

A Program of **NJBIZ**

Leaders in Law



Sponsors



Congratulations to



Sheilah O'Halloran, Esq.

General Counsel and Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs

and all the 2021 NJBIZ
Leaders in Law Honorees

*Thank you for your commitment to
building healthier communities*



Atlantic Health System

AtlanticHealth.org | 888-4AH-DOCS

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	4	Denise Merna Dadika.....	14
Meet the Judges.....	4	Anne Mohan	14
Joseph Boccassini.....	5	Chris Murphy	14
Gary R. Botwinick.....	5	Nandini Nair.....	14
Michael Clarke.....	5	Peter Nussbaum.....	15
Orville Cockings.....	5	Sheilah O'Halloran	15
Max Crane.....	6	Gerard Onorata.....	16
John D. Cromie	6	Karen Painter Randall	16
Danielle DeFilippis.....	6	Lillian Plata	16
Paul DiMaio.....	6	Eric S. Poe	18
Robert DiPisa	7	Thomas Prol	18
Michael G. Donahue	7	Loryn Riggiola.....	18
Sandra Fava.....	8	Thomas N. Ryan, Esq.....	20
Robert Gabrielski	8	Angela M. Scafuri	20
Lisa Gorab.....	8	Michelle Schaap.....	20
Stephen Hehl.....	8	David Sorin	20
William Holzapfel	9	David Stern.....	21
Jill Kelley	9	Anthony Sylvester	21
Yasmeen S. Khaleel, JD, LLM.....	10	Dennis Toft.....	21
Galit Kierkut	10	Camelia M. Valdes	22
Robert Klausner	10	Maria Vallejo.....	22
Justin Klein.....	10	Peter Verniero.....	22
Sandra Lascari	11	Michael Zogby.....	22
Jeralyn Lawrence.....	11		
Julia López.....	12		
Barry Mandelbaum	12		
Diana C. Manning	12		
Philip F. McGovern Jr.	12		
Michael McKenna	13		
Greg Meese.....	13		



Mailing Address

220 Davidson Ave., Suite 122,
Somerset, NJ 08873
www.njbiz.com • (732) 246-7677

PUBLISHER
Ken Kiczales

GENERAL MANAGER
AnnMarie Karczmit

ADVERTISING
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Penelope Spencer
Kirsten Rasky
Ilene Roman

EDITORIAL
EVENT SUPPLEMENT EDITOR
Karren L. Johnson

WEB EDITOR/SOCIAL MEDIA
COORDINATOR
Jessica Perry

PRODUCTION
SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS
SUPERVISOR
Laura Black

SPECIAL PROJECTS DESIGNER
Sloan Marion

AD DESIGNER
Abby Wilhelm

Published by Bridgetower Media



CONGRATULATIONS
JILL KELLEY

Honoree for the NJBiz
Leaders in Law Award



Welcome Letter



As many of you know, NJBIZ has celebrated the achievements of New Jersey's outstanding General Counsels for nearly 10 years with our annual General Counsel Awards program. However, we've heard from you, our passionate readers, users and guests, that there are many other outstanding Leaders in Law deserving of recognition, as well.

In response, we're thrilled to announce that we've enhanced our General Counsel of the Year event and created the NJBIZ Leaders in Law recognition program to celebrate New Jersey's top legal professionals serving in a wide variety of capacities and going above and beyond to contribute to their company's success while doing so with flexibility and grace under pressure.

And now, as companies continue to face unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis, they are relying on the expertise of legal professionals even more than ever to help ensure business continuity and employee health and safety.

Deciding which Leaders in Law should be honored was not an easy job. The outstanding honorees were selected from a highly qualified field of candidates. An independent judging panel, not affiliated with NJBIZ, selected this year's honorees.

Representing a diverse range of companies and organizations, many of our honorees have played a major role in growing their companies or building their legal departments from the ground up. Some serve in private boutique practices while others work at large corporations.

Most importantly, however, these legal experts show the benefits of being involved in the community. Many have played important roles in their local bar associations, contributed to panels and publications, volunteered to mentor new lawyers, increase diversity in the workforce, and lead pro bono initiatives.

NJBIZ, along with our sponsors, is extremely proud to recognize the hard work, innovation and vision of the Garden State's most successful Leaders in Law. Keep turning the pages to learn more about their accomplishments, their favorite business advice and what inspires them.

Karren L. Johnson
Event Supplement Editor

Meet the Judges



Shaun Bean
Assistant General Counsel – Litigation
Panasonic Corporation of North America



Shaun I. Blick
Managing Member
Blick Law LLC



Lloyd Freeman
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney



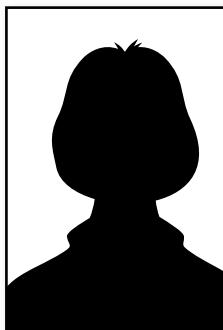
Mary Clare Garber
Principal
Princeton Legal Search Group, LLC



Kathryn V. Hatfield, Esq.
Founder
Hatfield Schwartz Law Group



Jessica L. Hodkinson
Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
Panasonic Corporation of North America



Maryann P. Kicenuik, Esq.
Senior Vice President/
General Counsel
Holy Name Medical Center, Inc.



Michael P. Lynch
Vice President and General Counsel
Brother International Corporation



Howard Matalon
Partner,
Employment Practices
OlenderFeldman LLP



Uche Ndumele
Vice President and Chief Counsel
Conagra Brands, Inc.



Larry Samilow
Co-Founder and Managing Director
Verve Group Consulting



Joseph Boccassini

Firmwide Managing Partner
McCarter & English, LLP
Newark, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? I am responsible for charting our strategic direction in a dynamic and competitive industry.

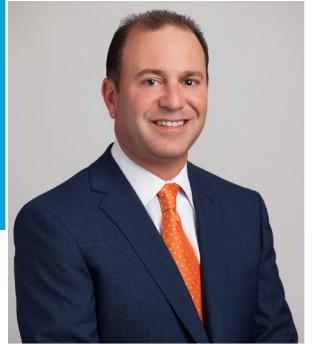
Thus, much of my time is devoted to promoting a “growth mindset” among my colleagues. This responsibility often draws upon my experience as a litigator and advocate, collaborating with my colleagues to develop strategic objectives that are well considered.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I am personally involved in extensive pro bono work and community service work. Over the last year, I have been extensively involved in the work of our recently founded McCarter & English Social Justice Project, which has launched pro bono and community service programs designed to combat structural racism in the areas of housing, criminal justice and community economic development.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? As someone who has worked at the same firm for 30 years, what inspires me is our people. I am so fortunate to be able to work with a group of deeply committed professionals, who devote their time and considerable talent to our collective success, whether it be through consistently achieving desired results for our clients, pro bono service to our communities, or thought leadership on important issues impacting our nation. Through the unimaginable trials and loss of the past year, the empathy and support of our McCarter family were a true inspiration to me.

Gary R. Botwinick

Co-Managing Partner
Einhorn, Barbarito, Frost & Botwinick, PC
Denville, Morris County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

I most enjoy solving family problems, whether business, financial or otherwise, by counseling clients as to the best way to manage their affairs and to leave a legacy to future generations. I used to tell my kids that clients come to our office, we sit around a table, and they throw all of their problems down in front of us and we attempt to come up with well-reasoned and often clever solutions to these problems. I am gratified when the clients come back to tell me how well our advice spared them heartache.

Who has been your most influential role model? Much of the best advice I received came from my father. He was a successful CPA and he raised three boys, two of whom are also CPAs and myself, a lawyer. He taught us to value our relationships with our clients—make sure that you are always thinking about how you can help them accomplish their goals.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I have been involved in the Jewish Community Foundation and Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ for at least the past 25 years. I am currently a vice president of the foundation after serving as a member of the board for several years. I also dedicate my professional skills to the foundation’s Legal Review Committee where we deal with complex legal issues that the foundation faces. I have also served on the Board of the Grotta Fund which is a charitable organization focused on addressing the needs of seniors in the local community.



Michael Clarke

Vice President, Global Chief Compliance Officer
ConvaTec
Bridgewater, Somerset County

What do you enjoy most about your career? Once I decided to become a lawyer, I could not imagine being anything else. As a litigator, I got the most pleasure out of taking cases to trial and winning. As a compliance officer, I enjoy identifying and

mitigating risk areas and educating employees about avoiding risk activities and enhancing ethical behavior.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years? In addition to the pivot to litigator, I also pivoted to roles as in-house counsel and compliance officer. Law is not my primary role, but I use my legal training and business knowledge to provide guidance to internal business clients. In the last few years, I have spoken at compliance regional seminars and lectured at the Seton Hall Law School’s Healthcare Compliance Certification Program.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? During the course of my career, in both New Jersey and the four years I spent in Virginia, I have tried to participate in organizations and activities that benefit the legal profession, younger lawyers, the compliance profession and my community at large.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? I simply love being a lawyer—there is nothing else I would rather do. After transitioning into corporate compliance, I enjoy keeping companies safe from enforcement oversight, counseling business leaders and mentoring younger lawyers and compliance professionals.

