Group focuses mainly on international law, this area is divided into three main practices that include corporate, criminal, and family law. Under the umbrella of international corporate law, we practice maritime law, mining law, gaming law, immigration law, and common corporate practices that include banking, startups, and IP. International Family Law often focuses on IPCA (International Parental Child Abduction) under *The Hague Convention Treaty*. We also mediate/litigate high-net-worth international divorces as well as child support/custody cases. In the area of international criminal law, we handle matters regarding money laundering, drug trafficking, and Bitcoin scams, among others that may have yielded Interpol's feared Red Notice alerts, that often end up with the arrest of the warranted party in a foreign country.

Are there any legal areas that you feel the most invested in?

Personally, I am fond of two distinct areas of the law; international family law and international criminal law, which is primarily due to the relevance that we, as legal practitioners, have on the life of our clients. The tremendous pressure to be the very best at what we do; added to the realization of how this will have a direct impact on our client's lives is what motivates my Firm and I to give it all we have and more.

What cases have had the most impact on you?

There are two that come to mind: The first case involved Interpol, and the removal of a Red Notice issued by them against our client. Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) is an inter-governmental organization that works together to fight a range of international crimes. A Red Notice is issued to alert police worldwide about internationally wanted fugitives so that they may be apprehended and incarcerated while awaiting extradition to the requesting country. Unfortunately, most legal professionals are neither knowledgeable nor experienced in dealing with Interpol Red Notice removals, whereas our firm is very experienced in that area. In this particular case, it involved a Middle Eastern client, who had been a whistleblower against corrupt officials in his native country thus causing their arrest. He later fled his home country, converted to Christianity, and wrote a book telling of his experience in his former country. His former country wanted to make an example of him and falsified documents with the intent of wrongly accusing our client of a crime and made the case before Interpol so as to achieve an international warrant for the arrest of our 80-year-old client, who unaware of said issuance, traveled on vacation with his family to Peru and was arrested upon entry and sent to one of the most inhumane prisons in the world. Arduous work went into this defense that involved three separate jurisdictions; the country of his former citizenship, the country of his new citizenship and the country where he was arrested. A great deal of work went into this defense and while my team handled the local case directly, I was in charge of the international defense that would subsequently be submitted before the Commission for the Control of Interpol's files for their consideration. The final result was not only the release from prison of our client even before Interpol had issued a decision, but we also won the case before Interpol who removed the Red Notice of our client, thus rendering him a free man, able to continue traveling the world.



In the second case, I was defense attorney to two foreign clients; one who was not only the biological father to his little girl and also exercised sole custody of her and despite this, he was charged with aggravated kidnapping of his own daughter and incarcerated, facing a 35-year prison sentence, and the second was his friend; a British national who was simply accompanying the first, yet was also arrested and charged with the same crime and faced the same prison term. From the very beginning, the case was riddled with technical complexities but also fueled by a media frenzy that only served to mitigate the law and exacerbate a would-be lynch mob mentality. Despite the odds, through relentless dedication and a resilient pursuit of the law, we were able to demonstrate to the court that it was impossible for the biological father to be charged with kidnapping his own daughter, especially when he exercised full custody of said child in his home country. The case was tried in a civil court and due to the overwhelming and undeniable evidence we presented, we were able to get both our clients acquitted.

What gives your firm an advantage over others in your industry?

I think that the main advantage is that my firm is comprised of a team of experienced attorneys in New York, Peru, and Spain. As an example, while in the U.S., we have an associate who is a former federal prosecutor. In Spain and Peru, we have one that is a former judge and another a leading international arbitrator and past president of the local bar association, all of which provides us with valuable insight when it comes to trying our cases. As experienced litigators in multijurisdictional matters, it is one thing to have a textbook knowledge of the law and an entirely different one to have hands-on experience in our fields, it is precisely the latter that allows my team and I to welcome the challenging cases that come across our desks on a daily basis. As for myself, I focus primarily on IPCA cases and Interpol-related matters, where I have been quite effective in achieving the results our clients needed. The majority of our cases have yielded us ample and valuable experience in dealings with entities such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Department of Justice, the State Department, the London Police, the Royal Courts of Justice (London), as well as various others throughout the world.

Where are your offices located?

We are headquartered in Lima, Peru, and it is from this location that we quarterback all our international operations. We also have an office strategically located in the NYC financial district, that caters to corporate and white-collar cases before both state and federal courts. Our Madrid presence mainly serves a more corporate clientele that either already have a presence in South America as well as the United States, or they are interested in entering these jurisdictions. This office however employs seasoned and experienced attorneys in the field of corporate, tax, immigration, and EU law.

Why is international law so important to you?

For many colleagues, international law is but a mere niche in the ample field of specialties, however, to me it represents the driving force that compels continuous self-improvement through endless training and education. It is this very field that enthralls me and affords me the unique opportunity to learn the laws that comprise foreign jurisdictions, which in turn makes up the very culture which I am fortunate enough to witness firsthand. Moreover, I am fascinated by how the incessant need of unrelenting learning causes an unmitigated affect on every single member of my Firm, which unequivocally results in the sublimity known as; experience.



Where are your clients from?

We serve a diverse range of clients with various needs from the US, most countries in the European Union, non-EU countries, the UK, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, South Africa, UAE, and several in South and Central America as well.

Do you have any immediate plans for expansion?

Growth projections have us launching our newest operation in London, England, before the end of 2019. The London office is planned to coincide with the Brexit and the business opportunities that this will represent for foreign firms versed in international law. We also expect to launch an office in Dubai in mid 2020, which will be established as a result of the increase in clients that we have been seeing from the U.A.E. retaining the legal services of our New York office. We expect that local representation will make it easier for these clients to do business with us.

How can potential clients get in touch with your firm?

Depending on their location or jurisdiction, they can contact us through the office that is closest to them, but any of our offices can point them in the right direction. In Peru, our contact information is listed on the websites of the US, British, and Australian embassies, as well other embassies.

NYC: 11 Broadway, Suite 615, NY, NY 10004 | (212) 480-4147

Lima: Manuel de la Fuente 676 Barranco, Lima—04, Peru

Office.: +51 (1) 595.3600

Madrid: C/ Serrano 110-1, 28006 Madrid, Spain | +34 910.800.926





CARDAMONE LAW LLC

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Michael Cardamone credits his strong family upbringing, his education, his focus, and his dedication to upholding the law with the success of his law firm, Cardamone Law, a specialized boutique law firm that exclusively handles Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation cases for injured workers.

What makes the Cardamone Law Firm unique compared to other law practices is that they solely focus on workers' compensation cases for injured workers in Pennsylvania. Michael explains, "Our strength is in our simplicity. Our clients know what we do - Work Comp Law 24/7! I always tell people, if you needed back surgery, would you prefer the surgeon who operates on backs, knees, shoulders, and hips? Or the surgeon who only operates on backs?"

Their focused concentration on the workers compensation industry is how the firm came up with their slogan: Comp? Cardamone!™ Michael explains how he came up with the idea, "Our trademark tells our story- all we do is Workman's Comp! I didn't overthink it. There are so many firms with generic slogans, or overstated promises that they cannot keep. We wanted something simple and accurate."

A few years ago, the Pennsylvania Bar Association administered the first certification exam for attorneys in Pennsylvania who wanted to be recognized as "certified specialists" in Pennsylvania Workman's' Comp Law, as authorized by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Michael

COMP? CARDAMONE!

Michael W. Cardamone, Esquire: Certified Pennsylvania Work Comp Attorney, Cardamone Law
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admits, "I took the very first exam and passed it, and became re-certified in 2018. To pass the exam, you first had to demonstrate that 50% or more of your practice was dedicated to the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Law, as well as meeting other requirements and taking and passing a written exam." This certification gives injured workers a better idea of the firms that are truly experts in the workers' compensation industry in the state of Pennsylvania.

As the founder and owner of the firm, in addition to practicing law, Michael oversees all business operations for the firm including contacting clients, writing briefs, attending hearings, mediations, and depositions, as well as overseeing the accounting practices and marketing initiatives of the firm.

Michael gains inspiration from his late father and credits him with setting an admirable example of a living a life that fostered

discipline, humor, balance and an appreciation for hard work. Michael adds, "His work ethic was incredible and he tried to lead by example. My father was a hard working attorney, who was the first to graduate college in his family. He became partner at the well-known Montgomery County Law Firm, Timoney Knox, in the early 80s, and he practiced there until he passed in 2002."

Michael graduated from Boston College in 1996, with a B.A. in philosophy and received his J.D. law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 1999. As soon as he passed the *Bar Exam*, he started practicing law in the Philadelphia area. Michael has been named a *Pennsylvania Super Lawyer* for many years and was also past president of the National Advocates Top 100 Lawyers.

In his personal time, he enjoys his children, traveling, playing tennis, practicing martial arts, and dining out.



Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf

For 100 years Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf has been recognized as one of the country's most respected law firms. The Firm handles cases throughout New York and New Jersey, ranging from construction and automobile accidents to medical malpractice and complex product liability claims. The Firm's specialized expertise, aggressive advocacy, and extensive case preparation have fostered an outstanding record of success at both the trial and appellate levels. The vast majority of its cases are referred by other members of the bar who are intimately familiar with the Firm's respected reputation as "counsel to the profession." Its attorneys are also retained by clients who, after thorough research, recognize the firm's commitment to providing exceptional personal service and superior results.

