



The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of “Top Rated Lawyers”



TOP RATED LAWYERS

NEW YORK

WAGNER BERKOW, LLP



**WAGNER BERKOW LLP** is dedicated to providing the highest level of legal services to our clients. Founding members Steven Wagner and Bonnie Berkow have been recognized for their real estate legal expertise for more than 30 years. Caring deeply for the success of each of our clients, our entire team is focused on providing outstanding legal services and advice, winning and creative approaches to problems, unfailing ethics and good judgment. We listen well and communicate clearly. We are the advocates and partners our clients want.

**Our practice is concentrated in the areas of:**

- Real Estate
- Condominiums
- Land Use
- Cooperatives
- Complex Commercial Litigation
- Internet Defamation
- Tenant Buyouts

Our extensive and varied background includes resolution or litigation of disputes for control of partnerships, corporations, limited liability companies, between adjacent landowners, neighboring apartment owners and apartment owners and their boards, zoning, land use and development rights issues, Pullman actions, commercial and residential landlord/tenant matters, regulated housing issues including rent control, rent stabilization, City and State Mitchell-Lamas and Section 213 housing, succession right claims, condominium lien, residential and complex commercial mortgage foreclosures, tenant buy-outs, actions to clear title, plus a wide range of commercial and corporate disputes.

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TOP RATED LAWYERS

**Don Quixote Didn't Tolerate Injustice. We Won't Either.  
The Judgment You Fought so Hard to Win Should be Paid!**

**Judgment-proof?** Just saying it leaves a bad taste in the mouth. It happens to every litigator – you win but feel somehow you lost because the Judgment may be uncollectable. But appearances can be deceptive. Many debtors are hoping you will keep that Judgment in your file, move on, and leave them alone. Don't do it! Even when a judgment debtor appears to be judgment-proof, all is not necessarily lost. Winning without collecting is miserable and unjust. Don Quixote, shown here in a beautiful painting by Vladimir Lazarev that is hanging in our office, would never stand for that.

**We Collect Debts and Enforce Judgments.** We take great pride in having become the go-to firm in New York for Judgment enforcement and substantial commercial debt collection matters. This may not sound like the most glamorous legal practice in the world, but you would be surprised by the challenging and important legal issues we have to deal with day-to-day. Plus, we get to know (and laugh about) New York's colorful cast of judgment debtors, who we love to hunt and take down! You can't make some of this stuff up.

Judgment enforcement work is in fact critically important to the integrity of our legal system. Debt collection is the sometimes necessary end-game of what we all do (or should do) routinely: pay our debts. Without payment, there would be no credit. Without credit, our economic system would fail. Without a meaningful and effective judicial process to aid creditors enforcing obligations to pay debts, our courts fail us and there would be no justice.

**Our Approach.** Our work calls for extreme tenacity in order to pin down a judgment debtor determined to avoid payment. But, as Joe Torre said, "there is power in patience and persistence." This principle guides our work. As a result, judges may not always be thrilled to see us come into their courtroom seeking to enforce Judgments. So be it. But we like to think we earn their respect when we doggedly pursue our client's rights. As a case in point, we're extremely proud of this mention in an opinion from U.S. District Court Judge William H. Pauley III:



**"It wasn't an easy process. Quite frankly, someone with less resolve than [the judgment creditor's] attorney Mr. D'Orazio likely would have thrown up their hands at the kind of obstruction that the [judgment debtor] engaged in."**

We offer lawyers a valuable service – a no-risk, confidential evaluation of any open Judgment you feel may be collectible. All work is supervised by our Principal Attorney, Bernard D'Orazio, "AV" rated as Preeminent in litigation and collections. Please contact him at 212-608-5300 x103 or **bdorazio@dorazio-law.com**. You may also send Judgments to **judgments@dorazio-law.com**.