Orville Cockings

Partner
Lerner David
Cranford, Union County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

I left my prior profession because I yearned for more intellectual stimulation and a career that would use all facets of my personality. My legal career has exceeded my expectations as to both those criteria. As an intellectual property lawyer, I have a window into where technology is going and often put my engineering degree to full use in figuring out complex technology. I also spend a significant amount of time speaking with clients, opposing counsel and my colleagues within the firm. These interactions give me an opportunity to engage with others in ways that are personally rewarding.

What do you know now that you wish you’ known earlier in your career? I now completely appreciate the importance of networking. I wish I had known that 30 years ago when I first started working. With respect to the legal profession, it’s critical to a successful practice in multiple ways.

What do you feel is the biggest misconception about your profession? The biggest misconception of the legal profession is that it is a tool to obtain monetary compensation for legal injury. Without the legal profession, so much more of our environment would be uninhabitable, so many more innocent Americans would be incarcerated, so many more babies would not be born healthy, etc. The legal profession has pushed quality of life changes that benefit each and every American each day. Yet, these benefits for the most part never get mentioned as part of the public discourse about the legal profession.



Max Crane

Managing Partner
Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.
Newark, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Having spent over a decade as Managing Partner has given me a certain perspective. I

started my tenure at the beginning of the Great Recession. More than a decade later, I am helping manage the firm through the Coronavirus pandemic. Managing Sills Cummis successfully, regardless of what is happening in the world, is among my greatest contributions. This not only positively influences the entire firm, but also our clients and the quality of service our attorneys are able to provide.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. Everyone experiences career challenges—they just come in different shapes and sizes. For me, advancing to the next steps of my career always stretched me, but taught me a lot. I learned listening is more important than talking, and that emotional intelligence is as important, if not more important, than “traditional” intelligence.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? Under my leadership, every year Sills Cummis supports dozens of organizations and charitable causes. Most recently, in celebration of the firm’s 50th anniversary this year, it is making additional donations to organizations serving the residents of Newark. On a personal level, I serve on the board of trustees of Students 2 Science, Inc., a nonprofit that motivates and educates students to pursue careers in STEM. I also served on the board of trustees of the Montclair Art Museum for over a decade.

John D. Cromie

Chair, Corporate and Business Law Group
Connell Foley LLP
Roseland, Essex County



Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession?

As a business lawyer, I have the unique opportunity to handle a variety of legal issues across many substantive areas of law. Helping clients solve their legal issues and challenges while providing business/legal advice is extremely rewarding and inspires me to have an impact and make a contribution.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years?

One of the most important pieces of advice I was given early in my career was “get out and get involved in the community.” Heeding this advice, I have come to realize being a “leader in law” means not just being a skilled and knowledgeable lawyer, but also a mentor. I spend a good deal of time mentoring associates and recent law school graduates, and as part of this I encourage them to be involved in the community. Doing so is not only charitable, it helps build relationships, teaches new skills, shows others your integrity, and makes you a leader.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? I am the proud recipient of the “Cowboy of the Week Award,” presented to me by the ranch hands of a Wyoming dude-ranch after I managed to stay on horseback during a family trail ride in which the horse I was riding spooked and tried to buck me off—twice. Although this award was usually given in jest to guests of the dude ranch, the ranch hands told me I earned it.



Danielle DeFilippis

Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Practice Group
Norris McLaughlin, P.A.
Bridgewater, Somerset County

Who has been your most influential role model?

My greatest role models have been and still are my parents. I watched my mother study at night for her master’s degree while working and raising three children.

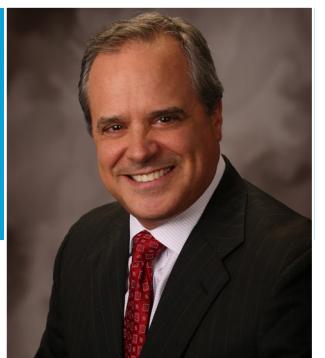
She taught me that you can be a dedicated professional and also a dedicated mother. I draw strength from her every day as I strive to achieve a work life balance. My father, who serviced the food industry his entire career through his work for a sales and marketing company, inspired me to pursue my interests in the food and beverage industry.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I dedicate my time participating in events hosted by various organizations and commercial kitchens in the food community to help educate new and growing entrepreneurs, helping them grow and expand so they are poised for success. This has included in-person and lately virtual seminars hosted by the Rutgers Food Innovation Center, the New Jersey Food Processors Association, Makerhoods, and commercial kitchens such as Garden Hudson Kitchen and Hudson Kitchen.

What do you feel is the biggest misconception about your profession? The belief that getting an attorney involved in a matter will mean aggression, escalation or cause tension. While at times some aggressive tactics may be necessary, it is more typical that the attorney’s role will help diffuse a stressful situation, providing the guidance needed to bring closure to a problem or deal so that they can move forward confidently and focus on their businesses.

Paul DiMaio

Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Delta Dental of New Jersey
Parsippany, Morris County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

I enjoy working on challenging issues with a dynamic leadership team, led by a CEO who recognizes the importance of diversity of thought and is willing to take responsible risks. This, coupled with the company’s passion for community involvement, provides a positive environment. The diversity of issues keeps me engaged and humble. One day I’m addressing a purely legal issue; another day I’m advocating to legislators by testifying on a proposed bill.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. Assuming a leading role in an established and well-respected company in an industry with which I was not familiar presented a wonderful challenge for me. Joining Delta Dental, which operates successfully in heavily regulated insurance environments, necessitated that I learn the field and the company at one time, at an accelerated pace. While saying I have “overcome” this challenge is perhaps an overstatement (as I’m a work in progress), I can say that working with my teams, internal clients and leadership peers, and simply putting in the work to become familiar with important issues facing the company, has inured to my benefit and that of the company.

What was the best business advice you ever received? Early on in my career, I learned from a manager that success doesn’t come easily or quickly, but is the product of diligence, resilience and learning from the mistakes you will inevitably make. I also learned from this manager that respect is not something people give readily but must be earned every day.



Robert DiPisa

Member
Cole Schotz P.C.
Hackensack, Bergen County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

I think the greatest contribution to my firm, my client's success and the industry as a whole, is the work

I do to educate others on common misconceptions and working towards the normalization of the cannabis industry. Speaking at conferences and local networking events, drafting articles, educating my colleagues and local governments and providing commentary to news publications on developments in the law and the industry are all examples of my education efforts.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years?

The success of my cannabis practice has relied on my readiness to address novel areas of the law with little precedent to follow. As a young attorney, I always tried to absorb knowledge from veteran attorneys, believing that those lessons would help guide me. But, I have come to learn the difference between wisdom learned and the wisdom gained through experience. Leadership requires the willingness to tackle something completely new for the benefit of your firm, your clients and your peers. It means leaving the safety of the common course to create your own path for others to follow.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career?

No matter how busy you are, how long your day was or how tired you may be, get out and meet people. Relationships are an integral part of this business. A missed meeting is just a missed opportunity.

Michael G. Donahue

Managing Shareholder
Stark & Stark
Lawrenceville, Mercer County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

I most enjoy the opportunity to learn from and serve others. As a practicing lawyer, every day I learn from those that I work with, as well as many that I work against. My clients also teach me every day how to overcome incredible obstacles through hard work and determination.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a career challenge like no other. While I cannot truly say we have "overcome" the challenge as the pandemic remains a reality, I can say we have remained devoted to our values as a firm. Our guiding principle is the health and safety of our team members and our communities.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years?

I have grown from a leader in my practice area to become a leader of professional associations and charitable organizations. I am focused on ensuring that our firm and the organizations I serve are committed to creating diverse and inclusive environments. I chair our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and serve on the dedicated DEI committees of NJAJ and the YMCA. I have also been substantially involved in statewide efforts to safely preserve access to justice in the COVID-19 environment.

What was the best business advice you ever received? Albert Stark taught me to never fear failure. Failure is a great teacher and great achievements can only come from a willingness to risk failure.



Congratulations to our own Lisa A. Gorab

and to all of the NJBIZ Leaders in Law Honorees

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A.

WOODBIDGE NEW YORK WILENTZ.COM
EATONTOWN PHILADELPHIA 732.636.8000
NEWARK RED BANK

WILENTZ
—ATTORNEYS AT LAW—



Sandra Fava

Partner, Family Law Practice Group
Fox Rothschild LLP
Morristown, Morris County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? For my company, I consider myself a team player. I volunteer on the Partnership Advancement

Committee, the Women’s Initiative and commit myself to mentoring young lawyers. With so few women at the equity partner level with their own books of business, it’s important for others to see that this is an achievable goal while having a family and life outside the firm. For clients, I employ effective strategies, innovative solutions and compassionate counsel.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years?

