

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**Attorney Grievance Committee
Supreme Court, Appellate Division
First Judicial Department**

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**Robert J. Anello
Abigail T. Reardon
Tina M. Wells
Milton L. Williams, Jr.
Chairs**

**Jorge Dopico
Chief Attorney**

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INTRODUCTION

Complaints against attorneys, registered at an address in Manhattan or the Bronx, are investigated and resolved by the Attorney Grievance Committee for the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Judicial Department (AGC). The Chief Attorney of the AGC manages a staff of over 40 salaried lawyers and non-lawyers (staff). Together with a volunteer group of lawyers and non-lawyers (collectively referred to as Committee members or the Committee), the Chief Attorney's Office processed 8,826 matters in 2025, including 7,883 new complaints.

Committee members are volunteers appointed by the Court who fulfill both adjudicative and executive functions. Most significantly, they decide, after appropriate investigation by the Chief Attorney's Office, whether a disciplinary proceeding should be brought against an attorney, whether a private admonition or letter of advisement should be issued, or whether a complaint should be dismissed. If a disciplinary proceeding is approved, the Court may appoint a referee to conduct a hearing and prepare a written report, stating the referee's findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommended sanction. Thereafter, the Court makes the final determination on both liability and sanction based on its review of the record.

In 2025, two separate volunteer Committees, each with a Chair, Vice-Chair, and 19 other members, reviewed and approved staff's recommendations to dismiss, advise, admonish, or formally charge respondents. Each volunteer Committee operates independently and meets six times annually. In October 2025, new Chairs and Vice Chairs were appointed, and new Committee members replaced those who completed their terms of service.

Below are brief biographies which highlight the diverse accomplishments of our volunteer Committee members.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRS

Robert J. Anello

Mr. Anello has litigated in federal and state courts for nearly forty years. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, securities and regulatory enforcement matters, complex civil litigation, internal investigations, and employment discrimination and sexual harassment. He is widely recognized for his skills as a criminal and civil trial and appellate

attorney, his effectiveness in negotiation, and his discretion in conducting investigations and sensitive internal reviews for a wide variety of clients. Mr. Anello has served as independent, outside counsel and consultant to major financial institutions and a Big Four accounting firm in connection with SEC Look-Back Programs and compliance reviews. A leader in the legal community, Mr. Anello is President Emeritus of the Federal Bar Council and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Bar Foundation, and the New York State Bar Foundation. He is Chair Emeritus of the Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Department and has held numerous leadership roles within the New York City Bar Association, including past Chair of the Audit Committee and the Committee on Professional Responsibility. Mr. Anello also was named as a member of the Association's Ad Hoc Committee on Multi-disciplinary Practice and the Ad Hoc Committee Task Force on the Role of Lawyers in Corporate Governance. In addition to these roles, he is a member of numerous other bar associations, including the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers, New York Council of Defense Lawyers, the American Bar Association (ABA), the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), where he was a member of the Association's House of Delegates, and the International Bar Association. In addition to his legal practice, Bob is a trustee of The Supreme Court Historical Society and serves as secretary of the Foundation of the New York Organ Donor Network. His career reflects a deep commitment to legal excellence, professional integrity, and public service.

Abigail T. Reardon

Ms. Reardon is a partner in the firm of DLA Piper, LLP, and a member of the Litigation Group and the Technology Sector. She is a graduate of Duke University School of Law and College of the Holy Cross. Ms. Reardon is admitted to practice law in New York and Massachusetts, the US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and other federal courts. Ms. Reardon is a member of the NYCBA, and the Duke University Law School Board of Visitors. She is a former trustee of Windward School, White Plains, New York, and a former governor of the Nantucket Yacht Club. Ms. Reardon served as a Vice-Chair of the Committee for two terms before her appointment as a Chair.