Impressive Results

The sum of verdicts and settlements obtained by the attorneys at Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf exceeds \$1.5 billion dollars. Among the recent verdicts and settlements obtained by the Firm are the following: a \$85 million verdict for a pedestrian struck by a bus in New York City, a record shattering settlement of \$27.5 million with the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens for four young boys who were sexually abused, a record setting \$71 million for a client who suffered a spinal injury during a car accident (the largest verdict in the country for this type of injury), a \$41.5 million verdict for the

wrongful death of a New York City sanitation worker (one of the largest awards ever in Queens County), a \$3 million verdict in a medical malpractice case for failure to diagnose pancreatic cancer resulting in the death of an elderly man. No offer was made to settle the case prior to the verdict, an \$8.5 million settlement for a man struck by a car at an improperly marked New York City roadway construction project, a \$7.75 million settlement during trial for a snowmobile accident in Saranac Lake, (the largest settlement ever in Franklin County), a \$6.25 million verdict for a construction worker, who was an illegal immigrant, injured on the job when he fell from a scaffold, a \$5.85 million settlement for a construction worker. Most recently, we obtained a record \$59 million verdict for a child who suffered burn injuries due to the negligence of the City of New York.

National Recognition

The Firm has been consistently ranked in the *National First-Tier of Best Law Firms* by *U.S. News-Best Lawyers* in its representation of plaintiffs in personal injury, medical malpractice, products liability litigation, professional malpractice law, and mass tort litigation/class actions. Attorneys of the Firm have been named *New York Super Lawyers* for fourteen consecutive years. Nine of our lawyers were included in the *2019 Best Lawyers in America*. Two have been named *Lawyer of the Year* by *Best Lawyers* on multiple occasions. The Firm has received the highest "AV" rating from the *Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Pre-Eminent Lawyers*.

Practice Areas Include But Are Not Limited To:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Personal Injury | • Bus/Truck Accidents | • Surgical Errors/Complications | • Police Brutality & Civil Rights |
| • Wrongful Death | • Subway and Train Accidents | • Cerebral Palsy/Brain Damage | • Brain & Spinal Cord Injuries |
| • Construction Accidents | • Airplane Accidents | • Erb's Palsy | • Elevator/Escalator Accidents |
| • Automobile Accidents | • Premises Liability | • Product Liability | • Explosion and Fire Accidents |
| • Motorcycle Accidents | • Medical Malpractice | • Defective Products | • Nursing Home Neglect/Abuse |
| • Bicycle Accidents | • Failure to Diagnose Cancer | • Legal Malpractice | • Clergy & Sexual Abuse |

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 Blog: www.newyorkpersonalinjuryattorneysblog.com | Twitter: InjuryAttysNY

GEORGE CHRISTOPOULOS, ESQ.

Law Offices of George Christopoulos, PC

Prior to establishing his own successful law practice over ten years ago, George Christopoulos gained valuable experience in the legal profession working for several reputable law firms. He credits the comprehensive knowledge that he obtained working as a senior associate at Goetz Fitzpatrick, LLP and at Dreifuss, Bonacci and Parker, LLC with laying the foundation and giving him the insight to start his own practice.

George graduated from Seton Hall University with a B.A. in political science and went on to receive his J.D. from Widener University School of Law-Delaware. After graduating from law school, he served as law clerk for the Honorable M. Allan Vogelston, Presiding Civil Judge, Superior Court of New Jersey - Camden County. He then worked as an associate for the firm of Wells, Jaworski, Liebman & Paton, LLP, starting in 2001. In this role, he gained hands-on legal experience and exposure in the areas of civil litigation, real estate, and commercial transactions. When he transitioned into senior associate roles for two additional firms, George added corporate transactions, consumer fraud, construction-commercial litigation, and class action suits to his areas of expertise.

In 2008, utilizing his complex understanding of many areas of the law, George founded his own law practice, the Law Offices of George Christopoulos, PC. The firm is diverse and focuses on a number of areas including matrimony, family law, real estate, municipal court, DUI/DWI, motor vehicle accidents, personal injury as well as estate planning.

George is passionate about his role as an attorney and explains, "I emphasize individual client attention coupled with honest legal advice." George is efficient, dedicated and honest while offering elite and personalized legal services at reasonable rates. As a result of George's professional services, he has acquired and continues to acquire clients predominantly from referrals.

George expends about seventy percent of his time at the office with the remaining time in court. As a result, he has been able to settle a large percentage of his cases, saving the clients time and money by avoiding protracted litigation when possible. However; when necessary George will not, under any circumstances, avoid trial if an adversary is unreasonable in their offer of settlement. George's unique ability in picking juries has routinely resulted in insurance companies cutting a substantial settlement check that far exceeds what they were offering prior to trial. His ability to settle cases at the 'courthouse steps' has saved his clients time and money that routinely results in large settlement checks.

George is also fluent in the Greek language. In addition to his professional accomplishments, in 2019, George was named a *Lawyer of Distinction* and was also named as one of the *10 Best Attorneys in New Jersey* (2018 & 2019) by the American Institute of Family Law Attorneys™. He is also a general member of the National College for DUI Defense.



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JOSEPH F. SENSale, ESQ.

Partner, The Chase Sensale Law Group, L.L.P.
Treasurer, NY Workers' Compensation Alliance

As a partner with the Chase Sensale Law Group, L.L.P., Joseph F. Sensale ("Joe") enjoys over twenty years of distinguished law experience successfully representing clients in securing social security, workers' compensation, disability, accidental death and dismemberment, unemployment insurance, retirement and the *September 11th Victim Compensation Fund* benefits.

Joe and his partner, Dennis R. Chase, serve as disability counsel to the twenty-six-member units of the prestigious *Nassau Police Conference*, while also representing members of the law enforcement community throughout New York State. Joe regularly argues before the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, and the Court of Claims.

In February 2019, the *September 11th Victim Compensation Fund* announced they planned cutting payouts in half for some recipients and reducing payouts by as much as 70 percent for others, as the fund faces a surge in claims ahead of its expiration date in December 2020. The *Fund*, which was opened in 2011, compensates all of victims and their families for deaths and illnesses due to exposure to toxins at the sites of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

As tireless and committed advocates for victims of September 11th, Joe and his partner at the Chase Sensale Law Group are spearheading an intense effort to obtain full and permanent funding for its victims. They represent many clients and their families, who were severely and traumatically affected, and continue to strenuously advocate for the maximum benefits on their behalf. The Firm is extremely dedicated and focused on securing permanent and full funding for all eligible members of the *Fund*.

As the treasurer of the New York Workers' Compensation Alliance, the foremost political action committee preventing adverse changes in legislation affecting the rights of injured workers, Joe and the members of the Alliance work incessantly and tirelessly, apprising members of the State Assembly and Senate of potential pitfalls of pending legislation. They are dedicated to serving the needs of injured workers throughout New York State by providing valuable information to those responsible for effectuating change in Albany.

Joe's professional motto is, "the time is now." He explains, "The time for change is always now. Always focus on making an effort and making changes happen immediately. Our mission is



to always effectuate change immediately."

Joe previously served as co-chair of the Workers' Compensation and Social Security Disability Committee of the Suffolk County Bar Association. He has lectured before the *Police Conference of New York* and continues to be published in several industry newsletters including, *The Suffolk Lawyer*.

Joe is an active member of the St. John's University School of Law's Loughlin Society as well as a member of the Injured Workers' Bar Association, Columbian Lawyers Association of Kings County, and the Catholic Lawyers' Guild. In addition to his professional affiliations, Joe and his firm support numerous charitable organizations including Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund, Forgotten Friends of Long Island, North Shore Animal League, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Prostate Cancer Research Institute, and the Pat Tillman Foundation.



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MARC P. TRENT

Partner and Attorney at Law

As a prior business owner with extensive experience in the global import and export industry, as well as working as a consultant and senior vice president in the financial services industry, Marc Trent brings a wealth of diverse knowledge and experience to his current role as an attorney and partner at Trent Law Firm, P.C.

Marc is proud to partner with his father, Douglas P. Trent, a successful practicing attorney for over 45 years, at Trent Law Firm, a firm they founded together in January 2018. The Firm handles diverse cases and represents clients and businesses in the areas of business litigation, family law, personal injury, workers' compensation, and employment discrimination. Marc concentrates his practice on business litigation, including employment and labor law, as well as family law matters and personal injury cases. He litigates frequently, appearing in court on an average of two to three times per week. Marc, his father, and their team of highly competent and experienced attorneys at Trent Law Firm offer experience in litigation in all of the areas of the law that they focus on and represent.

Marc attributes his success as an attorney to the experience and complex knowledge that he gained in his careers as a business owner and as a financial consultant in the finance and insurance industry. Marc worked for over two years as the owner and operator of Bravo Motors, S.A.S., a subsidiary of Oxford Atlantic, LLC, the first American company in Colombia to import medium and heavy-duty remanufactured truck parts and diesel engines. In that role, Marc managed all logistics for importing and exporting merchandise between the United States and South America.

He ran the entire business, negotiated purchase prices, managed employees, and handled all legal matters. He gained a wealth of experience in that role that he applies to his professional career in law today.