As a young attorney, my focus was on billing hours, learning the ropes and always doing an excellent job on assignments. With time, I recognized that there is more to being an attorney than that. I began honing my communication skills, empathy and mentoring of younger attorneys. Being a leader does not mean always “winning” but rather the legacy you leave behind and the impact you make on each client, adversary and member of the bench you come across.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession?

I love the practice of family law. Helping families transition through what is ostensibly the biggest challenge they may face in their lives and seeing the transformation in my clients from beginning to end is fulfilling and rewarding. Providing innovative solutions, effective strategies and compassionate counsel has allowed me to service many families throughout my career.

Robert Gabrielski

Chair, International Business and
Tax Planning Practice Group
Norris McLaughlin, P.A.
Bridgewater, Somerset County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Since joining Norris McLaughlin as our 17th attorney in 1984, I served as a member of our Recruiting Committee, helping acquire talent and firms in New Jersey, New York City and Allentown. I served as the Chairman of our Business Law Group from 2009-2019, helping to expand our U.S. and cross-border business. In 2011, I was elected to our Management Committee, where I helped build our global market by creating our International Business Law Group and our award-winning blog, www.bizwithoutborders.com.

What do you enjoy most about your career? I enjoy building relationships; helping young, growing lawyers develop their legal and relationship-building skills; creating business opportunities and connecting clients with synergy and mutual opportunity; and since becoming the chairman of one of our global legal networks, looking for ways to grow our network, develop and create opportunities for our network firms to aid each other and their clients in cross-border business opportunities.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in?

I thoroughly enjoy community service. After joining Norris McLaughlin, I looked for ways to become involved in the community—from serving as our representative to the Somerset County Chamber of Commerce to helping develop programs to provide food and clothing to families. Some of the best times were coaching my boys’ sports teams from kindergarten through high-school travel teams.



Lisa Gorab

President and Managing Director
Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.
Woodbridge, Middlesex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

I enjoy seeing the fruits of my labor working with my public clients, primarily counties, municipalities and school districts. I serve as bond counsel, helping

them to fund important and worthy projects for their communities. I recently attended a board meeting where students who were previously underserved and lagging behind in reading, read aloud, demonstrating they benefited from the designated facilities that we helped finance, which included small group instruction rooms to allow the teachers to focus specifically on an individual reading environment. It’s rewarding to see these positive results.

What was the best business advice you ever received?

“Give it a shot.” It sounds simple, but so many don’t allow themselves to follow that advice, for fear of failing. My parents instilled those words in my head. Actually, they drilled those words into my head!

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in?

For years now, my two daughters and I have been supporters of and volunteers for Families with Children from China and Girls Learn International. For example, we served as a host family in a program that used video-conferencing to connect with girls from an Afghani middle school as a way to share our cultures and provide mutual enrichment focused on education and culture. It was a lot of fun for us and for them, and is gratifying to be a contribution to the lives of other girls around the world, and to receive their gifts of sharing and friendship.

Stephen Hehl

Partner and Chair, Real Estate Department
Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks Kahn Wikstrom &
Sinins, PC
Union, Union County

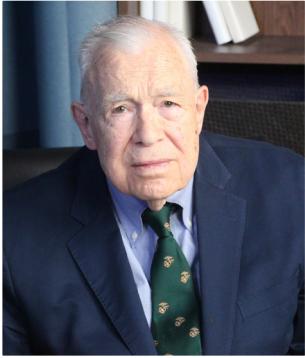


Who has been your most influential role model?

Clearly, my father was my most influential role model particularly in the area of the practice of law. He truly considered being a lawyer an honor and an important profession. Despite working very hard, my father always had time for his family. He was also active in charitable and community activities as the Grand Knight of the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus and also as president of the Union Township Rotary Club. He was honored many times for his community involvements. I followed my father’s footsteps in obtaining my law degree and was partners with him for over 35 years. His professionalism was a guiding source for my legal career and personal life.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession?

I truly enjoy the challenges of my profession particularly in the area of land use and development. It is exciting to see a project grow from the planning stages to ultimate completion. Working with skilled professionals and development teams is a collaborative effort and guiding the team through the difficult process is a challenge I embrace. While the hours are long and the road at times quite difficult, the rewards of a satisfied client are inspiring. Tackling obstacles and hurdles from unexpected challenges are also part of our profession. Crafting responses and solutions to those challenges are an inspiration. For example, the pandemic presented difficulties that no one could have ever envisioned. Formulating methodologies to deal with those obstacles provided further inspiration.



William Holzapfel

City Attorney and Director of the Law Department
City of Elizabeth
Elizabeth, Union County

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? Being City Attorney of my hometown is the best job that I have ever had. I enjoy practicing law, resolving the

legal problems of the city and interfacing with city officials and the public. I serve at the pleasure of Mayor Bollwage and will continue to serve his administration as long as he wishes.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. Spending 25 days in Elizabeth General Hospital in August 1994 with pneumonia. I was able to return to work in City Hall in September.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? Co-Chair of the Memorial Committee of the Union County Bar Association; Member of the Advisory Board of the Kean University Liberty Hall Center for History; Director and Secretary of the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce; Trustee of the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys; Associate Counsel of the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? I was a Marine Infantry Officer in Korea in 1954-55 and retired in 1981 after 28 years of service in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve with the rank of Colonel. In November 2019, I was awarded the Lighthouse Award by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism of the New Jersey State Bar Association. In November 2020, I was awarded the Fred Stickel Award by the New Jersey Institute of Local Government Attorneys.

Jill Kelley

Vice President of Legal Affairs
New York Jets
Florham Park, Morris County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? The ability to analyze and approach legal work through a unique perspective. Before the Jets,

I spent a decade in private practice as an international tax corporate attorney. Since going in-house, the subject matters I address have greatly expanded, but I perceive each Jets business department as a unique client with different priorities and concerns. Also, as a woman, I add my voice to the team's diversity in thinking and innovation.

What do you enjoy most about your career? I absolutely love working with different team departments, from information technology, to sales, to marketing. Since different thinking and personalities tend to dominate different subject matters, it feeds my intellectual curiosity to hear and learn from different areas of the business. It also provides for a comprehensive understanding of the Jets organization, which enables me to serve as a more strategic thinker.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career?

That there are leaders at every level in an organization. Earlier in my career, I tended to observe yet stay quiet because I thought the leaders were the people at the "top" of the ladder. With time, I saw that the leaders were the people who put focus on the needs of others, they weren't afraid to be vulnerable and ask questions, they shared credit with others, and they created opportunities for people around them to stretch out of their comfort zones.

Congratulations to our partners

John Cromie, Philip McGovern Jr. and Karen Painter Randall,
NJBIZ "Leaders in Law."



With perspective formed by more than 80 years of legal experience and insight, Connell Foley LLP provides clients with the tools to succeed in an ever-changing market.

www.connellfoley.com

New Jersey | New York | Pennsylvania



A TRADITION OF LEGAL EXCELLENCE SINCE 1938

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING



Yasmeen S. Khaleel, JD, LLM

Executive Committee Member; Chair, Business & Tax and Trusts & Estates Groups;
Shareholder, Health Care Group
Capehart Scatchard
Mount Laurel, Burlington County

Who has been your most influential role model?

I am extremely close to both my parents, but my dad always encouraged me to set a goal and make it happen. He emphasized the importance of family

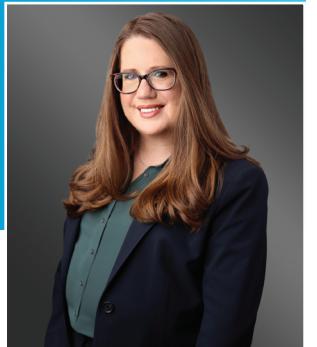
and together with my mother fostered a very close loving environment in which my brother and I flourished. He taught us the value of education and the importance to stand on our own. In the professional context, he taught me to speak my mind respectfully and be my own advocate.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. As a professional, finding a work-life balance was a concern early on in my career. My tenure with Capehart & Scatchard began soon after the birth of my son. Capehart & Scatchard offered me a flexible and fluid working environment that has allowed me to be a hands-on parent while advancing my career. I'm certain I don't get the parenting thing right every day but my professional path has allowed me to be part of my children's lives every day.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I have had the opportunity to proudly serve as a member of the board of Animal Welfare Association, a wonderful shelter in Voorhees for 18 years. For 12 years, I was actively involved in Asian Indian Professionals, Inc., a nonprofit that awarded annual scholarships toward the cost of higher education for students of Indian descent. I am a member of the Planned Giving and Diversity Committees of Samaritan Hospice and Health Care.