- **Judgment Enforcement** ➤
- **Commercial Debt Collection Litigation** ➤
- **Fraudulent Conveyance Actions** ➤

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NEW YORK CITY

LEGAL LEADERS

AV PREEMINENT®  
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Lawyer Ratings





TOP RATED LAWYERS

NEW YORK

# ARYE, LUSTIG & SASSOWER, P.C.

PERSONAL INJURY, CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE,  
PREMISES LIABILITY, MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS



For the plaintiff's injury law firm of Arye, Lustig & Sassower, P.C. (AL&S), the recipe for success continues to be simple because it has served its clients well for more than 50 years.

"Our approach has always been to work hard and work smart," said managing partner Mitchell J. Sassower, who leads the firm alongside name partner and senior trial attorney D. Carl Lustig III. "It's a straightforward, but effective strategy and it's proven and documented by our track record."

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

In addition to their admirable work ethic, the firm delivers the highest level of client service from the moment a client enters their office. The entire AL&S staff provides compassionate guidance throughout the legal process, and they are mindful that the well-being, finances and future of their clients are on the line.

"We stand out because of our ability to empower clients during challenging times," said Lustig. "Our clients often gain remarkable confidence as our collaborations take shape, even when up against the most well-funded insurance companies and defendants. We operate on a contingency basis and always strive to make clients whole again through financial compensation."

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

These accolades and leadership positions reflect the respect they have earned among judges and colleagues, securing the firm's stature at the forefront of the legal community. Sassower maintains that their recognized excellence ultimately benefits their clients, who are constantly on their minds.

"We pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of legal developments in our field," said Sassower. "Injured workers and victims continue to hire us because we have the experience of a large firm but are small enough to provide the hands-on attention they deserve."

# ARYE, LUSTIG & SASSOWER, P.C.

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TOP RATED LAWYERS

NEW YORK

GOLDSTEIN, RIKON, RIKON & HOUGHTON, P.C.

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

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

By limiting their practice to eminent domain law, the attorneys at Goldstein, Rikon, Rikon & Houghton have become authorities in this area of the law, securing significant awards for their clients.

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



LEFT TO RIGHT: Matthew E Guber, Michael Rikon, Joshua H. Rikon, Jonathan N. Houghton, Ashley B. Levi

GOLDSTEIN, RIKON, RIKON & HOUGHTON, P.C.

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NEW YORK

STEVEN L. KESSLER

ASSET FORFEITURE, WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL  
LAW, COMPLEX CIVIL LITIGATION

Forfeiture authority

Steven L. Kessler maintains a national AV rated® white-collar practice in New York. He represents clients in cases of first impression and national significance in federal and state trial and appellate courts nationwide.

Mr. Kessler is a member of the Joint Rules Committee for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York. He is widely quoted and cited in court decisions and media of legal and general circulation nationwide, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *Forbes Magazine*, and has appeared on *NBC Nightly News*, *PBS* and *CNN Radio*, among others. A well-respected advocate in his field, Mr. Kessler is the author of two highly acclaimed treatises on forfeiture, *Civil and Criminal Forfeiture: Federal and State Practice* (West Group) and *New York Criminal and Civil Forfeitures* (LexisNexis), and of ten chapters of the renowned 15-volume treatise, Weinstein, Korn & Miller’s *New York Civil Practice*. He lectures extensively throughout the country, including at the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Conference of the Council of State Governments, and has testified before numerous Legislative committees on forfeiture-related issues. He is a contributor to the *New York Law Journal* and other publications on issues relating to forfeiture and criminal law.

A graduate of Cornell Law School, Mr. Kessler is a member of the the NACDL’s Forfeiture Abuse Task Force. He served for eight years as a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association, where he chaired the 4,000+ member General Practice Section and served on the Executive Committee of the Criminal Justice Section. A past member of the ABA’s White Collar Crime Committee and RICO, Forfeiture and Civil Remedies Committee, he has served on the Boards of Directors of the NYS Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Bronx County Bar Association and the Association of Arbitrators of the NYC Civil Court. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Kessler was head of the Asset Forfeiture Unit of the Bronx District Attorney’s office. He is in his 24th year as an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York Law School.