Working as an estate planning and financial consultant, Marc guided clients and trained brokers and financial advisors on estate planning, buy-sell agreements, executive compensation, and key-person policies. He also led seminars for government and corporate officials on numerous topics including entity formation, corporate governance, financial analysis and expense management, asset protection strategies, medical firm management, and consulting methodologies. Marc's diverse professional background and advanced education have provided him with a broad and extensive foundation to practice law and represent clients successfully.

Marc received both a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and business studies as well as an MBA with a concentration in finance. He went on to earn his J.D. from Valparaiso University School of Law.



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As the founder and managing partner of The Rodman Law Group (the “Firm”), Dave Rodman has been providing unparalleled corporate and regulatory counsel to his clients since 2014. While his practice areas are quite diverse, his main focuses have been counseling cannabis companies on general corporate matters while guiding them through the legal labyrinth of state and international cannabis regulations and serving as business and regulatory counsel to clients in the industrial hemp and extracted cannabinoid industries.

Mr. Rodman established the Firm as a solo practitioner after working with clients in the cannabis industry for about a year, in response to what he saw as a lack of true business and corporate legal representation available to cannabis ventures. He believed that since most of the cannabis lawyers at the time were criminal lawyers or policy advocates who morphed into “corporate cannabis attorneys” overnight, he could offer more sophisticated legal services focused on corporate and regulatory law to clients in the nascent green industry.

Specifically, Mr. Rodman realized that his unique background in finance and capital markets—derived from his time on Wall Street prior to attending law school—and intellectual property and securities law would benefit cannabis companies greatly and provide him and the Firm with an edge. He was right. His firm started with just one attorney (himself) and it has quickly grown into a highly successful business with six attorneys, a reciprocal advising relationship with a law firm in Thailand, and a strong support staff. Mr. Rodman has stated that being based in Colorado was extremely beneficial because of the state’s first mover status in regard to cannabis regulation and normalization, and he leveraged that experience to establish a global presence. His Firm now serves clients ranging in size from local businesses to publicly traded companies across the United States, and in Canada, the Czech Republic, and Thailand. Mr. Rodman recently brought on a partner, Nadav Aschner, one of the premier cannabis regulatory attorneys in the nation, and they are looking to continue the exponential growth the Firm has experienced.

While the Firm continues to represent clients in every part of the cannabis industry, the practice of which can be described as “general business counsel with a focus on corporate structuring, securities, and IP work pervaded by a monumental amount of regulatory and compliance work,” its attorneys now spend even more time working with clients in the rapidly expanding hemp industry and the non-THC-cannabinoid/CBD industry, the latter of which, in Mr. Rodman’s words is “surprisingly more complex and contradictory than the traditional practice of state legalized cannabis law because of the lack of regulation and the proliferation of the industry on a national and international scale... to say it’s a gray area would be a monumental understatement!”

The Firm also provides legal guidance in the complex area of distributed ledger technology (“DLT”) and cryptocurrency. DLT is a trustless, cryptography-based system for recording transactions and data securely across multiple computers/servers simultaneously with no reliance on a single administrator or need for centralized storage.

For reference, the most well-known type of DLT is a blockchain, and the most famous use case of blockchain technology is Bitcoin. The Rodman Law Group offers tailored legal services to individuals and companies involved in every aspect of the DLT ecosystem.

In addition to his extensive legal practice, Dave is also a co-founder and investment manager of Schedule One Ventures (<https://scheduleone.ventures>) – an investment fund that focuses on the global cannabis industry and aims to deliver a diversified portfolio of cannabis and cannabis adjacent companies, as well as companies that are involved in what Mr. Rodman has coined as “Beyond Cannabis,” ventures that are focused on other regulated substances that are likely to experience cannabis-like normalization.

Mr. Rodman graduated from Tufts University with a B.A. in history and then studied intellectual property and securities law at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, where he received his J.D. and completed the Corporate and Commercial Law Certificate Program. He is on the legal advisory committee of MAPS (the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies) and has been a faculty member at the Rocky Mountain Intellectual Property & Technology Law Institute, where he educates other lawyers about DLT. Mr. Rodman was one of approximately 70 people selected to give testimony at the FDA’s public hearing on CBD regulation on May 31, 2019.



RAY SURIS

Suris & Associates

Ray Suris credits the success of his law firm, Suris & Associates, to a team of highly experienced and focused attorneys and support staff, who take a personalized, hands-on approach with all of their clients.

Ray is a renowned attorney and the owner of Suris & Associates, based in New York. The full service, personal injury law firm has been assisting clients with personal injury cases since 2003 and collectively handled thousands of cases, ultimately receiving millions of dollars in verdicts and settlements.

The team at Suris & Associates focuses on all areas of personal injury law and representation including:

- SLIP & FALL
- AUTOMOBILE
- MOTORCYCLE
- PEDESTRIAN
- CONSTRUCTION
- DOG BITES & ANIMAL ATTACKS
- DRUNK DRIVING VICTIMS
- FALLING OBJECT VICTIMS
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- LABOR LAW
- DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS
- CONTRACT DRAFTING
- REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS
- LITIGATION
- ESTATE PLANNING

The firm has a current staff of nine attorneys and about 25 employees in support roles. Each attorney has a specific area of experience and expertise which helps them to offer focused and customized service to their clients. Ray adds, “We really take a hands-on approach with our clients. We always keep them advised and accurately informed of what is going on with their cases – this is a strict rule that we all adhere to at the firm.” The staff always performs a detailed investigation of every case that they take on and the team is heavily involved with the litigation process.

The experienced attorneys at Suris & Associates litigate and negotiate tirelessly on behalf of their clients and have been awarded some of the highest verdicts and settlements in New York State, including a case where a woman lost her leg in a pedestrian accident and was awarded \$9.9 million dollars. This case received the highest paid settlement in New York in 2017. The firm also secured a \$675,000 pretrial settlement for a construction worker injured in a scaffolding accident under a violation of Labor Law § 241.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Ray is very involved in giving back the community and charitable causes. He was recently honored by Hope House Ministries, a local organization that helps young people and families in crisis, for his dedication to raising money



for the cause for the past ten years. Hope House Ministries provides hope, care and compassion to nearly 2,000 individuals in need each month.

He also has a passion for lacrosse and is the cofounder of the Millon International Lacrosse Camp, one of the largest and most respected lacrosse camps for youth lacrosse players from all over the country. Established over 20 years ago, the camp has grown tremendously and expanded outside of the New York to include locations in Massachusetts, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania.

In 2001, Ray was instrumental as a founding partner of the Long Island Lizard's, a Long Island based professional outdoor lacrosse team. He is also an active member of the Farmingdale College Sports Advisory Board.

Ray graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, with a B.A. degree in 1992 and received his J.D. from Touro College - Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in 1997. He is admitted to the New York State Bar, the New Jersey State Bar and the Supreme Court of the United States of America.



Suris & Associates, P.C. is a plaintiffs-only personal injury firm that represents injured people in the New York metropolitan area.

The attorneys at Suris & Associates understand that an accident or injury can impact the physical, financial and emotional well-being of you and your loved ones. Our experienced legal team can help you get through this difficult time. We understand the medical conditions at issue in your case, we evaluate complex legal issues, we consider the immediate concerns and long-term needs of each client on an individual basis, and we stand firm during settlement negotiations.

Our personal injury lawyers work together as a team to ensure that our clients receive the justice, compensation, and personal care that they deserve.



Suris & Associates: 395 N Service Road - #302, Melville, New York 11747

Offices in Long Island, Buffalo and Philadelphia and mainly litigates in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.
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LAW OFFICE OF
CANER
DEMIRAYAK ESQ.

Caner Demirayak - Trial Attorney

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Caner Demirayak is a professional trial attorney who has successfully represented clients in high profile personal injury cases. In addition to his comprehensive experience in personal injury cases, Caner is also dedicated to civil rights causes.

Caner has been practicing law for five years and has progressive experience representing clients on both sides of the legal landscape, working with both plaintiffs and defendants. He is licensed in New York and Florida. In addition to representing his own personal clients, he also works hand-in-hand with legal defense firms, often on multimillion dollar personal injury cases. He is an accomplished litigator and has successfully litigated and secured significant settlements for numerous clients in many different cases.

Caner is also deeply focused on civil rights initiatives. In 2017, he launched a federal civil rights lawsuit claiming that the State and City of New York discriminates against people with disabilities because the court houses are not accessible to those people with disabilities. This case has been mentioned in the *NY Law Journal* and the *NY Post* and has drawn attention and consideration by the United States Supreme Court. Caner explains that he is elated that the Supreme Court may consider the case. As an advocate for civil rights and a person with a disability himself, Caner adds, "I look forward to continuing to file civil rights actions and fight on behalf of those who do not normally have the same opportunities and privileges that other people do."

"I ALWAYS FIGHT FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS FOR CLIENTS REGARDLESS OF THE SITUATION AND I AM ALWAYS STRIVING TO GET THE BEST RESULTS IN EVERYTHING THAT I DO."

Caner graduated from Hofstra University with a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and government and received his J.D. from Saint John's University School of Law. While in law school he gained valuable experience working as a criminal defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society and explains that he was already winning cases when he was still in law school, "I was fortunate to be able to establish the ability to successfully defend clients in difficult cases early on in my career." This was apparent, especially in a case that he worked on where the client admitted guilt but the matter was ultimately dismissed based on a lack of evidence. In addition to working with several firms after graduating, he also gained hands-on experience in the political and legal arena while working as a legislative intern for a U.S. Senator in Washington, D.C., when he was still in college.