Galit Kierkut

Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Florham Park, Morris County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

That it is not just a career; being a successful woman lawyer is part of who I am and by being a successful lawyer, I am able to make a difference, not just in the successes of my clients, but of my mentees and friends/colleagues as well. I love fighting for the issues I believe in, like equality for women and people of color and the importance of diversity, and having that fight serve as an integral part of my career.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? I have felt a greater need to mentor and give back to the legal community, and ensure that young women entering the legal profession know that they can "have it all" but that means that they need to be realistic about what having it all means. I feel that I have a responsibility to ensure that the profession becomes more reflective of our society generally and want to make sure that I use my position in order to effect change rather than becoming complacent.

What do you feel is the biggest misconception about your profession? That it is inconsistent with having a family. I have always prioritized my family and that has not detracted from my ability to be successful in my career. Ultimately, being a good mom, spouse and member of your community enriches your life, makes you happier, and therefore makes you have the tools to be more successful in your career.



Robert Klausner

Partner and Co-Chair, Real Estate Department
Fox Rothschild LLP
Morristown, Morris County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

I am especially proud that I helped grow a talented team of real estate lawyers. I have also been instrumental in convincing my colleagues that momen-

tum is a critical component of a real estate transaction. This pragmatic approach has resulted in my being a lead attorney in nine New Jersey NAIOP "Deal of the Year" awards. In 2020 alone, I represented clients in executing New Jersey's largest office lease deal. As one of the firm's leading "rainmakers," I believe my greatest contribution will be grooming the lawyers of tomorrow.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? Growing my practice demanded that I develop the skills needed to negotiate and guide real estate deals at the highest level. As I transitioned into a leadership role, I found it was essential to guide our associates and junior partners on the issue of work-life balance. My message is that long-term success is impossible if you don't prioritize your family and your passions too.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. When I began my legal career, I was more attracted to the business side of real estate. The career challenge I overcame was to appreciate being a real estate lawyer (rather than being a real estate developer). When I turned 40, a client brought me into their company on the business/development side. After five years, I discovered the "grass is not always greener." Ultimately, I embraced the legal profession and discovered that the role of adviser, negotiator, strategist and advocate was and continues to be extremely fulfilling.

Justin Klein

Attorney
Marks & Klein, LLP
Red Bank, Monmouth County



Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession?

Late nights, early mornings, butterflies in your stomach about something you did or didn't do.

Some of the things that make up the life of a lawyer are daunting. However, I wouldn't change the profession I chose for one simple reason: there is no better feeling I get than when I have helped someone or even changed their life.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? As a younger lawyer I was a sponge for any information I could find to educate myself on the franchise industry. Over the last two decades, I have developed into a leader in the industry. I have never stopped learning, but I also take my role as a leader very seriously so that those around me can benefit as I did from those experts that helped me develop my skill and knowledge.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? In 2011, in response to my wife who was diagnosed with, and beat, Hodgkin's Lymphoma, my family and I founded Smiles4Shira, a nonprofit charitable organization that raises awareness for people in need of stem cell or bone marrow transplants. To date, Smiles4Shira has helped add more than 10,000 individuals to the National Registry, achieved almost 200 matches and helped facilitate dozens of bone marrow transplants. I also perform pro bono legal services for numerous organizations, businesses and individuals in and around the franchise industry each year.



Sandra Lascari

Principal and Owner
Law Offices of Sandra L. Lascari, LLC
Madison, Morris County

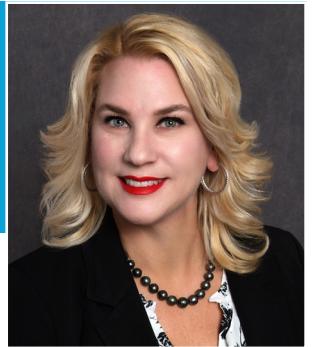
What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? The individualized attention each client receives. As an attorney who represents children with special needs, I am keenly aware that our primary purpose is to help families obtain their child's educational services. It is not simply about business; it is about the child. My clients know that I care about their children and value the trust that they have placed in me to reach a successful outcome.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? First, by serving as a mentor to young lawyers and students who are thinking about becoming lawyers. Secondly, by offering seminars to the public, sharing my experience and legal knowledge to demystify the special education process. Finally, after practicing for over 30 years, it is always an honor to be asked to lecture and teach your peers. I have participated in the Lehigh University Special Education Seminars for over 10 years, as well as the NJ ICLE.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? We represent families who have children with special needs. It is the love that our clients have for their children that motivates me. I know when we are successful, a child's life can be changed forever. These parents are truly inspirational. They overcome obstacles, advocate for their children, and always give me hope and courage to fight the good fight. I continue in my practice because there is a tremendous need.

Jeralyn Lawrence

Founder and Managing Partner
Lawrence Law - Divorce and Family Lawyers
Watchung, Somerset County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? My work ethic and ability to manage work and my family. My team and I were employed at a large law firm and when I decided to leave the firm, the entire team came with me to start a new firm. That vision and commitment has led to great success. Being able to navigate a law firm through the pandemic has taken an enormous amount of hard work and dedication. The innovation and technology I was able to employ to provide legal services virtually led to a successful year.

What do you enjoy most about your career? The ability to advocate and change the law for the better is exciting. I was very involved in the legislative process and changing the law on alimony. I also helped lobby and enact the Collaborative Law statute, which helps a couple divorce in a kinder and gentler way. I have argued before the New Jersey Supreme Court seeking to change the way findings of child abuse and negligent are defined. I will be President of the New Jersey State Bar Association and very much look forward to this work.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I serve on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation board of trustees. I coach my daughters in basketball. I volunteer at Safe and Sound, a resource for domestic violence victims. I represent pro bono clients impacted by 9/11.



Congratulations to our Members *Danielle DeFilippis and Robert Gabrielski* and to all of the NJBIZ 2021 Leaders in Law honorees!



400 Crossing Boulevard | 8th Floor | Bridgewater, NJ 08807 | 908.722.0700
www.norrismclaughlin.com



Julia López

Partner
Reed Smith
Princeton, Mercer County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

There are countless good lawyers with great communication skills, strong writing and advocacy skills and a profound depth of substantive knowledge. But what sets me apart from other lawyers is the sum of all my skills, background and prior experiences. As a Guatemalan immigrant and woman, I have overcome challenges and lived unique experiences that have shaped my way of thinking and my views. I challenge others to think differently and offer distinct ideas and out-of-the box solutions. By helping my clients understand other cultures, I also help my firm and clients become better global leaders. And finally, I strengthen my firm's culture and ability to attract better talent.

What do you enjoy most about your career? I most enjoy helping and empowering my clients, as well as underrepresented communities. As a trusted advisor for my clients, I guide them to make sound business decisions that minimize their litigation risk. I also enjoy helping my clients develop products and medical devices that positively impact the quality of life of millions of people.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? My community and pro bono work are extremely rewarding. For the past 15 years, I have served in leadership roles at the Hispanic Bar Association of New Jersey (HBA-NJ) and Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). I have cultivated the next generation of Hispanic attorneys, while also advocating for the Hispanic community at large.



Diana C. Manning

Firm Managing Principal
Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C.
Florham Park, Morris County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

One of my proudest achievements is the expansion and development of the firm's commercial litigation practice. When I started at Bressler, the

entire firm consisted of 45 attorneys primarily located in the New Jersey office. I am now the Co-Chair of the firm's Business Litigation Group, which has that many attorneys in six states. As one of the firm's first attorneys certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a Civil Trial Attorney, it has always been my goal to expand and develop our team as a premier business litigation firm in all of our multi-state offices.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. When I started practicing almost 30 years ago, there were very few senior female trial attorneys. At trial calls and depositions, it was common to be the only woman in the room. Conventional wisdom was that you had to act and dress like the men in order to get ahead. I was fortunate to have mentors who encouraged me to be myself and find my own voice. They also encouraged clients to let me try their case. Through perseverance, today I am a Certified Civil Trial Attorney who regularly tries complex cases.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? I wish I had realized that perfection is not required. Mistakes and rejection are the building blocks for future success. It is more important to try and perhaps fail, than it is to not try at all.

Barry Mandelbaum

Chairman
Mandelbaum Salsburg P.C.
Roseland, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Overseeing the evolution of the firm after my father turned over the firm's management to me in 1969. Since then, we have grown to more than 90 attorneys and nearly 30 practice groups. We have become a very successful full-service firm—so much so that despite the pandemic, we were able to sustain 10 percent revenue growth. We also welcomed more than 20 attorneys in the past two years, many of them coming from much larger firms. I'm proud that so many attorneys recognize that we offer an entrepreneurial atmosphere where they can grow professionally.