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NEW YORK BROOKLYN

# GARY A. ZUCKER

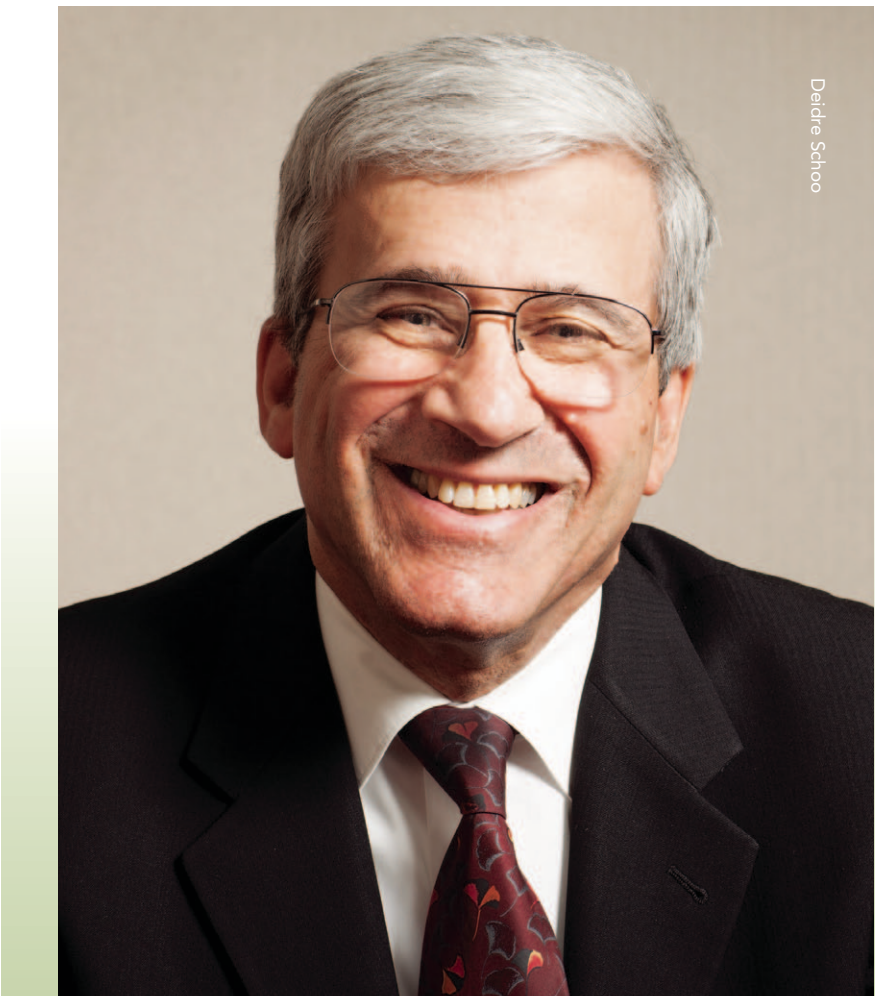
## PERSONAL INJURY, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Over the past three decades, Gary Zucker has distinguished himself as one of the most committed and professional personal injury and medical malpractice attorneys in New York City.

Mr. Zucker has been given an AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the organization’s highest rating for professional excellence, based on voting by his peers. In addition, Mr. Zucker has been selected to the 2015, 2016, and 2017 editions of New York Super Lawyers and the *New York Law Journal* Motor Vehicle Verdicts and Settlements Hall of Fame.