Caner works tirelessly on behalf of his clients as well for many ethical and civil rights initiatives and he is guided by the philosophy to work hard and never give up.



Jonathan Marashlian, Managing Partner

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As managing partner for Marashlian & Donahue, PLLC/The CommLaw Group, a Washington, D.C. area law firm specializing in serving the communications and information technology sectors of the national and global economy, Jonathan Marashlian and his team of professionals use their extensive knowledge of the telecommunications, IoT and information services and data technology industries to assist the Firm's diverse clients, which encompasses everything from start-ups to *Fortune 100* global enterprises.

The CommLaw Group provides a full spectrum of legal and consulting services to a diverse audience of clients. While the Firm's roots are in communications, it has branched into nearly every facet of the Internet ecosystem and now offers a wealth of services ranging from data protection and privacy, general business law, broadcast and new media, to intellectual property and representation of domestic and global equipment manufacturers and distributors.

Founded in 2006, The Compliance Group is the consulting affiliate of The CommLaw Group, which delivers flat rate and subscription-based services to fulfill a variety of licensing, registration and post-market entry compliance needs of the regulated telecom industry. The goal was to create a full-service professional services organization capable of delivering everything from complex legal services all the way down to commoditized, administrative and pseudo-legal services that address the basic, day-to-day compliance needs of the regulated and heavily taxed communications industry.

The CommLaw Group provides its expert insight and guidance

to The Compliance Group and regularly interfaces with its compliance administration team to provide advice, address risk management issues, analyze options, offer interpretive guidance and manage escalated issues that require legal counsel and defense. While considered a niche law firm due to its specialization in the communications & technology industries, The CommLaw Group has an expansive reach and works with both national and international clients through its relationships with trusted partners in the European Union and throughout world.

Jonathan has worked for the Firm for 20 years and explains that they pride themselves on building relationships with their clients and counseling them in a highly personal, client-centric manner. "We deliver pragmatic advice that's considerate of the practical realities of each unique client. We believe good customer service means finding out, remembering, and always working to deliver value to each distinct client. And we recognize that all our clients are unique and every one of our clients has a different perception of 'value.'" The reason The CommLaw Group has been named the *Customer Service Law Firm of the Year* in the United States, not once, not twice, but three times, is because it places its clients' best interests first.

Jonathan sums up his Firm's special place in the legal profession thusly, "from the relationships we build, the strategies we develop, the solutions we deliver, and the fees we charge, our customer-centric philosophies apply to each and every one of our clients. Our unique combination of down-to-earth professionalism, common sense business-savvy advice, and prudent use of resources has earned us high praise and a reputation for excellence among our clients."



photo by Katie McMurray Photography

EVAN A. PARKE Founder



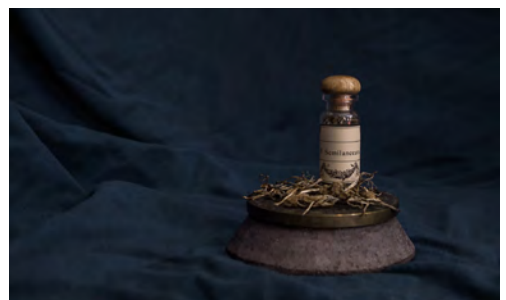
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Evan Parke is no stranger to challenging matters and working outside his comfort zone. He is a renowned patent litigator with an advanced degree in the medicinal sciences, as well as an accomplished white collar and criminal defense attorney whose work has been featured by *Dateline NBC* and other top news outlets. In recent years, Evan has become an expert dealmaker and is now one of the top attorneys in the emerging field of medicinal psychedelics. He also has an ever-expanding practice in the cannabis and CBD sectors. Individuals and businesses across the nation seek out his advice when confronting sophisticated civil, white collar and regulatory matters. These are a few reasons why Evan was selected as one of the *Top 50 Attorneys* in the nation.

Evan spent more than a decade handling mission-critical matters at top tier firms (including Boies Schiller Flexner LLP) and in government, where he served as an award-winning assistant chief of an investigations division at a federal agency. He opened his own firm in 2016, and one of his first cases was representing a former prosecutor, Curt Lovelace, in relation to a high-profile murder case. Evan represented Mr. Lovelace *pro bono* and devoted hundreds of thousands of dollars in attorney time

demonstrating his innocence. "A police detective figuratively had locked important records in a dark room and had thrown away the key," explains Mr. Lovelace. "Through relentless investigative efforts, Evan found the key and unlocked the door. I am forever grateful to Evan for shining a light on the truth and his contribution to proving my innocence." After the acquittal, Evan went a step further; he brought Mr. Lovelace aboard his firm and supported him in building his law practice again.

Evan has personal ties to the mental health and psychedelics sectors and has served two terms on the D.C. Bar's Lawyer's Assistance Committee. "Several decades ago I was addicted to opiates, cocaine and alcohol. But an intense LSD experience changed all that. I gained important insights, sought help for my struggles, changed my behavior and obtained three degrees including from Northwestern School of Law. It truly is amazing that now, on the one hand, I have the opportunity to counsel businesses and individuals seeking to capitalize on opportunities in the medicinal psychedelics sector, while, on the other hand, I can use my personal experiences to bring attention to the potential that psychedelics offer as medicines."





Krystle Gomez, Esq. is an Ivy League trained, skilled negotiator and advisor, known for her expertise in the high-tech sector. Krystle started her career in mergers, acquisitions, and finance in New York with Troutman Sanders LLP and relocated with the firm to California where she continued focusing her deal work on M&A and solar power project sale-leasebacks.

Krystle founded CIMI Ventures P.C. in 2014, where she continues to serve as corporate legal counsel and business advisor to public and private clients, ranging from startups to companies with yearly revenue in excess of \$1 billion. Holding both a J.D. and an M.B.A, Krystle acts as a problem solver and a growth strategist for her clients. She explains that she loves “working with individuals who are passionate about what they do. It is so rewarding to work in this field because your end result is a positive impact to someone’s business and life.”

In addition to her professional achievements, Krystle is also very involved in her community. She is an active board member and the Governance Committee Co-Chair of the Seattle Animal Shelter Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. She is also a public speaker on a variety of topics including technology, corporate strategy, policy, ethics, and entrepreneurship. Krystle has most recently spoken for *Wonder Women Tech* and *The Creative Coalition Speaker Series*.

Krystle has also served in numerous roles outside of law, including being a fellow with the World Affairs Council and an adjunct professor at Marymount California University.

Krystle graduated first in her class in 2006 from the W.P. Carey School of Business and the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University, receiving her B.S. in marketing, with a focus on international business, and a minor in English literature. In 2009, she obtained her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, together with a concentration in business and public policy from Wharton Business School. In 2010, she obtained her M.B.A. from Webster University via a global traveling program in Europe and Asia.

Krystle attributes her success to hard work and a passion for helping her clients develop and execute a plan to accomplish their business goals. She shares that she absolutely loves what she does. “I am privileged to offer the support and strategies that my clients need so that their businesses can continue to grow.”

When she is not practicing law, Krystle enjoys exploring the outdoors with her dog, Ginger. She also loves adrenaline activities and is currently a student pilot working to obtain her private pilot license.



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JASON LEWIS HARR

THE HARR LAW FIRM

Jason Lewis Harr firmly believes that self-motivation is the key to success. While he credits his parents with being his role models, providing him with guidance and direction and instilling important values in his life, he feels that you must believe in your own talents and abilities.

“Self-motivation is the catalyst for success in any profession.” Jason explains that living by this philosophy has positively affected his life and his career and adds, “Self-motivated people are successful.” He conveys that you really have to work harder than everyone else – which is what Jason has done throughout his education and his career.

Jason was born in Brussels, Belgium and moved with his family to the United States and was raised in Ormond Beach Florida. A graduate of Tulane University, Jason received a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics. He continued his education at the University of Miami where he earned a master’s degree in public administration and business. He went on to receive his J.D. in law from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Today, Jason is an attorney and the founder of the Harr Law Firm, a full service law firm that he established in 2005. The diverse firm is in its fifteenth year of business and focuses on family law, high asset divorce law, personal injury, wrongful and administrative law. In his practice, Jason is a strong advocate for individuals and their rights.

“IF YOU PUT CLIENTS BEFORE PROFIT AND SACRIFICE DAILY FOR THEM, THE BUSINESS END WILL TAKE CARE OF ITSELF.”

Jason started his law firm with the goal of always putting his clients first. His main goal is to work hard for his clients and treat them with integrity. Just as importantly, he is also committed to treating his support staff with fairness and respect - as they are vital to the law firm’s success.

Jason has received numerous awards and honors as a result of his ethical service and dedication to his clients. In 2011, Jason was honored as one of only three business in the entire United

States selected to be featured in the *Annual Stock Holder Report* for TD Bank. In total, only ten businesses worldwide were featured. As part of this honor, a TD Bank representative from Toronto flew to Daytona Beach to conduct an interview for the feature.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Jason strives to live a balanced life; when he is not representing clients he enjoys travelling internationally with his family and snow skiing.