Who has been your most influential role model? My father Irving Mandelbaum, who founded the law firm in 1930 at the beginning of the Great Depression. I worked alongside him from the day I graduated law school, until the day he retired at age 87. When I was younger he challenged me to practice law longer than he did. I'm turning 85 this year, so I'm pretty close to winning the challenge.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I am currently a trustee of the Rubenstein Foundation, which gives away more than \$5 million a year to New Jersey charities, and a board member of the Codey Fund for Mental Health. I also do a lot of work to help Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey, and Employment Horizons, an organization that provides job training and placement services for people with disabilities.



Philip F. McGovern Jr.

Managing Partner
Connell Foley LLP
Jersey City, Hudson County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

My abilities to handle crisis situations with a steady hand, clear mind and purposeful resolve in times of turmoil and, during the ordinary course, to see the bigger picture of enterprise growth and success, have most contributed towards my firm's and my clients' successes. My goal each and every day is to bring consistency to what I do.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years?

As a "leader in the law," I went from being a young active partner, to taking on wider involvement in the law through my affiliations with Seton Hall University Law School, Saint Peter's Prep, Hudson County Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey City University and other organizations. Having since earned industry accolades with some of the great titans of the profession has been a humbling achievement. I recognize that, as a leader, I have at all times demonstrated a steadfast commitment to be professional, respectful, diligent and welcoming to all those I encounter.

Who has been your most influential role model? As odd as it may sound and as inconsistent as it may be, the two most influential role models in my life have been my son and daughter, Philip and Maddie McGovern. Since the day each was born, I have singly devoted my energies toward their growth, enrichment and betterment in life and, in turn, their successes have done the same for me.





Michael McKenna

Partner
Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman PC
Newark, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? Contractors, owners, subcontracts and other construction industry members face complicated, often confusing legal issues. Being a resource for them is what drives me each and every day.

Who has been your most influential role model? My father taught me the importance of hard work. He never graduated high school and came to the United States in 1949. He started out as a handy man in a bakery. He became a carpenter, worked himself up to project superintendent and later formed his own construction company. I saw him go through a lot of what life can throw at you.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? Community involvement is integral to my personal and professional lives. I serve on the Audit Committee for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and served as Special Counsel for the Boys and Girls Club of South Queens. As managing partner of the Newark office, I spearhead the office's charitable contributions and involvement with local organizations.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? Community involvement is integral to my personal and professional lives. I serve on the Audit Committee for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson and served as Special Counsel for the Boys and Girls Club of South Queens. As managing partner of the Newark office, I spearhead the office's charitable contributions and involvement with local organizations.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? I am the oldest of nine kids. Both my parents emigrated from Ireland and neither graduated high school. I was the first to graduate high school, graduate college, study post-graduate. I did not have any mentors and mostly had to find my own way, which made success even that much better.

Greg Meese

Principal
Price, Meese, Shulman & D'Arminio, P.C.
Woodcliff Lake, Bergen County



What do you enjoy most about your career? Working with bright and talented individuals, both as colleagues and clients, and now after almost 40 years having the ability to mentor younger attorneys.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? From a hard working young associate, to a founder of a growing law firm, and a professional involved in the bar association and other professional organizations, to a writer and lecturer on legal topics. This has culminated in being the editor of the Land Use Citator, a compendium of case law, statutory and regulatory enactments involving land use development published by the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Education that forms the material for an annual seminar for New Jersey land use attorneys and being a member of State and national organizations in my field.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. Starting my own law firm with three partners; and growing the practice to include 26 attorneys in two offices.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? Pro bono and reduced hourly rate representation for charities and religious institutions; direct financial contribution to numerous charities and organizations.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? That my mother was born and raised on the Island of Maui, that my grandfather was Puerto Rican and that I'm a pretty good cook.



STARK & STARK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Congratulations to

Michael G. Donahue, Esq.

and all of the Honorees of the
2021 NJBiz Leaders in Law Award

Michael G. Donahue is the Managing Shareholder at Stark & Stark, where he specializes in products liability litigation. In addition, he represents victims of construction accidents, commercial vehicle accidents, sexual abuse, and other serious injuries.

993 Lenox Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648 • www.Stark-Stark.com • 1-800-53-LEGAL
Michael G. Donahue, Esq. • mdonahue@stark-stark.com

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.



Denise Merna Dadika

Member of the Firm
Epstein Becker Green
Newark, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

My ability to see the big picture. By taking the time to understand the client's goals and operational challenges,

I am able to provide counsel and work-product attuned to the client's specific needs.

Who has been your most influential role model? My mom has been my most influential role model. As a single mom with three young children, she put herself through school while working three jobs. Through her actions and words, my mom instilled in me the importance of education, hard work, and self-reliance, which have been critical to my success. In addition, she was my biggest supporter and gave me the confidence to pursue my goals.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? Being an employment attorney is interesting and challenging. Every hour is as diverse as every day. For example, one day this week, I provided workplace conduct training, investigated an employee's claim of harassment, rewrote an executive contract, counseled a client on accommodating an employee's request to change his schedule for religious practices, and advised on a policy encouraging COVID-19 vaccines for workers. I also work with employers across also industries, so I have the opportunity to learn about different businesses and practices. Finally, the law is constantly evolving, which requires me to stay abreast of the changes and identify any changes employers may need to make to their practices to comply.

Anne Mohan

Counsel
Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti LLP
Morristown, Morris County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Listening. Attorneys focus on expressing ideas orally and in writing, but listening is even more important.

In order to serve my clients, I need to understand their business, their people and their goals. Every client is different. It is important to know what the client is looking to accomplish, whether it be fighting a case vigorously through trial, or working to find an early resolution.

What do you enjoy most about your career? As a litigator, I am sure people would expect to hear that the thing I most enjoy about my career is winning cases. And I do! Even more, I enjoy the opportunity to give back, especially mentoring younger people. Coaching high school mock trials, I nurture teens with a budding interest in the law. At our firm, I try to make myself available to junior associates for advice and guidance.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I sit on the board of Partners for Women & Justice, a nonprofit that provides pro bono representation to victims of domestic violence. I have also represented Partners' clients in obtaining restraining orders of protection from their abusers and I have represented clients pro bono through Volunteer Lawyers for Justice. I am a Eucharistic Minister for my church and have taught religious education classes. I am currently the co-chair of the Mock Trial Program run by the Hunterdon County Bar Association.



Chris Murphy

Partner
Murphy Schiller & Wilkes LLP
Newark, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Founded in 2017 by me and my brother Kellen Murphy, MSW has quickly grown into a 14-attorney

full-service commercial real estate law firm. As a founding partner of the firm, I have been part of helping to recruit some of the best talent in the state, including Matthew Schiller and Charles Wilkes, who joined the firm as name partners in 2020. With a focus on offering unparalleled legal service to a diverse array of clients, MSW has become a go-to firm for some of the industry's most well-respected clients.

What was the best business advice you ever received? My father, who is in sales, taught me about the power of relationships. Treat everyone with respect—from the CEO to the janitor—and you will be successful. He also consistently told me to take risks, that fortune favors the bold. This was instilled in me from the time I was very young and has stayed with me throughout my career in business and law.

Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? I truly love getting up every day and coming into the office. I enjoy hiring new people and giving younger attorneys a place to start their careers. I love building something bigger than myself—a brand in the industry that will hopefully last for generations to come. Slowly but surely building one of the top commercial real estate law firms in New Jersey.

Nandini Nair

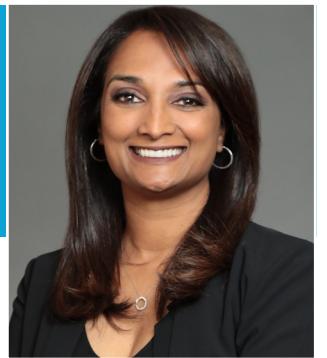
Partner
Greenspoon Marder LLP
Edison, Middlesex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

As cliché as it sounds, I truly enjoy helping people. I am able to actually change the trajectory of someone's life in a positive way when I am able to successfully get their U.S. visa approved or get them a green card to come to the U.S. It is truly a humbling experience to watch their lives change because you did your job well.

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? Prior to joining Greenspoon Marder in 2018, they did not have an immigration practice in the North East. Within the past three years, as head and the only New Jersey partner, I have been able to expand Greenspoon Marder's footprint into immigration and elevate their name in a practice area that they previously did not have strong capabilities in.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? There are so many things I wish I could have told my younger self but one of the biggest is that you will have awful days and you will survive them. These awful days will teach you about resiliency, about problem-solving, client relationships and most importantly that it too shall pass. It may not be just a single day, it could be a week, a month, but the ultimate lesson is that you will survive it and you will learn from it. And that god-awful moment will make you a better attorney.