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

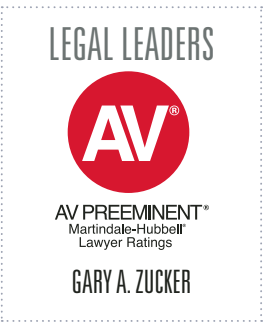
Among its significant recoveries, the firm obtained a verdict of \$10.5 million for a child who suffered severe brain injury due to obstetrical malpractice. It also secured a \$6 million settlement for the death of a 32-year-old married plumber, which was the largest reported settlement in New York in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



Deidre Schio

# GARY A. ZUCKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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Sandra L. Jacobus • Mark A. Berman • Matthew J. Leeds • Justin R. Bonanno (partners as pictured)



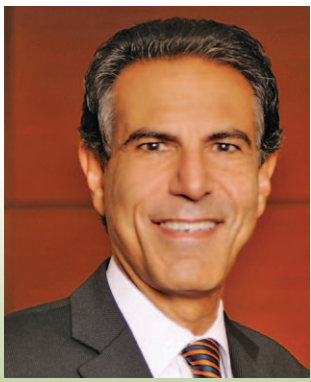


TOP RATED LAWYERS

NEW YORK MANHATTAN

RONALD FATOULLAH

From the outset, Ronald Fatoullah has always focused on helping others. He has personally handled some of the most complex and high profile estates in New York, and yet, despite all of his achievements and recognition, he remains humble and innately patient. However, when it comes to his clients rights, make no mistake; he is a fierce and effective advocate.



Perhaps more than anyone else in the field of elder law today, Ronald Fatoullah knows what it takes to face the challenges of aging, both legally and financially. To say that he is passionate about what he does would be a gross understatement. He has five offices across New York, and has accomplished a great deal in his decades of experience as an elder law attorney and trusts & estates attorney.

Attorney Fatoullah and his firm are renowned for their cutting edge knowledge and endless dedication. The firm adheres to the highest form of professional and ethical standards and handles cases involving Medicaid eligibility, estate planning and estate litigation, special needs planning, preparing wills & trusts, probate and guardianships.

In addition to his law practice, Fatoullah is a partner with AdvicePeriod, a leading wealth management firm, where he delivers conflict free, sophisticated planning-based advice to his clients. At Adviceperiod, he focuses on delivering planning based advice and exemplary service to his clients. Ron is also registered with the NFL Players Association as an NFLPA Registered Player Financial Advisor.

Ron's distinguished reputation is based on his contributions to the senior citizen community and his eleven year inclusion as one of the New York Areas "Best Lawyers"® and as a Super Lawyer.

He was Chair of the Financial Planning and Investments Committee of the Elder Law and Special Needs Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), serves as co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Long Island Chapter of The Alzheimer's Association and chairs their legal committee, and he also serves on the Executive Council of AARP in New York.

Mr. Fatoullah is committed to delivering the ultimate client experience by staying true to his values of integrity, honesty and excellence. He is also a frequent speaker on estate planning, elder law and contributes articles to the New York Times, Newsday, The Wall Street Journal and various online publications.

RONALD FATOULLAH & ASSOCIATES

Elder Law. Estate Planning. Medicaid Eligibility.  
1-877 Elder Law 1-877-Estates  
Manhattan. Long Island. Queens. Brooklyn.



VINOO VARGHESE



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In addition to his Martindale AV Preeminent rating, Vinoo Varghese is a New York Metro Super Lawyers rated attorney in the white collar criminal defense arena. Earlier in his career, he was recognized as a New York Law Journal Rising Stars awardee. In 2000, Varghese began his career as a prosecutor. In 2006, he founded Varghese & Associates, P.C.

Since then, Varghese and his team have won a complete acquittal for a client in a criminal tax trial against the IRS and DOJ Criminal Tax Division. Previously, before the Second Circuit, Varghese and team had secured a rarely granted retrial for that client.

In 2017, Varghese published an op-ed in the New York Post about O.J. Simpson's parole release. He has been a guest commentator on Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight, Nancy Grace Online, and on A&E's Law & Crime Network. Varghese's advocacy has led him to be quoted multiple times in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, the New York Law Journal, and Law360.