Tina M. Wells

Ms. Wells is a partner in the firm of Trolman Glaser Corley & Lichtman, PC. She is a graduate of Western New England School of Law and Syracuse University, and she is admitted to practice law in New York and Massachusetts. She is a member and past president of The Bronx County Bar Association (BCBA), co-chair of the Civil Courts Committee, member of New York State Trial Lawyers Association and serves on the First

Department Character and Fitness Committee. Ms. Wells has served on the Grievance Committee since 2019, she was Vice-Chair of the Committee from 2022-2025 and was appointed Chair of the Committee in 2025.

Milton L. Williams, Jr.

Mr. Williams is a former federal prosecutor and a deputy general counsel with deep experience in white collar criminal and regulatory matters, employment law, litigation, and advisory work representing corporations, in addition to complex commercial litigation. During his distinguished career, he has tried more than 56 cases – both civil and criminal – to verdict. Prior to joining Walden Macht Haran & Williams, Mr. Williams was a partner at a nationally recognized law firm where he handled white collar matters. He also litigated discrimination claims, restrictive covenant, Dodd-Frank, and Sarbanes-Oxley retaliation claims, as well as Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) whistleblower claims on behalf of employees. Previously, he served as Deputy General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Time Inc., where his responsibilities included internal investigations, compliance, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), and Sarbanes-Oxley, as well as intellectual property, privacy, data security, and other cutting-edge areas. He also litigated a variety of employment law matters on behalf of the company concerning race, age, disability, and gender discrimination; restrictive covenants; and independent contractor litigation. Earlier in his career, Mr. Williams was an Assistant United States Attorney in the US Attorney's Office (USAO) for the Southern District of New York (SDNY). His last assigned unit in the USAO was the Securities and Commodities Fraud Force. Mr. Williams also served as an Assistant District Attorney (ADA) in the Manhattan DA's office. In October 2025, Mr. Williams began serving as a Chair of the Committee.

VICE-CHAIRS

Catherine A. Christian

Ms. Christian is a partner at Liston Abramson LLP. She was formerly the Chief of the New York County DA's Office's Elder Abuse Unit and Special ADA for External Affairs. She has also served as a member of the executive staff of the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for NYC and was principal law clerk for the Hon. Rosalyn Richter. She is an active member of several bar associations and has served in various leadership roles, including Vice President of the First Judicial District of the NYSBA and President of the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA).

Devika Kewalramani

Ms. Kewalramani is a partner and global general counsel at FisherBroyles LLP. She is a graduate of the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law and St. Xavier's College, Calcutta University, India. Ms. Kewalramani is admitted to practice law in New York and the U.S. District Court, SDNY, and is a Registered Foreign Lawyer in England & Wales. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct (COSAC). Ms. Kewalramani is a former vice president of the New York City Bar, former chair of its Board of Directors and its former secretary, a former co-chair of the City Bar's Council on the Profession, and a former chair of the City Bar's Committee on Professional Discipline. She is a member of the International Board of Advisors of Jindal Global Law School, India, a former member of the Foundation Board of CUNY School of Law, and a former member of the Editorial Board of The Practical Lawyer. Ms. Kewalramani is a former member of the NYSBA's 2020 Restarting the Economy Work Group, and a former member of the New York Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline and she served as a co-chair of its Subcommittee on Transparency and Access. She served as a member of the Attorney Grievance Committee for the First Judicial Department since 2020 and was appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee in 2025.

MEMBERS

Marijo Adimey

Ms. Adimey has devoted her entire legal career to litigating on behalf of those who have suffered immeasurable loss from a catastrophic injury or death of a loved one. Her empathetic approach to her clients, remarkable trial skills, and relentless pursuit of justice have made her one of the top women trial attorneys in the area of personal injury, wrongful death, and medical malpractice. She recently secured a record-setting \$60 million verdict in Nassau County on behalf of a client who was rendered paraplegic after a routine epidural steroid injection—believed to be the largest medical malpractice verdict in the county's history. Recently named one of the "Top Women's Litigators" in New York by Super Lawyers in 2017, Ms. Adimey has quickly become a formidable force of the Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf Team. Since joining the firm in 2014, Ms. Adimey has obtained several multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements on behalf of her clients. Ms. Adimey is honored to be a voice for those who have been injured. In addition to her outstanding achievements as a trial attorney, Ms. Adimey is the co-author of the authoritative legal guide, "New York Medical Malpractice 2025". Her contributions to this publication reflect her extensive knowledge and expertise in handling complex medical malpractice cases. Ms. Adimey's insights into