Peter Nussbaum

Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Group
Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC
West Orange, Essex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

Whether working with food and beverage operators, world-famous musical artists or leading clothing and footwear companies, the ultimate objective in my role as intellectual property counsel is to protect

their brands and facilitate their ongoing global growth. In this process, I have had the opportunity to meet an extraordinarily wide range of people, many of whom have become lifelong friends.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years? As brands and their reach become increasingly global, our international capabilities in the intellectual property space have had to grow reciprocally in scope. Many of our domestic-based clients operate as far as the Philippines, Dubai and Taiwan—and we have responded in-kind by adding talent to our Intellectual Property Group focused specifically on foreign trademark filing, enforcement and prosecutions.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? In 2013, my wife and I co-founded Tamerlaine Sanctuary & Preserve in Montague Township, which began with the adoption of two roosters. Since then it has evolved into a paradise for nearly 250 previously neglected and abused farm animals. We have hosted countless enriching tours, visits and other events. In March 2020, we became the first animal sanctuary in New Jersey to receive The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuary accreditation, which demonstrates adherence to the highest standards of sustainability, ethics, educational outreach, safety and animal care.

Sheilah O’Halloran

Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs
Atlantic Health System
Morristown, Morris County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

Changing the perception of legal from “a place to avoid” to a trusted partner. In a large corporation, it is crucial to have legal’s input into major initiatives and strategic decisions. When there is a lack of trust between the business executives and legal, legal tends to be excluded from decisions and the corporation suffers. I have spent the last 10 years working to build that trust. As a result, I have been able to guide Atlantic Health in the development of new ways of aligning with physicians and other health systems, in strengthening our relationships with our host communities and moving forward essential elements of our strategic plan.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in?

My main community activity is service on the board and executive committee of the Westfield Area Y. I do a lot of work with its childcare and youth programs as chair of the Childcare, Youth and Family Committee and see the difference it makes in the lives of the 24,000 people it serves in the community.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? Law is a second career for me. I worked as a French translator for 10 years before becoming a lawyer, translating everything from bank documents to engineering specifications to film scripts, feature articles, scholarly papers, Harlequin romances and everything in between. I even have a published translation of a dictionary of Greek and Roman mythology.



www.gtlaw.com

Congratulations to our friend and colleague,
Galit Kierkut, for being named among the
NJBIZ 2021 Leaders in Law.

We applaud your commitment to the community, dedication to exemplary client service, and the impact you have made on the legal profession.

As key members of a global law firm, the attorneys in Greenberg Traurig’s New Jersey office offer clients both the know-how and geographic reach of a global law firm combined with the dedication and responsiveness of a local firm.

GREENBERG TRAUIG, LLP | ATTORNEYS AT LAW | 2200 ATTORNEYS | 40 LOCATIONS WORLDWIDE*

Philip R. Sellinger | Co-Managing Shareholder, GT New Jersey
David Jay | Co-Managing Shareholder, GT New Jersey
500 Campus Drive | Suite 400 | Florham Park, NJ 07932 | 973.360.7900

Greenberg Traurig, LLP GreenbergTraurigLLP GT_Law GT_Law

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and our experience. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Greenberg Traurig is a service mark and trade name of Greenberg Traurig, LLP and Greenberg Traurig, P.A. ©2021 Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Attorneys at Law. All rights reserved. Attorney Advertising. *These numbers are subject to fluctuation. Images in this advertisement do not depict Greenberg Traurig attorneys, clients, staff or facilities. 35247

WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS

- United States
- Europe
- Middle East
- Asia
- Latin America



Gerard Onorata

Partner
Peckar & Abramson, P.C.
River Edge, Bergen County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

I enjoy winning and securing successful outcomes for our clients. I am proud that I have earned a reputation where people call on me and look for

my advice, particularly in commercial cases, which can be quite highly competitive. I take comfort and pride in the fact that clients rely upon me and hold my opinion in what I think to be, relatively high regard.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years?

Since I became a senior associate, I have evolved to become a well-known mentor within the firm. I am currently Co-Chair of the Associates Committee where I handle many tasks including hiring, retention, workload, assignments and conducting reviews, as well as supervising other mentors to make sure they are providing the associates the learning experiences they need. I make it a point to enlist younger associates to join me and participate in trials and hearings in order to learn through observation and by being included in trial procedures.

Who has been your most influential role model?

My parents have had the greatest influence and impact on my life. Through them, I learned the value of hard work and determination. Both were uneducated, blue-collar factory workers who worked tirelessly to make a better life for me, my brother and sister. My parents instilled in me a deep commitment toward family and a strong work ethic, which I believe drives me to work hard to this day.



Karen Painter Randall

Chair, Cybersecurity, Data Privacy and
Incident Response Group
Connell Foley LLP
Roseland, Essex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

Constantly learning and collaborating with other leaders in the cybersecurity ecosystem to identify, understand and address the latest surging industry and threat trends is a critical aspect of my job, but also one that I truly enjoy. As incident response counsel, I work with many disciplines and I see each response situation as a new opportunity to rise to the challenge.

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? Cybersecurity has become a critical element of a law firm’s success—both in keeping the firm’s infrastructure and assets secure, and fulfilling the legal and ethical obligations of protecting clients’ sensitive and confidential information. I led the effort to create a cross-disciplinary team approach to digital/technology transformation, with a focus on cybersecurity and privacy, to help protect the valuable information of the workforce and clients.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I believe strongly in the power of education to combat the threats posed by cyber-attacks. I have devoted countless pro bono hours to the creation and implementation of the NJSBA Cybersecurity Legal Task Force and the University of South Carolina Law School Cybersecurity Task Force, including leading the annual cybersecurity institutes presented by both organizations. I have served many years on the ABA Cybersecurity Task Force with other national leaders to set policy, establish standards, and educate the legal profession about cyberattacks, cyber risk management, and legal/ethical obligations to protect sensitive data.

Lillian Plata

Co-Founder & Member
Nee Plata Law LLC
Roseland, Essex County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

Practicing public interest law but in a transactional environment by being part of development teams that are revitalizing our neighborhoods.

The combination of my deep background in tax and structured finance utilizing federal and local tax credit programs allows me to help my clients make difficult to finance but desperately needed projects possible. I have been able to utilize my legal experience and experience growing up in an under-served community to actively affect changes in communities similar to where I grew up.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. Establishing my own law firm with another minority female partner and growing it into a successful multi-million dollar business. In a male dominated profession that lacks avenues to ensure women equity partners and women in leadership positions, I created my own platform that guarantees my own seat at the table.

What do you know now that you wish you’d known earlier in your career?

The importance of knowing my value, as a woman of color, with a JD, a Master of Laws in Taxation, and 19 years of experience and not accepting anything less from others. What I bring to any table is a unique, intelligent and necessary perspective and in turn an asset to my clients. It is the combination of my drive, intellect, tenacity and compassion that has been of the most value in starting my own law firm with my partner, Jong Sook Nee, and serving my clients at the highest level.



Bressler AMERY & ROSS

congratulates

DIANA MANNING

on being honored as one of

NJBIZ'S 2021 LEADERS IN LAW

It's an honor to work with you!

Alabama - Florida - New Jersey - New York -
North Carolina - Texas - Washington D.C.

www.bressler.com

Congratulations to CSG's
Peter E. Nussbaum,
Michelle A. Schaap
and **Dennis M. Toft**
for their well-deserved
recognition among NJBIZ's
2021 Leaders in Law.



Peter E. Nussbaum
Co-Chair, Intellectual Property Group
Retail/Wholesale



Michelle A. Schaap
Team Leader, Privacy & Security Group
Privacy



Dennis M. Toft
Chair, Environmental Group
Real Estate/Environmental

Each striking a unique balance between an unwavering dedication to client success and compassionate service within the communities in which we live and work, they embody the core values and principles that have led to our firm's enduring success.

We thank them for their continued contributions to our clients, neighbors and firm.



Eric S. Poe

Chief Operating Officer, CURE Auto Insurance
Principal & Chief Complex Claims Litigation
Officer, NJ PURE
Princeton, Mercer County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

For me, it all comes down to effecting positive change in a way that impacts the greatest number of people. It gives me purpose and using my legal background to argue cases before the NJ Supreme Court and participate on the NJ Model Civil Jury Charge level are two examples. I never feel there's any rule, law or norm that can't be challenged and changed.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years?

Not only have I grown personally, but others' views of me have evolved greatly. I evolved from a small regional car insurance executive to a leading voice on national public policy in the industry—a whistleblower standing up to ban discriminatory rate-setting practices. This is also true for medical malpractice. I'm no longer an executive fighting for reputation and financial standing but an advocate, penning memos to the NJ Supreme Court and governor. Today, I don't beg others to listen; I have a coveted seat at the table with credibility to effectuate change.