Varghese graduated from Brooklyn Law School, New York University, and Chaminade High School.

WHITE-COLLAR CRIMINAL DEFENSE  
CRIMINAL DEFENSE

NEW YORK

ADRIA S. HILLMAN

FAMILY LAW

At her own firm located in New York City, Adria S. Hillman focuses her practice on complex divorce litigation and appeals, the negotiation and execution of pre and postnuptial agreements, and separation agreements and stipulations of settlement involving sensitive financial and custodial matters for clients throughout the metropolitan area. With a legal background spanning more than four decades and several practice areas, including commercial and intellectual property litigation and matters involving libel and slander, she is well-equipped to assist her clients in finding equitable and lasting solutions for complex matters such as child custody and property division. She has also worked with local counsel in Connecticut, Florida, California and Texas to achieve creative and expeditious results in those jurisdictions.



A founding member of the New York Women's Foundation, in which she has served in multiple capacities, Ms. Hillman is a longstanding member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the New York Women's Bar Association and is a sustaining member and a member of the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. On account of her superb trial and appellate work and strong ethics, she has received an AV Preeminent\* peer-review rating through Martindale-Hubbell, and has been named a Legal Leader and Super Lawyer in successive years.

ADRIA S. HILLMAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

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NEW YORK GARDEN CITY

FLORENCE T. FRAZER

EDUCATION, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

FLORENCE T. FRAZER is a founding partner of Frazer & Feldman, LLP, a firm concentrating on the representation of public school boards of education. With over 25 years' experience in public sector labor law, including service as Assistant Director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations, she has negotiated hundreds of collective bargaining agreements on behalf of management with teachers, administrators, custodians, nurses, food service and transportation workers. Her overarching philosophy of mutual respect between management and labor has enabled her to achieve her clients' goals without the rancor which can impact subsequent labor-management relations. She also serves as general counsel to boards of education, providing guidance on the Affordable Care Act, and APPR, and student and employee rights.



JACOB S. FELDMAN

EDUCATION, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

JACOB S. FELDMAN is a founding partner of Frazer & Feldman, LLP, representing public school boards of education as general and labor counsel. His practice concentrates on special education matters. He has successfully represented school districts in impartial hearings and appeals through to the second circuit court of appeals. His approach to advising special education clients is to combine knowledge of the law with common sense to create practical solutions. He is a frequent speaker on special education programs, including "Developing a Bulletproof IEP" and "Section 504 in N.Y." He is the author of "Read All About It," a monthly compilation of important special education decisions from around the nation. He also serves as general counsel to School Boards advising them on matters including tenure and seniority, and staff and student discipline.



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NEW YORK

JONATHAN J. WILKOFSKY

Jonathan Wilkofsky and the firm he has lead for 30 years are recognized as the premier advocates for victims of insurance company misconduct.

Among the leading voices for consumers after Superstorm Sandy, Wilkofsky represents clients as they seek to recover for their losses from insurers, after a disaster or casualty loss has occurred.

The firm is responsible for many pro-consumer landmark insurance decisions and takes great pride in positively impacting the insurance law by drafting and winning passage of eight pro-consumer pieces of legislation.

Wilkofsky, who has never lost a jury verdict in more than 35 years of litigation is also the author of *The Law and Procedure of Insurance Appraisal*, which won the Cordish Writing Award from the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters, an organization that also named Wilkofsky “Person of the Year.” He also lectures nationally on trial tactics and the insurance claims process.

Mr. Wilkofsky was named to the Superlawyer’s annual list of top attorneys in since 2013 and was also listed in the top 100 trial lawyers by the National Trial Lawyers Association.

Please visit the firm’s website (www.wfkclaw.com) to learn more about the firm and for information on how to purchase *The Law and Procedure of Insurance Appraisal*.