trial strategies, case preparation, and navigating the nuances of New York medical malpractice law have earned her recognition as one of the leading voices in the field. Her career began as an ADA in Bronx County, where she prosecuted cases on behalf of victims of horrific crimes. There, she became an experienced trial attorney, trying dozens of felony and misdemeanor trials to verdict. Prior to joining our team, Ms. Adimey had the privilege of representing individuals who have had the unfortunate experience of being the victim of medical malpractice or who have suffered serious physical injury or death in an accident. She continued her zealous representation in 2014 when she joined Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf whereat her exceptional advocacy and litigation skills paid off in 2017, when she became a partner of the firm. Ms. Adimey has worked on many high profile cases, including the Hoboken Train Crash where she was a member of the Plaintiff's Steering Committee; the Tribeca Crane Collapse involving more than twelve defendants with multiple plaintiffs where she and her firm were lead counsel throughout discover, resulting in one of the largest settlements in the country for a death case; the Stew Leonard's case involving the failure to properly label a product which contained a known peanut allergy resulting in the death of a young woman from anaphylactic shock; and most recently the Potomac River mid-air collision, where she is also a member of the informal, pre-suit Plaintiff's Steering Committee. Since 2015, Ms. Adimey has been recognized by her peers each year for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and New York Magazine's "Best Lawyers" in New York in the specialties of medical malpractice and personal injury. She holds an "AV" rating (highest rating) from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, one of the oldest and best-known peer review ratings in the United States for both legal and ethical standards. Ms. Adimey's advocacy skills and dedication to her clients were recognized early in her career, when she was selected by her peers for inclusion in the Super Lawyers 2013: Rising Stars, an honor reserved for those lawyers who exhibit excellence in practice and published in The New York Times. She has since been selected as a "Super Lawyer" every year. She has been awarded the "Client Distinction Award" issued by Martindale-Hubbell, an honor made possible by the clients she served and awarded to less than 1% of the 900,000+ attorneys listed in Martindale-Hubbell. Ms. Adimey was appointed by the Administrative Judge for Civil Matters-First Judicial Department, as an attorney member of the Medical Malpractice Advisory Committee for the Supreme Court, New York County. She was also selected to serve a two-year term on the Judiciary Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, a committee which evaluates judges for appointment, reappointment, election or reelection to the bench on the city, state and federal level and makes recommendations for approval. Recently, Ms. Adimey was nominated and accepted to become a Board Member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, where she also

sits on the Medical Malpractice and Labor Law Committees. She is also a lecturer for the NYSBA. In just one year, Ms. Adimey obtained two of the top medical malpractice verdicts in New York. She secured a \$2.5 million verdict on behalf of a Queens woman who suffered an intestinal perforation during a routine EGD procedure; and a \$1.32 million verdict for a Kings woman whose spleen was torn away from her colon during a routine colonoscopy. In addition, Ms. Adimey has secured numerous multi-million dollar settlements prior to trial on behalf of her clients. Ms. Adimey's passion and commitment to her clients are what make her a zealous trial lawyer. She is a tremendous asset to the GGCRBHS&M Team.