What was the best business advice you ever received? My father always said that you can only realize true happiness through suffering—something that stems from ancient Buddhist principles that remain relevant today. Translated to business, there is no real success without experiencing setbacks and struggles. From his words, I recognized the importance of discomfort and how stepping outside my comfort zone could lead me to even greater potential.



Loryn Raggiola

Partner
Zetlin & De Chiara LLP
Caldwell, Essex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

Helping people in trouble; helping companies and reaching a resolution that lets them get back to business and life.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. There were so many. I was the first to graduate college in my family and the first to proceed to higher education. The client base I built was from performance and not connections. As such, I never take anything or anyone for granted. It is all a blessing.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? The matters I have handled over the years cover a vast area of practice including construction and commercial. I have climbed the ranks and established a solid reputation among the bench and the bar. Some of the cases I have been involved with resulted in opinions of legal precedent.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I am a founder of Give Back, which serves the community in the counties of Essex and Passaic. I have been involved in and provided representation in pro bono battered women cases, as well as political asylum.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? Spiritual practice. I co-own a yoga studio in Montclair called JaiPure Yoga, LLC. I meditate and practice yoga. Prayer is part of my daily practice. I love to pray the rosary.

Thomas Prol

Member
Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.
Newark, Essex County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients?

My empathy for their concerns, understanding their goals and needs and constant focus on developing an effective strategy to navigate a path to success.

What do you enjoy most about your career? I consider it a sacred honor when clients come to me with their problems, questions and concerns and ask me to help them find a solution or navigate to a better place in their lives. It is both humbling and enriching—and it gives me purpose! Moreover, the legal community is creative and dynamic and I am constantly amazed and inspired by other with whom I interact.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I am a founding and current executive board member of New Jersey's largest LGBTQ education and advocacy organization, Garden State Equality, and have been involved over the past two decades in the grassroots, political and legal advocacy for my community's rights and protections. As a member of the board of the American Bar Association, I work to advance diversity and inclusion in the legal profession and advocate for a more just and equitable world.

Who has been your most influential role model? My mom raised me to step up and act, informed by common sense and morality. She showed me the spirit and courage to take up battles on principle and to engage where I disagree or see something wrong.

Congratulations to our Partners



Sandra Fava
Family Law



Robert Klausner
Co-Chair, Real Estate

on being named among the 2021

Leaders in Law



Fox Rothschild ^{LLP}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

950 attorneys nationwide

NJBIZ PREMIUM

SUBSCRIBE & PROFIT TODAY!

CALL 866-288-7699 OR VISIT

NJBIZ.COM/SUBSCRIBE

PRINT & DIGITAL + DATA

SUBSCRIPTION



&



+



As a premium subscriber, receive all the benefits of a Print & Digital subscription, plus total access to NJBIZ's regional database, the engine that drives our award-winning lists.

Already a Print & Digital Subscriber?

Call to upgrade and have it all – NOW!

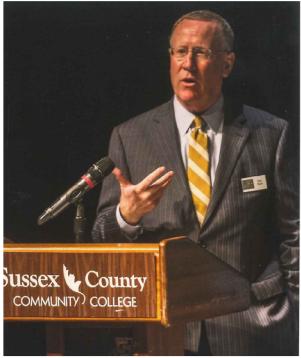
866-288-7699

- Over 3,600 company records
- Unlimited downloads
- PDFs of printed lists
- Sortable Excel files
- Unpublished data
- Additional contact worksheet
- Custom searches



DOWNLOAD





Thomas N. Ryan, Esq.

Managing Partner
Laddey Clark & Ryan, LLP
Sparta, Sussex County

What do you enjoy most about your career?

What I enjoy about my career in the law is that I can, indeed, have an impact and make a difference.

My knowledge of the law has enabled me to empower individuals and organizations to pursue their own visions and fulfill their own dreams. I enjoy being able to utilize my experience and my knowledge so that others can achieve their goals.

Who has been your most influential role model? Certainly one of my most influential role models was my former partner, Brian M. Laddey, who passed away from brain cancer over 10 years ago. I have viewed my own legal career and the growth of the law firm we began together over 34 years ago as a piece of his legacy. I learned from Brian that in order to be a successful and effective lawyer you must be a complete person. I learned from him that the law is about relationships, building relationships and striving to enhance those relationships.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? I am a passionate amateur mountain climber. After college, I spent 30 days in the wilderness hiking, kayaking and climbing. Career and family put me on the climbing sidelines for 20 years. Seven years ago, a client suggested I resume climbing and we assembled a team to climb Mount Rainier. That has been followed every year with the climbing of a different mountain with three individuals who have become dear friends.



Michelle Schaap

Team Leader, Privacy & Data Security Group
Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC
West Orange, Essex County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? I am committed to ardently protecting our firm, its technology infrastructure and employees.

This dedication became that much more important when CSG went fully remote at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, I have led multiple training sessions and spearheaded the implementation of policies to ensure that this transition was successful.

What was the best business advice you ever received? When I was just starting to interview for jobs in the legal field, I came home with one black suit, one blue suit and one gray pinstripe suit. My stepfather, Robert Starr, then a senior executive here in New Jersey, took one look at me and said, “We are going back to the mall. Do not allow your view of yourself to be dictated by others and their potential biases and stereotypes.” It was clear to me that I needed to be true to myself, rather than trying to conform to others’ “cookie-cutter” image of an attorney.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? I am the vice-chair of CSG’s Women’s Initiative and currently serve as the nominations co-director for New Jersey Women Lawyers Association. Within the broader community, I volunteer with the Adaptive Sports Foundation as a snowboard instructor to students with physical and cognitive disabilities. Further, I have been a mentor and friend to underserved high school students through my involvement in NJ LEEP.

Angela M. Scafuri

Partner
Cadicina Law
Morristown, Morris County



What do you enjoy most about your career?

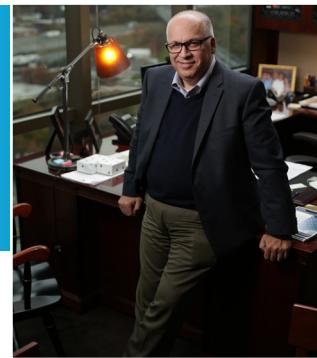
I am so passionate about family law—I truly am blessed to be in an area of law that allows me to use my skills to reach out and help families in times of distress, and work together to bring them to a best possible outcome. I equally enjoy working with my peers. While we might be on opposite sides, I have worked hard over the years to gain trust and respect in my profession.

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? I believe my greatest contribution to helping my clients achieve their goals is my ability to listen and empathize with them. I do not often speak of my own personal challenges, but I know that having a similar experience has given me invaluable insight into the feelings a person has during a difficult period in their lives.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years? I believe my role as a “leader in the law” has evolved through my commitment to maintaining relationships within the legal community and with the judiciary and my ability to communicate effectively. Earlier in my career, I was more focused on “doing a good job,” and hoping it did not go unnoticed. With time and experience, I know that to be an effective leader, you need to know how to communicate, both in and outside your office.

David Sorin

Partner, Chair - Venture Capital & Emerging Growth Companies Practice
McCarter & English, LLP
East Brunswick, Middlesex County



What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? I am fortunate to have found a career that continues to fascinate and challenge me and drives me to keep pace with what is going on in the marketplace economic trends, emerging industries, new technologies, competitive intelligence, etc. That drive and resulting knowledge informs my decisions as a partner and chair of the Venture Capital and Emerging Growth Companies practice, as a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and Growth Committee, and, importantly, my representation of my clients.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? My primary focus is on education accessibility. As a first generation college educated professional, I strive to actively participate in the education of future leaders and innovators as a speaker and mentor at New York University’s Startup School; professor in the Cornell Law School LLM program for technology and entrepreneurship; member of the board of trustees for Rutgers Preparatory School; and by participating in thought leadership roles in programs at Princeton, Rutgers and others. I actively provide pro bono legal counsel to underrepresented entrepreneurs.

What was the best business advice you ever received? The best advice I ever received came from my mom, who told me to always remember that a good name (reputation) comes from years of hard work and treating everyone with respect and that a reputation, which takes years to cultivate, can be destroyed in an instant.



David Stern

Partner
Williams, Graffeo & Stern LLC
Morristown, Morris County

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? Improving the firm’s real estate practice, and being responsible for significant growth in that

area of the business in 2020. Previously, the firm focused predominately on other corporate and business services. Since joining the firm as a partner, entrusting any dispute resolution work to the firm’s litigation attorneys and focus more acutely on growing the real estate law area of the business, including acquisition and disposition of commercial and residential real estate, land use and development, financing, commercial leasing, and real estate brokerage matters.