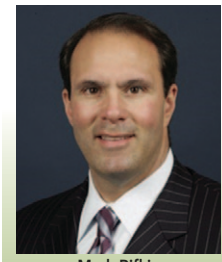


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NEW YORK, SAN DIEGO, CHICAGO

WOLF HALDENSTEIN ADLER FREEMAN & HERZ LLP



Mark Rifkin



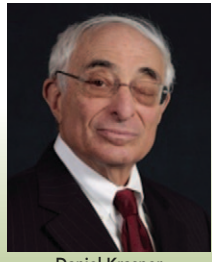
Jeffrey Smith



Fred Isquith



Charlie Hecht



Daniel Krasner

Founded in 1888, Wolf Haldenstein has expertise in complex class action litigation with an emphasis on securities litigation, shareholder derivative litigation, antitrust, consumer, federal civil rights, wage and hour, whistleblower, corporate and government investigations and public domain protection. The Firm has recovered over \$9 billion on behalf of investors, consumers, workers and those affected by antitrust violations and has earned global acclaim for its groundbreaking achievements. Wolf Haldenstein’s most recent accomplishments have included returning the world’s most popular song “Happy Birthday” and the U.S.’s most powerful song “We Shall Overcome” to the public domain.

Wolf Haldenstein’s Practice Groups are Investor Protection, Consumer Protection, Business Practice, Labor and Social Justice. Our Firm believes that investors, consumers, workers and businesses should be treated fairly and equally under the protections offered by the law. Whether fighting on behalf of investors and consumers, safeguarding labor standards, advising on business matters, enforcing civil rights or protecting the public domain, Wolf Haldenstein is a proud defender of equality, fairness and social justice.

Wolf Haldenstein is recognized for the quality and depth of its legal talent that is reinforced by the numerous legal industry commendations received by our Firm’s peers and the legal industry as a whole. In addition to ALM & Martindale-Hubbell’s recognition of the Firm’s Top 2017 Top Rated Lawyer’s Mark Rifkin, Jeffrey Smith, Daniel Krasner, Fred Isquith and Charles Hecht, Wolf Haldenstein has also been recognized by the National Law Journal as a Trailblazer and one of the top 12 plaintiff’s firms in the U.S. that “tapped [its] deep bench for high stakes litigation battles in courts across the country.” Many of Wolf Haldenstein’s attorneys are also recognized as AV Preeminent lawyers by Martindale-Hubbell (top 5% of lawyers nationwide) and by their peers as Super Lawyer’s over the past decade.

Wolf Haldenstein has been recognized by courts throughout the country for our integrity and expertise, and we are considered one of the leading class action firms in the United States. Our clients always come first and we put all of our resources to work in each and every case. A uniquely collaborative culture is at the heart of Wolf Haldenstein, and the support of expert practitioners from varied practice areas of the law enhances the strength and efficiency of our Firm.



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Attorney Advertisement

NEW YORK MINEOLA

PAUL E. BLUTMAN

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Paul E. Blutman is the resident partner in Rawle & Henderson LLP’s Long Island office. He has been rated AV Preeminent® for 27 years. He focuses his practice on the defense of medical and dental professionals, hospitals, nursing homes, products manufacturers’ liability, premises liability, toxic torts, auto liability, and commercial and business litigation.

Mr. Blutman lectures to medical and dental professionals, hospitals, and corporations on liability issues. He has lectured as a faculty participant for the Hofstra University School of Law/NITA trial advocacy program for 27 years. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association, Queens County Bar Association and New York County Bar Association.

Mr. Blutman is a founding member of the New York State Medical Defense Bar Association. He is a recipient of the Hofstra University School of Law Distinguished Alumni Award, OMSNIC Rising Star Award and Hofstra Law Distinguished Faculty Award. He is admitted to practice in the State of New York, as well as the Federal Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

Rawle & Henderson LLP is a Mid-Atlantic defense law firm engaged in a civil litigation and trial practice. Our New York offices are located in Mineola and New York City. Founded in 1783, we have been recognized as the nation’s oldest law firm by the *ABA Journal*.