THE HARR LAW FIRM

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EZRA C. LEVY, ESQ.

LAW OFFICES OF EZRA C. LEVY

It's a rarity to find an expert trial lawyer with a reputation for integrity among judges and senior prosecutors.

Ezra Levy is especially proud of his career accomplishments. Now in private practice within the state of New York, his eminent standing is the result of nearly two decades of experience as a skilled litigator within the Brooklyn office of the Legal Aid Society, where he started in the criminal defense division.

Ezra has demonstrated an exceptional ability to litigate complex issues in a straightforward manner. By honing his craft to an enviable extent, he has established a reputation as an outstanding trial attorney with expert cross examination and summation skills. Ezra's non-textbook trial style resonates with jurors, who typically return favorable decisions.

During his tenure at Legal Aid Society, Ezra became both felony and homicide-certified, securing full acquittals for clients; many of whom faced life sentences and were improperly charged with criminal possession of a weapon, robbery, burglary, rape, assault, criminal possession of a controlled substance, and many other felonies. As a legal aid practitioner, he has often volunteered his time to speak with tenants in New York City Housing to educate and inform them of their rights.

Proficient on the laws of the grand jury and sufficiency of indictments, Ezra has lectured extensively on such topics, often addressing senior attorneys on the law and ethics of discovery. For almost a decade, his lecture on *Grand Jury and Felony Motion Practice* was an integral part of the *Felony Certification Program* for the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society.

As a member of the NYS Bar, Ezra's reputation for honesty is well-known and has served his clients well. He's had certain cases dismissed on his word alone and has had judges and prosecutors consent to reduced jail sentences or alternatives to incarceration programs based solely on his recommendation.

Ezra makes himself readily available to clients and regularly provides his mobile phone number so they can contact him at



any time. He prides himself on the long-term relationships he develops with clients, which has led to positive testimonials and regular referrals. Ezra, who is fluent in Hebrew, even has an Arabic and French translator in his office to better serve his ethnically diverse community.

Ezra earned his bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from Brooklyn College and received his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. Besides the NYS Bar, he is a member of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the American Bar Association, and the New York State Bar Association.

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JOHN T. ROSE

John T. Rose is currently an associate in the Atlanta office of the Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith law firm. As a member of the Firm's corporate, entertainment, media and sports, and complex business litigation practices, John represents a variety of high-profile clients, including award-winning creatives, multi-platinum recording artists & producers, and celebrity entertainers. During his 1st year in practice, John gained high level transactional experience negotiating major deals and as a litigator, providing assistance in multi-million-dollar lawsuits. John is well on his way to achieving his goal as an entertainment lawyer: To be an industry and cultural paradigm-shifting force in the law and beyond through practice and civic engagement.

John knew early-on that his destiny was to use the law to impact society and inspire people from communities, like where he grew up in New York City. Even as he earned a football scholarship to Hampton University, where he graduated honors, earning a BA in political science with honors, John began to see the need to increase the presence of blacks in the legal profession. In his own words, "Growing up in South Jamaica, Queens, most kids, including myself, aspired to be professional athletes or entertainers – roles that are not always realistically attainable. Quite frankly, many of us thought those were the only pathways to improve our family's financial situation and more importantly, fulfill our destiny."

John's passion eventually led him to Emory University School of Law, where he earned his J.D. with a certification in transactional law. While attending Emory, John achieved *Dean's List* status and served as a legal intern for the Atlanta Hawks, *Interscope Records*, and *Fox Television* stations.

Mr. Rose looks forward to continuing his ascension in the legal field at Lewis Brisbois, a national, full-service law firm with more than 1,300 attorneys from coast to coast. Listed among the prestigious *Amlaw 100 Law Firms* and ranked 9th in the *Law360 400 List*, Lewis Brisbois offers an inclusive atmosphere of opportunity to their attorneys and a deep understanding of the goals and perspectives of its richly diverse clientele, all while being home to minority and women partners, approximately double that of the national average.

In addition to providing the highest level of legal service to his clients and being a "paradigm shifter" in entertainment law, John is committed to being a community resource and role model. In his own words: "I want to inspire people and show them that you can still enjoy your life while providing a valuable service to the world."

“ I WANT TO INSPIRE PEOPLE AND
SHOW THEM THAT YOU CAN STILL
ENJOY YOUR LIFE WHILE PROVIDING A
VALUABLE SERVICE TO THE WORLD. ”



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JASON P. SHARP

Of Counsel at Foley & Lardner LLP

“A Lifetime of Service”

Years ago when Jason Sharp served as a head juror on a civil litigation case, he didn't realize at the time what a profound effect it would have on his life and ultimately his career. His experience as a juror, learning about the entire court process and the legal system gave him great insight and a new perspective into the role of a defense lawyer. It was this life experience that led him on the path to pursue an advanced education and ultimately a successful career in law.

Jason's legal practice is focused on protecting and defending businesses and companies in lawsuits. He currently practices law as a civil litigation defense attorney at Foley & Lardner, LLP, where he is a member of Foley's energy litigation practice. Foley is a full service national and international law firm with over 1,100 lawyers on staff. As an experienced business and employment law attorney, Jason handles complex litigation matters, including trade-secret and breach of contract disputes, products liability, *Deceptive Trade Practices Act* violations, non-compete disputes, employment law, and insurance coverage. He has also handled appeals before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and Texas state appellate courts.

Jason credits his experience working on the *Deepwater Horizon Case*, one of the biggest lawsuits in the history of the United States, with providing him with complex and extensive knowledge in the field of litigation. In April 2010, the oil drilling rig, the Deepwater Horizon, exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in the death of 11 workers on the oil rig. It was the largest oil spill in the history of marine oil drilling operations. In December 2010, the United States filed a complaint in District Court against BP Exploration & Production and several other defendants alleged to be responsible for the spill. The case took about five years to resolve, but Jason felt he gained valuable experience working on this highly publicized and elite case.

Jason has a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Sam Houston State University and graduated with a J.D. from South Texas College of Law in 2002, where he was also the assistant articles editor for the *South Texas Law*



Review. Jason proudly served in the United States Air Force and was awarded the *Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service* for mitigating a potentially life-threatening risk.

Jason is focused on serving his clients ethically and efficiently and explains that most of his business is generated from those he has developed strong relationships with and considers lifelong friends.

Jason has been a member of State Bar of Texas since 2003 and is also a member of the Marine Technology Society since 2015.

Jason is also the recipient of the following honors and awards:

- *Texas Rising Star Award* by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business, as published in *Texas Super Lawyers Magazine*
- Recipient, *Houston's Top Lawyers*, *H Texas Magazine* (2015)



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ROBERT RADULESCU, ESQ.

Founder and Managing Attorney
Romancore Law, P.C.

Robert Radulescu credits the knowledge that he gained and the internships that he participated in during his time at law school, with providing him with the deep legal insight and hands-on experience to successfully represent clients today. Robert is the managing attorney and founder of the law firm, ROMANCORE LAW, P.C. He is a highly experienced civil litigator with diverse experience in both the state and federal courts.

Robert was born in Romania and moved to the United States when he was twelve years old. His father was an engineer and his mother was a lawyer, which guided his educational path. He graduated from the University of Washington in Seattle with a Bachelor of Science degree in construction management and engineering. He worked as a project engineer for a couple years (including on the longest floating bridge in the world) and then decided to focus on law, attending California Western School of Law and earning his J.D.

While attending law school, Robert explains that he had many prophetic experiences that shaped his career and led him to his role as a successful attorney. He worked for the California Innocence Project, which was housed at his law school in San Diego. This program was created to help exonerate inmates that were wrongfully incarcerated. Robert explains that he was one of the only people in the first year of law school that they allowed to work for the project.

He was also fortunate to be selected to participate in other prestigious internships; at the United States District Court for the Southern District of California and the San Diego Superior Court. At those respective courthouses, he clerked for two of the most honorable and well-known local and federal judges. In these roles he learned a lot about what goes on behind chambers (which many even experienced attorneys are often unfamiliar with), which provided valuable information for practicing law and best serving his clients. Robert explains that working for both state and federal judges was pivotal to his future success. He also worked for the California Attorney General's Office, where he gained invaluable knowledge and also had a substantial impact on his law career.

With his vast practical knowledge of the law and the comprehensive experience that he had gained, Robert founded his own firm in 2017. His firm focuses on civil litigation issues but also covers a broad range of areas of the law including class action law suits, employment law, wrongful death, medical malpractice, personal injury, business litigation, first amendment issues, real estate and business law. Today, he is working on highly impactful cases, some of which are appellate cases that will even set new precedents and shape future California law.

While it started out as a small firm, it has now grown into a substantial law business and Robert's goal is to continue to expand. He adds, "I have always had a very entrepreneurial spirit and have aspirations to make my practice grow into a nation-wide law firm." Robert explains that being an attorney and a business owner is not for everyone, but he was confident in his skills and knew that a well calculated risk often results in a reward.

Aside from his successful law firm, Robert also owns a real estate firm. Real estate has been his passion ever since he was in high school and started a real estate development company with his family.

Robert is a current member of the San Diego County Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He also speaks Romanian and Hungarian fluently.