What was the best business advice you ever received? All credit goes to my father. He told me to “treat every person you meet the way you want to be treated, because you never know who can help your business.” That was the best advice I ever received, for business and for life.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? Most people would be surprised to learn that I had the opportunity to play basketball with former President Obama. Through mutual basketball connections, which included former U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, I was invited to spend an entire day playing full-court 5 v 5 games as one of the president’s teammates at Camp David. I will never forget missing my first couple shots, badly, and then scoring the winning basket in our first game of the day and getting a bear hug from President Obama.

Anthony Sylvester

Partner
Sherman Atlas Sylvester & Stamelman LLP
Florham Park, Morris County



Other than financial reasons, what inspires you to continue in your current profession? I am inspired daily to continue practicing due to the personal relationships that I have with my firm colleagues and clients. At the firm, the attorneys here are my friends, and those in my litigation group are talented, younger lawyers who I feel a sense of obligation to mentor. My relationships with my clients are, to a person, close friendships. I enjoy my daily interaction with them and working through their litigation issues.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years? The primary way my role as a leader has changed is recognizing that you must continue to lead by example and mentor, but, with the passage of time, to take a step back, listen more and be supportive of a younger attorney’s ideas and vision. It is not remarkable to say that at age 62, I have fewer years of practice ahead than behind me. Thus, my role as a leader is to see that the profession and my firm are left in capable hands. And, I am confident they are.

What types of charities, community involvement, or pro bono work are you involved in? We support numerous local organizations such as Morris Arts, Morris Museum, JBWS and others. My principal “pro bono” and charitable activity is running the Gia Maione Prima Foundation. It was formed some years ago with my dear friend and client Gia Maione, the wife of the singer, Louis Prima. I have been the foundation’s driver since Gia’s passing in 2013.



Dennis Toft

Chair, Environmental Law Group
Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomasi PC
West Orange, Essex County

What do you enjoy most about your career? It is incredibly rewarding to help my clients solve complex problems in a way that facilitates the continued remediation, redevelopment and,

ultimately, beautification of our state’s most blighted and underserved communities.

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company’s success/clients? In my nearly 40 years with CSG, I have been fortunate to serve on most of the firm’s policy-setting and decision-making committees. In this time, I have consistently shared my insight and vision in order to facilitate the firm’s successful transition into a second generation of leadership and have otherwise played a central role in steering the CSG ship in a continuously progressive direction. In my environmental practice, I take pride in my ability to provide my clients with equally steady-handed guidance and leadership.

In what ways have you seen your role as a “leader in law” evolve over the years? Over the course of my four decades in practice, I have fostered excellent working relationships within the regulatory, legislative and governmental communities and have helped shape the development of environmental policies in ways I never would have expected. These relationships are only forged with great reciprocal respect and, because of my hands-on experience and historical perspective, lawmakers have brought me into the fold as part of stakeholder groups to gauge where existing and impending regulations can be improved.



IMPACT MATTERS

Riker Danzig proudly congratulates Anne M. Mohan, Counsel in Riker Danzig’s Insurance and Reinsurance Group, on being named a **Leader in Law** for 2021 by **NJBIZ**.

LEGAL MINDS
BUSINESS MATTERS

MORRISTOWN TRENTON NEW YORK CITY
RIKER.COM

RIKER
DANZIG
SCHERER
HYLAND
PERRETTI^{LLP}



Camelia M. Valdes

Passaic County Prosecutor
Passaic County Prosecutor's Office
Paterson, Passaic County

What do you enjoy most about your career? My chosen career has allowed me the opportunity to have a daily impact on the lives of victims and all those involved in proactively keeping communities as safe as possible.

What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? I consider my demonstrated experience and commitment to public service as my greatest contributions to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. I have served as a prosecutor at the municipal, county, state and federal level. My litigation and administrative experience have allowed me the opportunity to lead an active and large county through the COVID pandemic and a number of criminal justice reform initiatives, including bail reform, with a steady hand and successful execution.

Describe a career challenge you overcame. My career has presented many opportunities to overcome traditional barriers. As the first Latina county prosecutor in the state of New Jersey and the first woman prosecutor in Passaic County, I have worked with other law enforcement executives to enhance the delivery of law enforcement services to the general public while addressing racial, gender and economic disparities. The outcome has resulted in greater collaboration between the police and the public.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? I now know the value of self-care. We cannot pour from empty vessels. Self-care allows me to recharge and restore myself so that I may continue to pour into and lift others.

Maria Vallejo

Partner
Chasan Lamparello Mallon & Cappuzzo, PC
Secaucus, Hudson County



Describe a career challenge you overcame. I am an immigrant, woman of color, who has entered a profession that often does not include individuals who look or have the same background as myself. Like many women, at the beginning of my career, my personality was often misinterpreted as me being docile, quiet and overly deferential. I recognize that even today, there are times where I still am not taken as seriously as my male counter-parts. Rather than be derailed by those obstacles, I chose to embrace the qualities of my personality, maintain my sense of self and have found a strong and clear voice that I use to represent my clients and champion issues of diversity and inclusion, including equity and equality in our profession and society.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? Over the past several years, I have taken the helm on issues of diversity and inclusion by actively pursuing programs and efforts to address race and equity, intersectionality, women's leadership and pathways to the bench.

What do you feel is the biggest misconception about your profession? There is a misconception that we, as lawyers, simply are in this profession for financial gain. However, I truly believe that we are a profession of individuals who are seeking to aid others and leave an indelible mark on society and individuals. We can, and often do, use our skills and background to improve the lives of others, through our work, legislations and programming.



Peter Verniero

Member of the Firm; Chair, Corporate Internal Investigations and Appellate Practice Groups
Sills Cummis & Gross P.C.
Newark, Essex County

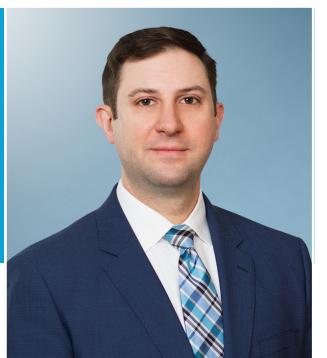
What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to the success of your company/clients? Regarding my firm, I try to contribute in numerous ways, especially by assisting in legal analysis of complex issues, setting an example of professionalism and mentoring junior lawyers. Regarding clients, I offer my best advice from many perspectives, including from the perspective of assisting them in properly and effectively reaching their goals, and informing them of what I consider trends in the law to address issues on the horizon.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? The evolution is reflected in my transition from public service to private practice. In my public positions, I had a direct role in making public policy and construing the law. In private practice, my role is to advise what the law is and advocate for what it should be in the future. Also, as author and annotator of Gann Law's treatise, Rules Governing the Courts of the State of New Jersey, I am now somewhat of an educator, which is rewarding intellectually and on a human level.

What do you enjoy most about your career? Interacting with clients and colleagues; studying and trying to anticipate the trends in the law; writing clear and concise briefs as a private practitioner, and the same with respect to judicial opinions as a jurist; helping others understand the law and raising social awareness of critical issues; learning myself from the teachings of others; mentoring law students and junior attorneys.

Michael Zogby

Partner; Deputy Leader of Product Liability & Mass Tort Group; Co-Chair of Health & Life Sciences Litigation Team
Faegre, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Florham Park, Morris County



What do you enjoy most about your career? Every day is different. I have traveled to so many places, from Tokyo to small towns in the Rockies that I never imagined I would go as a kid in mid-state Pennsylvania. I am working with unbelievably talented attorneys and business people at life science clients, as well as at my firm, and to see the energy and drive of my colleagues and clients is heartening and encouraging.

In what ways have you seen your role as a "leader in law" evolve over the years? As our firm and my practice have grown, so too does the requirements as a leader in law, which is why I spend so much time helping new attorneys, teaching trial advocacy in Charlottesville, working with diverse talent, and working to improve the professionalism of the bar, including New Jersey courts. I am active in life science groups and national product liability groups through which I can work with others to create new opportunities for people and develop a path for product development and innovation.

What is something about yourself that would surprise others? I am an Eagle Scout and take every chance to be outdoors throughout New Jersey with family and friends, including camping, hiking, fishing and maybe someday scuba diving again. I don't think most of my colleagues—before 2020—ever saw me without a tie, so they would probably be surprised to learn that most weekends I am outdoors with my kids covered in mud.

2021

NJBIZ EVENT NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

NOMINATE NOW AT [NJBIZ.COM/EVENTS](https://njbiz.com/events)

40 **UNDER** 40

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
JULY 18

5 *fastest
growing
companies*

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 19

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
JUNE 13

HEALTH CARE
HEROES

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 15

Best Fifty
Women in Business

NOMINATION DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 3

BUSINESS
OF THE YEAR

Nomination deadlines and event dates are subject to change,
visit njbiz.com/events for details.

Questions? Contact events@njbiz.com. • For sponsorship opportunities,
contact Ken Kiczales at kkiczales@njbiz.com.

NJBIZ



NJBIZ

www.njbiz.com