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NEW YORK

MICHAEL E. QUIAT

DISABILITY, LIFE, LTC AND ERISA LTD INSURANCE CLAIMS

My firm represents individuals against insurance carriers in individual disability, ERISA, LTD, long term care, life and other complex insurance claims.

For more than 35 years we have focused on getting policyholders what insurance companies owe them. We understand the hardships individuals face when forced to fight deep-pocket insurance companies at a time when they are least able to do so. We have the knowledge and experience to successfully guide clients through this highly adversarial process, so they get the insurance benefits to which they are entitled. Our mission is to make sure that insurance companies timely pay the benefits which they owe to our clients. Protecting a family’s financial lifeline is too important to “go it alone.” We practice in New York and New Jersey, but represent clients with local counsel nationwide.

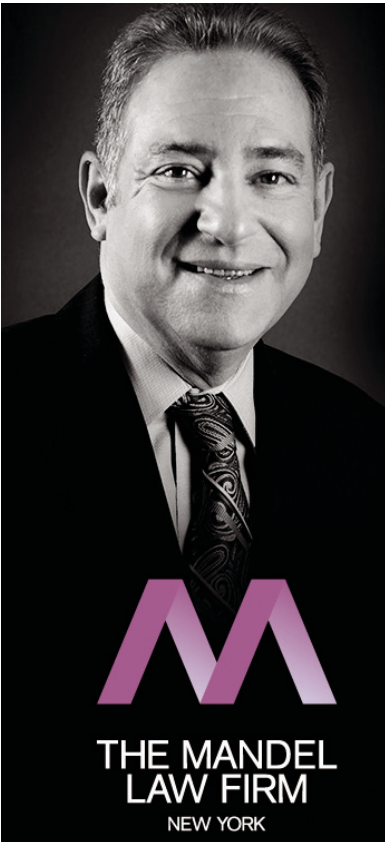
To learn more about our firm, please visit our website at www.uqur.com. Whether you are a lawyer with a question, or a client looking for representation, we are happy to talk to you.



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mquiat@uqur.com | www.uqur.com



STEVEN J. MANDEL

worked through law school as a professional comedian and believes this training helped make him a successful trial attorney.

Steve’s been described as “the Picasso of the legal profession” because of his proven ability to assess each client’s situation and prevail in what other lawyers might describe as “the unwinnable case.”

As Steve Says:

“When you focus on solutions, the problems take care of themselves.”

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NEW YORK

BARRY S. SCHWARTZ

REAL ESTATE, LANDLORD-TENANT

Barry S. Schwartz is an AV Preeminent® attorney since 1997 and a veteran practitioner specializing in all aspects of landlord-tenant and real estate litigation, including the prosecution and defense of both commercial and residential nonpayment and holdover proceedings, the defense of 7A proceedings, arbitration and administrative proceedings, litigation against state and city agencies including the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the New York City Department of Housing, Preservation and Development, condominium and cooperative housing litigation, and appeals to all state appellate courts. Mr. Schwartz also specializes in the purchase and sale of apartment buildings, houses, co-ops and condos, has lectured on real estate litigation and landlord tenant trial techniques before the New York County Lawyers Association, and has written extensive continuing legal education material. His biography has appeared in *Who’s Who in American Law* since 1990.



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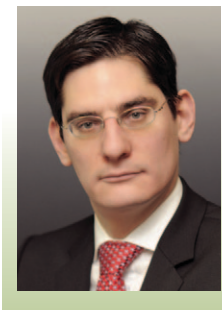


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After 35 years as the principal of his own firm, Lawrence DiGiovanna joined Abrams Fensterman as a partner in its Real Estate Practice Group representing condominium developers, cooperative boards and purchasers and sellers of commercial real estate including related litigation. Revered as a leader in his field, he has served as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association and on the executive committee of the State Bar's Real Property Law Section. He is also former chair of the Appellate Division's Grievance Committee and current member of its Character & Fitness Committee.