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Super Lawyers

ELLIOT S. SOLOP, ESQ. Dwyer, Bachman, Newman & Solop

As an attorney and partner with the law firm, Dwyer, Bachman, Newman & Solop, Elliot S. Solop focuses on family and matrimonial law, adeptly handling legal issues and cases that can often be complex, emotional and full of conflict. His diverse range of cases includes clients with high net worth, intense custody battles and sensitive issues including domestic violence and other serious situations that may arise during divorce and mediation.

At just 32 years old, Elliot has gained a wealth of wisdom and knowledge from his personal, professional and educational experiences. Elliot graduated from Montclair State University with a BS in finance and earned a JD from New York Law School. While attending college and law school Elliot gained hands-on experience from the many organizations and activities that he was involved in. He played basketball for Montclair State University and also interned as a financial analyst at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney during his senior year in college. In law school, he was the president of the Sports Law Society, the chair of the *Sports Law Symposium* and was also a certified sports agent for the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

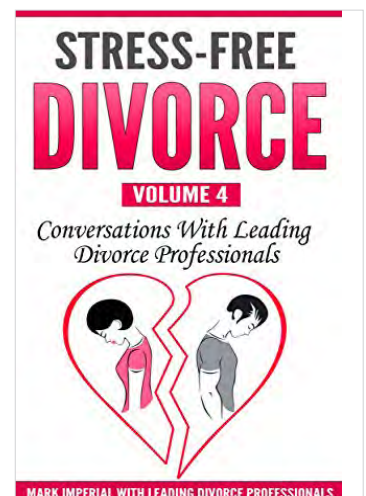
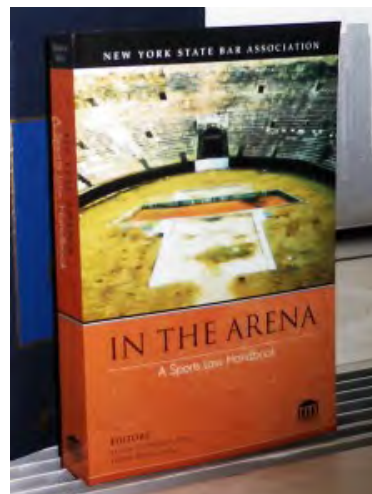
After graduating from law school, Elliot began his career in law working as a law clerk for the Honorable Judge John Jorgensen, where he was first exposed to the area of family law and related legal issues including alimony, child support, custody, visitation, emancipation, and other topics. He gained additional experience working as an associate attorney and matrimonial associate for Ansell Grimm & Aaron and eventually joined his current firm where he was named partner in January, 2019.

Elliot is the president-elect of the Middlesex County Bar Foundation and a trustee for the Middlesex County Bar Association. In addition, he has co-authored two separate publications: *In the Arena: A Sports Law Handbook*, published in 2013, and is the co-author of a book titled, *Stress-Free Divorce Volume 4: Conversations with Leading Divorce Professionals*, which was published in 2018. He is the proud recipient of numerous awards and honors including being listed as a *Rising Star* by Super Lawyers from 2017 – 2019 and in 2014, he was the youngest attorney to receive the Middlesex County *Young Lawyer of the Year Award*. He also has a 10.0 *Avvo Rating*, with over 50 plus 5-Star reviews.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Elliot is happily married to his beautiful and supportive wife, Crena, and is the proud father of two young children, Quinn, 2 years old, and, Julian ("Jules"), 8 months old.



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ANDREW CALDERON

PATENT ATTORNEY

Roberts, Mlotkowski, Safran, Cole & Calderon

With a background in mechanical engineering and a role as an attorney and shareholder with a boutique patent law firm, Andrew Calderon has extensive experience and a long and successful history in intellectual property law. His practice includes legal expertise and representation in the procurement, enforcement, licensing and evaluation of patents, particularly in the mechanical, computer, software, and electrical industries.

His firm, RMSC² (Roberts, Mlotkowski, Safran, Cole & Calderon) was founded in 2000 and Andrew joined the practice in 2010. In his role, Andrew counsels clients in various aspects of patent procurement and enforcement, amongst other aspects of intellectual property law.

His main legal focus is assisting clients with procurement and enforcement of patent rights for a wide variety of different technologies including mechanical, systems, mobile applications, computers, software (AI) and electrical systems. Andrew works with a variety of research institutions and companies, worldwide, ranging from fortune 50 companies to start-ups. He assists start-up companies with assessing the technology landscape and navigating through such landscape to develop a patent strategy for protecting the company's innovations, enforcing the patented rights and "designing around" their competitors' patented technology. In this role, he also assists companies with developing their own internal

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processes for improving innovation and protection of their intellectual property.

Andrew graduated from Polytechnic Institute of New York University (formerly Polytechnic Institute) with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He went on to receive his J.D. with an emphasis in intellectual property law from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

Prior to starting his career in law, Andrew gained hands-on engineering experience working as a mechanical engineer, performing environmental testing and fluid flow analysis, amongst other tasks, related to complex radar systems for a major defense contractor. After law school, he began working in the legal industry, gaining knowledge and skills as an associate and then partner for several renowned law firms. Andrew elaborated on one of the firm's recent successes before both the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) concerning radar systems, "This was a very complex case with both technology and procedure. We were successful in invalidating all of the petitioned claims of the patent before the Appeal Board and then having the invalidation

of these claims upheld on appeal before the CAFC. This was a very important matter for our client, allowing our client to begin manufacturing and selling of their radar system with the potential for hundreds of millions of dollars in added revenue."

Andrew is licensed to practice law in three jurisdictions including New York, Virginia and Washington DC as well as before the USPTO. He has facilitated many seminars around the world regarding patent-related topics including intellectual property law with an emphasis on specialized proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the USPTO. His in-depth understanding and education in mechanical engineering, partnered with his skills as an attorney has served Andrew well in successfully representing and guiding clients on patent related matters.

In addition to his professional accomplishments Andrew received an award certification from the Washington and Northern Virginia Sections of the IEEE organization. IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organization dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity and the IEEE awards recognize exceptional contributions in all of the IEEE fields of interest.

JOHN “JACK” KENNEDY

Attorney, Lee Shome and Kennedy

As an attorney and partner with the law firm, Lee Shome & Kennedy LLP, **John (Jack) Kennedy** is an expert at mergers, acquisitions and corporate law.

Lee Shome & Kennedy (LSK) is a boutique law firm based in La Jolla, California, that provides focused and experienced legal counsel in the fields of corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, investments, and commercial real estate. The team at LSK provides both transactional and litigation services, specializing in corporate governance, securities regulations, venture capital, trademarks, and commercial real estate.

Jack became a partner with the firm in 2015 and primarily focuses on mergers, acquisitions, reorganizations, securities regulations and raising capital, contract negotiations, and general corporate law. As an involved partner and accomplished attorney, Jack has gained diverse experience representing both private and publicly held companies in a wide range of transactions. His successful cases include negotiating the stock purchase of a subsidiary of an internet technology company from a publicly-traded corporation characterized as a 338(h)(10) election; redeeming the repurchase of shares from an officer of a multi-million dollar technology company; negotiating equity swaps between various corporate entities; negotiating the purchase of a luxury car dealership; and closing the sale of a custom window and door manufacturer to one of the largest private corporations in America.

Along with his partners at Lee Shome & Kennedy, Jack strives to provide the highest level of elite legal services to his clients with the consistent goal of achieving extraordinary results. They are consummate professionals who develop long-term, meaningful relationships with their clients while providing them with the highest quality legal representation.

Jack graduated from San Diego State University with a BA in English and received his Juris Doctorate degree from California Western School of Law, where he received numerous awards for his academic achievement in the fields of constitutional law and international arbitration. Prior to joining LSK, Jack worked with the Office of the Attorney General and several other private law firms in the San Diego area.

Jack is licensed to practice law in California and Washington D.C. and was featured as one of the *Top 100 Attorneys in California* in this publication in 2018. He is an active member of the San Diego Bar Association and the Society of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick.



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CASS T. CASPER

Attorney, Talon Law

As an experienced labor and employment attorney, **Cass T. Casper** is a true advocate for the rights of the working class. As the founder and managing partner of Talon Law, a boutique law firm that offers a wide range of legal services, Cass primarily focuses on labor and employment law. His services also include estate planning, family law and civil defense.

Based in Chicago, Cass founded the firm in February, 2017 after working for over six years as an in-house attorney for a large labor union. He gained valuable experience in that role representing union members in the areas of collective bargaining, employee discipline & termination, pensions, contract administration and negotiation.

Cass became frustrated with the limitations on services that unions provide their members and decided that he could better serve his clients and truly represent the rights of workers in his own firm.

At Talon Law, Cass focuses on employee worker and labor rights, particularly in the public sector for government and union workers. He adds, "We take an aggressive approach to defending workers' rights. We don't file grievances, we go straight to

federal court and file constitutional claims and we go into agencies and file appropriate discrimination and wage and hour claims."

While Cass adds that he is pro-union, pro-worker and pro-labor, he is committed to providing a higher standard of service at a lower cost to workers and as result, he has become a strong competition for the union legal service sector.

Many of his clients today are workers that he previously represented while employed with the union. He provides alternative and more aggressive legal services to these workers as he will take their cases directly to state or federal court, which often produce much more positive results.

Talon Law continues to grow and is currently expanding to utilize technology to better serve their clients. They are in the process of creating app-based services for union members to request representation, making the entire process easier and more efficient.