Tawakalitu M. Amusa

Ms. Amusa is currently an Attorney-Advisor at the Social Security Administration, Bronx Office of Hearing Operations. She is a graduate of the CUNY School of Law and the University at Buffalo. Ms. Amusa is admitted to practice law in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and in the District of Columbia. Prior to her time at the Social Security Administration, she served as an Agency Attorney and FOIL officer in the General Counsel's Office at the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board, a police oversight agency. She also previously served as a Special Counsel and Agency Privacy Officer at the Mayor's Office of Appointments. She is a member of the New York City Bar Association and the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Erica Barrow

Ms. Barrow is a litigation partner at the firm of Baker & Hostetler LLP and a member of the commercial litigation and securities litigation groups. She is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Fordham College at Lincoln Center. She is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and other federal courts. Ms. Barrow is a member of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Character and Fitness Committee and an active member of the NYSBA, Commercial and Federal Litigation Section and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Ms. Barrow regularly takes a leadership role in the Talent Engagement group at Baker & Hostetler LLP.

Martin S. Bell

Mr. Bell is a partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where he is a member of its Litigation Department and Government and Internal Investigations Group and leads its Equity and Civil Rights Reviews team. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College. He is admitted to practice law in New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) and the SDNY. Mr. Bell

served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the SDNY from 2010 to 2021. An accomplished trial lawyer, Mr. Bell has been appointed to the Criminal Justice Act Panel for the SDNY, where he represents indigent criminal defendants. Mr. Bell is a member of the Boards of the Harvard Law School Association of New York City, the Office of the Appellate Defender, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and the Brooklyn Debate League, and a former trustee of Regis High School.

Peter A. Bellacosa

Mr. Bellacosa joined Phillips Lytle as a litigation partner resident in its NYC and Albany offices in June 2018. Prior to that, he was a partner in the litigation department of Kirkland & Ellis for over 21 years and began his career as an associate in the litigation department of Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy. He concentrates his practice in the areas of product liability, mass torts, class action defense, ERISA, securities, and commercial disputes. He also has extensive experience with criminal and regulatory investigations, as well as handling matters in state and federal trial and appellate courts, and in arbitrations. He has represented a diverse group of leading US and international companies in complex, high stakes disputes. Mr. Bellacosa has complemented his private law practice with significant pro bono publico service, including serving by appointment to highly sensitive public boards with wide-ranging duties and responsibilities by Governors Pataki and Patterson and the New York Court of Appeals. He has served on the Board of Trustees of the New York State Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection since 2009 and also serves as its Treasurer. He served as a Member of the Appellate Division, First Department Disciplinary Committee from 2008-2014 and was re-appointed to the Committee in 2020. He is a graduate of Georgetown University (1985) and St. John's University School of Law (1988) and is a member of the NYSBA, and the ABA.

Steven Benathen

Mr. Benathen is a court attorney in Bronx Supreme Court, Criminal Term. He has previously served as a law clerk at the Appellate Division, First Department and as a public defender at the trial and appellate levels. He is co-chair of the Appellate Courts Committee of the NYCLA, a member of the LGBTQ Rights Committee and Rule of Law Taskforce of the New York City Bar Association, and a member of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York (LeGal). He received his bachelor's degree from New York University (NYU) and his law degree magna cum laude from the University of Illinois College of Law.

Helene E. Blank

Ms. Blank is a founding partner of Blank & Star PLLC, a firm specializing in litigation with a focus on personal injury litigation. The firm also does commercial litigation with a focus on aiding small businesses. Ms. Blank has obtained many significant verdicts and settlements for her clients over the course of her long career. She began her career as a defense attorney and was the Attorney of Record for the Home Insurance Company before becoming a plaintiff's attorney. She has been consistently named to the New York "Super Lawyer" list as one of the top attorneys in New York for more than two decades. She has been the president of the Metropolitan Women's Bar Association, the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, a founding member of the Women's Trial Lawyers Caucus – which is dedicated to bringing woman trial lawyers together from all walks of the profession and from both sides of the aisle, a founding member and President of The Nathan R. Sobel Kings County Inns of Court. She has been a member of the Board of the New York State Trial Lawyers and a Dean of the Trial Lawyer's Institute which is dedicated to educating members of the profession for over 25 years. Through her many Bar Association affiliations Ms. Blank has devoted a good deal of her time to mentoring other lawyers and especially young women. She has been the recipient of awards from many different bar associations as well as from various committees of the judiciary. She has been appointed to many OCA committees dating back to Judge Kaye. She was on Judge Kaye's Civility Commission as well as the Commission that promulgated the rules for the present day Part 137 Attorney Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program. She presently is a member of the OCA advisory committee on Civil Practice and has been a member of this committee for more than a decade. She most recently was appointed by Chief Judge Rowan Wilson as a Commissioner to the most recent New York State Commission on Legislative, Judicial & Executive Compensation. She has served on judicial screening panels in New York and Kings County dating back to 1992. She has lectured extensively for many bar associations and to the judiciary on various topics over many years. As a member of the OCA civil practice committee she has authored and gotten passed changes to the CPLR. She is a long-time member of the First Department's Character and Fitness Committee. She was appointed as a hearing officer to the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Ms. Blank was on her law school's Law Review and authored an article on products liability litigation which was changing in New York State at that time. She graduated from New York Law School Summa Cum Laude in 1977.