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Designers and fashion businesses seek out Karen Artz Ash, National Co-Chair of Katten's Intellectual Property Department, because of her unique industry expertise. She was recently elected as President of VOLS, a legal services organization serving indigent New Yorkers and is Chair of the national Pro Bono Committee. She is an Adjunct Professor at New York Law School, writes a monthly column on trademarks, has contributed to several books on fashion law and licensing, lectures frequently on fashion law, served as a member of the Federal Mediation Advisory Committee for the Southern District of New York, and is a Court appointed panel member for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals Management Plan pilot program.

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Steve Skolnik is a multi-faceted attorney who represents clients in all aspects of commercial litigation, nationally and internationally. His practice embodies the multi-disciplinary approach of the firm, representing entrepreneurial clients in the global marketplace. An in-depth knowledge of the rules of procedure and evidence in state and federal court and arbitral tribunals, and willingness to try a case, are cornerstones of his resolution of business disputes.

Steve has litigated intellectual property, LLC and shareholder, business torts, contracts, real estate, pharmaceutical, estates and trusts, libel, lending, insurance, and others. His grounding in corporate law gives him the perspective to approach a case in economic terms.

Steve is a graduate of Yale College and Harvard Law School. He has been selected in the 2017 Super Lawyers as well as in the most recent National Trial Lawyers top 100 Trial Lawyers in New York State.



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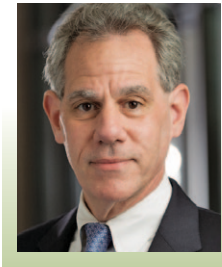
JONATHAN D. SANDS

Personal Injury, Property Damage, Litigation

Jonathan D. Sands represents clients who have suffered serious damages in personal injury, product liability and construction-site accidents. He also represents individuals and businesses that have suffered substantial damage to personal and business property. Each client is unique and Mr. Sands is highly experienced in evaluating whether early settlement in the claim stage, traditional litigation, or alternative dispute resolution might best serve the individual client.

Mr. Sands founded his practice seventeen years ago after serving as an assistant district attorney in the appeals, trial and major narcotics bureaus at the Kings County District Attorney's Office, and as a senior trial attorney for major liability insurance carriers. In addition to his own practice, he is often called upon by other attorneys to assist with the handling of their matters.

Mr. Sands graduated from Tulane University, and from Case Western Reserve School of Law in 1987, served in the New York State Bar Association House of Delegates, and holds an AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest peer review rating for legal ability and ethical standards.



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DEBORAH A. SCALISE

For more than nine years, Deborah A. Scalise, Esq. and Sarah Jo Hamilton, Esq., partners in Scalise & Hamilton LLP, have devoted their practice to the representation of professionals in ethics and professional responsibility matters before the Character and Fitness, Grievance Committees and the Judicial Conduct Commission. They provide proactive advice and defensive counsel when an attorney, a firm or a judge is dealing with ethical issues or misconduct.

Ms. Scalise is active in several statewide and local bar associations; she was past president of both the Westchester Women's Bar Association and the White Plains Bar Association. She served as Chair of the NYSBA CLE Committee for five years, and is a member of the NYSBA Professional Ethics Committee. Ms. Scalise is listed as one of the **Top 50 Women** in the New York Metro Super Lawyers, as published in the *New York Times* (2014-2016), and as one of the **Top 25 Lawyers** in the County, as published in the *Westchester Magazine* (2013-2016). In 2016, Ms. Scalise was appointed to the NYS OCA CLE Board by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore. She testified before the OCA State Commission on Professional Discipline in 2015; her authored materials were annexed to the Commission's Report which issued recommendations as to the unification of the NYS disciplinary process that were implemented as Court Rules by OCA in 2016.



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