Cass is dedicated to fighting for the rights of all workers and expertly uses his legal experience to fight tirelessly on their behalf.

Talon Law is a general practice law firm that is committed to bringing you excellence in any area in which you require representation.

PRACTICE AREAS:

- Civil Service Defense
- Employment Actions
- Estate Planning
- Family Law
- Tickets/License Matters
- And more



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SYLVIA L. BREITOWICH

After gaining years of valuable experience working for several large law firms in New Jersey, Sylvia Breitowich decided to open her own firm so she could focus more closely on the needs of her clients and provide them with more attentive and personalized service.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Sylvia received her bachelor's degree in psychology and criminal justice, a minor in sociology and received a *Certificate of Criminology*. She later went on to receive her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law.

Sylvia originally planned to focus on criminal defense practice but an internship with a solo practitioner, who handled both criminal defense and family law matters, exposed Sylvia to the complex world of matrimonial and family law and as a result, she changed her focus. She explains, "I loved interacting with people and helping them get through serious issues in their lives. Family law matters are not only legally complex, but very emotional for all parties involved. I feel it is my duty to take the legal burden off of my clients so that they can better focus their attention on themselves and their children. My clients are always confident that I have their back and their best interests in mind when navigating their matter. They are comforted by my abilities and find that they are better able to see the light at the end of the tunnel with me helping to guide the way." Working in matrimonial and family law also aligned well with Sylvia's psychology degree.

As the founder and owner of Breitowich Law Firm, LLC, the firm she founded in January 2019, Sylvia concentrates on various matrimonial and family law issues including divorce, custody and support cases, relocation cases, post judgment matters, property division, alimony, adoptions and guardianships.

She explains that as the owner of the firm, she can offer her clients the hands-on and devoted service and legal experience that they deserve when dealing with difficult issues in their lives. She is also a qualified mediator and as such, has the skills needed to help bring parties together to reach



amicable resolutions without the need for court intervention. She adds that most of her clients come to her at very tough times in their lives and she is happy to be able to help them through these hardships.

As an attorney who is focused on truly understanding the needs of her clients and offering the best possible legal options and services, many clients hire Sylvia because they feel she can relate to them on a personal level, not just a business relationship.

Sylvia has been practicing law for over ten years and in addition to her professional accomplishments she has received several notable awards and recognitions. She has been named a *Rising Star Super Lawyer* for the past three consecutive years and was nominated by her clients for *New Jersey's Best Lawyers for Families* in 2019. This year she was also ranked in the *Top 10 under 40* by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys.

Sylvia is also a member of the Ocean and Monmouth County bar associations, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and was recently appointed to the District IX Ethics Committee.



THOMAS J. HENRY

Thomas J. Henry Law

With over 25 years of experience as a successful attorney, Thomas Henry has devoted his career to fighting tirelessly and passionately for the rights of his clients.

Thomas J. Henry is the founder and owner of Thomas J. Henry Law, a renowned, personal injury law firm that serves clients nationwide. The practice handles numerous personal injury cases including trucking and automobile accidents, on the job accidents, medical malpractice claims, mass tort, product liability, child injury and whistleblower protection cases nationwide. Thomas J. Henry established the firm in 1993, and since then it has grown into the largest personal injury plaintiff's firm in Texas, with a staff of more than 150 attorneys and 350 support staff. The firm has seven locations throughout Texas in the areas of San Antonio, Corpus

Christi, Austin, and Houston and is based on a very simple and highly successful business model - a clear commitment to client satisfaction fostered by highly skilled attorneys and a devoted support staff.

Thomas J. Henry adds, "Our trial attorneys have the ability to handle complex commercial cases, litigate against the largest companies in the world, and secure record-breaking verdicts." As a trial law firm, the business has thousands of cases in trial and set for trial and employs various levels of highly experienced attorneys. Thomas J. Henry explains, "Experience is what helps dictate how we assign and delegate our cases. With this structure we have been extremely effective in obtaining great results for our clients."

At any time, the staff may be dealing with clients that may be going through the most difficult experiences in their lives, and Thomas J. Henry explains, "We employ people who are caring, efficient and understand their role as a counselor and trial lawyer, which results in a strong attorney/ client relationship as well as a successful outcome for our clients."

The Thomas J. Henry Law is dedicated to creating a positive, respectful and diverse work culture - 65% of employees are female, 47% are minorities and 64% of the managerial positions are filled by women. The firm offers exceptional benefits and a comprehensive training program to all employees and in 2019, they were selected by Glassdoor as *One of the Best Places To Work*.

Thomas J. Henry was born in Germany and raised as a child on a farm in Kansas. Through his devoted and extremely hardworking parents, Thomas J. Henry learned the value of hard work and discipline. He continued to translate these values throughout his life by supporting himself through college and law school and ultimately opening his own business. This strong work ethic has spilled over into everything that he does.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Thomas J. Henry has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. His firm is dedicated to giving back to the community and Thomas is involved in numerous local, national and international philanthropic causes including the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society, as well as local charities that assist communities in need.

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SA'ID VAKILI

Vakili & Leus, LLP

For nearly 25 years as a partner of Vakili & Leus, LLP, Sa'id Vakili has successfully handled numerous high-stakes cases that have involved multiple parties and venues, complex substantive and procedural issues, and voluminous data and document processing and analysis. He has litigated cases in state and federal courts throughout California, is admitted in multiple jurisdictions and has handled cases in numerous other states through cooperation and coordination with local law firms in those locations.

Over the years, Sa'id has successfully represented businesses and individuals in areas such as shareholder disputes (direct and derivative), business torts, partnership disputes, intellectual property litigation, and all forms of employment claims. He has also handled all varieties of injury tort claims including claims arising under maritime and aviation law. Working with and against some of the finest attorneys in the country, he has litigated hundreds of cases and has achieved results in the seven and eight figures, and successfully defended cases in equal and greater amounts.

Established in 1994, Vakili & Leus has earned a statewide reputation as a premier litigation boutique for its thorough and resourceful litigation. The firm's clients include, among others: non-profit organizations; private and public companies; C-suite executives in both public and private companies across a variety of industries; entertainers; professional athletes; authors; university academics; legal, accounting, and medical professionals. The firm's attorneys have over 200 years of combined litigation experience and collectively have tried over 70 cases in state and federal courts. In the appellate arena, the firm's attorneys have extensive experience and have had cases heard in the both the Supreme Court of California as well as the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sa'id explains that many attorneys on his team left



large firm practice in search of a better work-life balance. He adds, "We are able to provide big firm quality and product in an environment that allows our attorneys the flexibility they desire to lead balanced lives, which in turn boosts morale and overall productivity." Vakili & Leus has attorneys admitted in seven states and supports clients in numerous jurisdictions throughout the United States as well as internationally. The firm has also served as local counsel for out-of-state firms with state or federal actions venued in California.

Sa'id equates the hard work, dedication and success of his firm to the following quote by Mark Twain:

"It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."



Mitchell Ghaneie

Registered Patent Attorney

Jacksonville & St. Augustine, FL

Mission

Mitch explains that the four cornerstones of his firm are **integrity, value, accessibility and communication**. He adds, “We use these cornerstones as the foundation to create a good client experience.”

“ Whether you or your business need a patent, trademark, copyright, or contractual agreement my office will ensure the process is completed swiftly and efficiently.”



LAW OFFICE OF

Mitchell Ghaneie, P.A.

“If a client calls – they will either speak immediately with an attorney or be called back within 24 hours.”

As an attorney who specializes in intellectual property law, Mitchell “Mitch” Ghaneie expertly represents clients in the areas of patents, trademarks, copyrights and domain names and disputes. His diverse range of clients include independent inventors, entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses who require legal expertise and assistance to protect the rights to their unique and innovative ideas, products and inventions. While many of Mitch’s clients are located in Florida, many patents and trademarks are governed by federal law, therefore he also assists clients throughout the country as well as internationally in China and Russia.

Before receiving his law degree, Mitch graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from Florida State University. This scientific background is an asset to an intellectual property attorney as this area of law often involves technical and scientific information. After finishing law school and passing the Patent Bar as well as the Florida Bar, Mitch worked as a patent attorney for a private law firm, where he gained valuable knowledge and hands-on experience in all

aspects of intellectual property law. He has prosecuted many patent applications and hundreds of trademark applications, assisted clients with filing copyright applications, forming LLCs and corporations, drafting licensing agreements and various other contractual agreements.

In February 2019, with a wealth of intellectual property and patent law experience behind him, Mitch opened his own firm. His firm is different from other firms because they focus on service and ensure that clients will always be able to speak directly to an attorney.

Under the vast umbrella of intellectual property law, Mitch’s firm also adeptly handles trademark oppositions and cancellations. The ultimate goal of the firm is to help its clients successfully enforce their intellectual property by protecting their brands, inventions, and creative works.

With all of the exceptional legal services that they provide regarding intellectual property – the firm is consistently meeting their goal.

Mitchell Ghaneie, Registered Patent Attorney

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MEGEREDCHIAN LAW

ALEX MEGEREDCHIAN, ESQ.

“We pride ourselves in providing a level of service that is unrivaled by any other law firm in Los Angeles County.”

As the founder and managing partner of his own law firm, Alex Megeredchian's true passion is making a difference in the lives of his clients who have trusted his legal representation.

Alex Megeredchian is a dedicated and experienced trial attorney who focuses on personal injury and catastrophic injury cases. His personal injury cases include automobile and pedestrian accidents, bicycle accidents and motorcycle accidents, slip and falls, dog bites, and Uber and Lyft accidents. He has handled several catastrophic injury cases including wrongful death, paraplegic and traumatic brain injury cases.

Alex began practicing law in 2012 after graduating from Loyola Law School and immediately opened his own firm. His firm, Megeredchian Law has grown significantly and has offices throughout California including locations in Anaheim, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ontario.

His main philosophy has always been that his clients come first and explains,

When you put the needs of the client before anything else – you will get phenomenal results.

Alex has successfully settled many large cases including a recent six million dollar verdict on a wrongful death accident; a three million dollar settlement for an accident that resulted in the loss of a finger; and a 1.5 million dollar settlement for a case where a semi-truck rear-ended a client's vehicle. Alex works tirelessly to represent his clients in court in order to get the best possible outcome and to ensure that they are taken care



of, especially in cases that involve accidents and physical injuries.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Alex has been the recipient of several awards and recognitions including a 2019 nomination as one of the top 25 Motor Vehicle Trial Lawyers, nominated 10 best law firms by the American Institute for Personal Injury Lawyers and Pasadena Magazine Top Attorney Award.

Alex is a proud member of the American Bar Association, the California Bar Association, the Beverly Hills Bar Association and the Westside Bar Association. When he is not busy litigating cases and representing his clients, he enjoys spending time with his three children and wife.

“At **Megeredchian Law**, you're not treated like a client. You're treated like family.”

Alex Megeredchian, Megeredchian Law

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IRINA SHPIGEL

Managing Attorney
Shpigel and Associates PC

Irina Shpigel founded the boutique law firm, Shpigel & Associates, P.C., in August 2014 with a set of core values dedicated to client service, legal excellence, and personal integrity.

Irina Shpigel is an attorney who focuses her practice on business and partnership disputes, commercial litigation, civil litigation, and contract negotiation. She adeptly manages all aspects of commercial disputes and has successfully represented companies and individuals in state and federal courts.

Irina works tirelessly to represent her clients and offers the highest caliber of legal services and support. In practice since 2009, she has worked on several notable cases that have been featured in the news. She was lead counsel for an *In Rem* proceeding in the United States District Court, District of Columbia, where she represented an international aviation company in connection with alleged violations of the federal export laws.

Other high profile cases she has worked on include representation of an aviation company involving the embezzlement of millions of dollars by the Company's CEO, representation of a foreign telecommunications company under the federal *Computer Fraud and Abuse Act* to recover stolen funds, and representation of a Russian ship-building magnate, who became a victim of political maneuvering after a "Red-Notice" was unjustifiably issued against him by Interpol.

Irina notably secured a confidential pre-answer settlement on behalf of a founder of a major telecommunications company in New York Supreme Court, County of New York, in a case that alleged damages of \$100 million. She also helped to secure a \$1.1 million settlement on behalf of investors, who were duped as a result of a Ponzi scheme, in a Civil RICO (Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations) litigation in New York Federal Court.

Irina is admitted to the New York State Bar, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia and has been admitted *pro hac vice* in the U.S. District Court of Florida and New Jersey.

Irina is a graduate of Pace University, where she received a B.A. in psychology. She received her Doctor of Law (JD) degree from Albany Law School. In the past, she has volunteered her time with the New York City Bar Association, Young Lawyers Committee, and the Veterans Assistance Project. Irina is passionate about giving back to the community and volunteers her legal services *Pro Bono* in her free time.

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CARYN M. PINCUS

Pincus Law Group

Caryn M. Pincus is the founder of Pincus Law Group, PLLC, a premiere real estate and commercial litigation firm based in New York. The Firm has established a stellar reputation among both real estate companies and mortgage banks as a result of its reliable, professional, and relationship-oriented service.

Caryn and the team at Pincus Law Group perform at the highest level, even when faced with high-pressure or challenging scenarios. They expertly and patiently guide clients through the common and uncommon legal obstacles that are often intrinsic to the metropolitan real estate market.

“We strive to have a complete understanding of our clients’ needs and to always provide the most relevant and expert advice.”

After graduating and being granted admission to the bars of New York, New Jersey, Florida and Pennsylvania, Caryn began practicing in the areas of matrimonial and criminal law, before transitioning to commercial litigation.

In 2012, Caryn opened up a New York based law firm which officially became the Pincus Law Group in 2016. The Pincus Law Group is a full-service firm, focused on representing corporate clients in real estate closings, commercial litigation, foreclosure, evictions, and other related practice areas. Under her leadership, the firm has grown exponentially but Caryn gives the credit to her team and their five-star client service.

She adds, “We strive to have a complete understanding of our clients’ needs and to always



provide the most relevant and expert advice.” This model has proven itself over time and Pincus Law Group is currently positioned well above other firms of its type. The firm’s success is likely to continue, building on its momentum, as the firm evolves.

To complement her enviable legal career, Caryn maintains an active profile within the industry as a participant in annual legal summits. In conjunction with the Firm, she is involved with the American Legal & Financial Network, and the Mortgage Bankers Association. Caryn is also a member of the American Legal and Financial Network, Women in Legal Leadership and the American Bar Association.

When she is not engaged with practicing law or attending legal events, she contributes to her community through the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization and as a board member of Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities.

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MAIN STREET
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Mo Dadkhah is a prominent attorney and owner of Dadkhah Law Group, a Chicago-based practice that specializes in real estate law.

Mo started his firm as the sole practicing attorney and handled the caseload by himself for the first five years. He completed his law degree at John Marshall University in Chicago, but after graduating in 2009, he discovered that job offers were limited and most of them were unattractive. Although he was offered positions, Mo had no interest in the prospect of a small, low paying role within a large, impersonal firm.

Mo decided to begin his career on his own terms and despite the risk of starting a firm straight out of law school, he defied tradition and opened an office. Initially, clients were hard to come by so Mo advertised on *Craigslist*, accepting status cases for just \$50. He also got a real estate license, with the intention of supplementing his income through real estate cases.

"A goal without a plan is just a wish."

Soon, Mo was getting referrals from other attorneys and past clients, which created enough work for a second attorney. In 2014, Mo and his newly hired associate began accepting more real estate cases and amassed an impressive roster of clients. It was at this time that Mo decided to open a second business; Main Street Real Estate Group, a full-service real estate brokerage.

By 2018, Dadkhah Law Group had become successful enough to add a third member to their practice and dedicate much of their caseload to real estate law, competently handling matters pertaining to closings, tax appeals, and condo deconversions throughout Chicago. In addition, the Firm also offers corporate and litigation expertise.

Mo credits his success in both businesses to a decade of hard work, consistency, and above all, patience. He adds, "It doesn't happen overnight, and we are still planning for exponential growth."

In addition to overseeing his real estate agency and practicing law, Mo dedicates a significant amount of time to coaching and training realtors. His unique perspective and dual career experience allow him to offer proven strategies for success to business owners and agents alike. Mo often includes his personal mantra in his presentations, which is, "A goal without a plan is just a wish."

Mo has always maintained an active role within the community. He was president of the YPN board for Chicago Association of Realtors and a host on *WGN Market Overdrive*, a real estate talk show. From there, he moved on to his own podcast, *AE Wheelhouse*, which features local entrepreneurs and business owners. Mo also developed the real estate tech start up, Bid Mojo, which specializes in lead generation. He states, "Everything I do has some relation to real estate." This is especially evident in Mo's many awards and recognitions. Main Street Real Estate Group was named by *Inc 5000* as one of the *Fastest Growing Companies In America* and Mo has been featured in *Chicago Agent Magazine* as a *Top Producer* for the last 3 years, as well as a *Chicago Magazine Power Player*.



William Brelsford joined Poswall, White & Cutler in 2006 and was named partner in 2009. Mr. Brelsford focuses on personal injury cases. His educational background includes a bachelor's degree in economics and a Juris Doctor degree from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

Mr. Brelsford is listed as one of *America's Top 100 Attorneys*. In 2015, Mr. Brelsford was inducted as a fellow into The International Society of Barristers, an invitation only group of less than 700 trial lawyers in the United States. Additional accolades include being rated by Martindale-Hubbell as *AV Preeminent* and recognized continuously as a *Super Lawyer*.



Michelle Wodynski
MDS Premier PC



Paul Batta
Batta Fulkerson Law Group



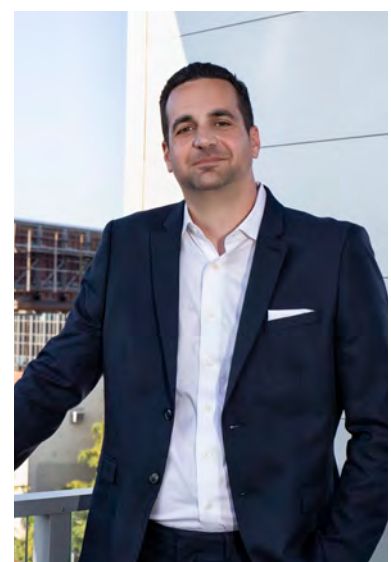
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