Eleazar F. Bueno

Mr. Bueno is currently the Chair of the Public Safety Community Board 12 Manhattan of The Chamber of Commerce of Washington Heights and Director of Public Engagement of

the DOT Commissioner. He is a graduate of The University of Central Florida and CUNY on Liberal Arts and Public Administration. Mr. Bueno is a business owner and a seasoned results-driven professional with exceptional skills in problem-solving, project management, constituent services, intergovernmental affairs, regulatory compliance, and oversight with extensive experience leading complex organizations and large-scale initiatives in fast paced environments. In addition, he has a proven record of developing cross-sectoral strategic partnerships to improve service delivery and impact using practical, bilingual oral and written communication skills, stakeholder engagement, community networks, and a public service ethos.

John P. Buza

Mr. Buza is a partner at Konta Georges and Buza, PC. Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Buza served as a prosecutor in the New York County DA's Office from 2008 through March of 2014 when he entered private practice. Mr. Buza specializes in defending those accused of crimes on the state and federal level as well as representing individuals and corporations being investigated by the government.

Miguelina M. Camilo

Ms. Camilo is currently Counsel to Speaker Carl E. Heastie of the New York State Assembly. Prior to joining the Assembly, she served as Associate Counsel to the NYC Board of Elections. She currently serves as the President of the Bronx Chapter of the 100 Hispanic Women. She previously served as chapter President of the Bronx Women's Bar Association and President of the Dominican Bar Association. She earned a juris doctorate from New York Law School and a bachelor's degree from NYU.

Russell Capone

Mr. Capone, a partner at Cooley, LLP, is a former federal prosecutor with significant experience handling complex criminal cases, particularly those involving corruption, financial fraud, and other white-collar crimes. Mr. Capone served for more than 10 years at the US Attorney's Office for the SDNY, most recently as chief counsel to the US Attorney. In that role, he helped oversee SDNY's most significant and sensitive investigations and prosecutions involving, among other crimes, white collar and cybercrime, securities fraud, public corruption, terrorism, gang violence, organized crime, sex trafficking and international narcotics trafficking. Mr. Capone also helped supervise matters arising in SDNY's Civil Division, including those involving civil rights violations, as well as violations of the False Claims Act and Anti-Kickback Statute.

Hon. James M. Catterson

Judge Catterson is a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, specializing in commercial litigation and appellate practice. Prior to Joining Pillsbury, Judge Catterson was a partner at Arnold & Porter and Kaye Scholer. He previously served as a Justice of the Supreme Court, first on the trial bench in Riverhead, Suffolk County, and then a decade on the Appellate Division, First Department. He is a graduate of St. John's Law School and Colgate University.

Susan M. Cofield

Prior to her retirement, Ms. Cofield was employed with the New York Department of Education for over 35 years. Over the course of her career with the department, she served in a number of positions including School Social Worker, District Director of Student Support Services, Citywide Director of Guidance, Executive Director of Manhattan Enrollment, and Deputy Chief Executive of the Office of Enrollment. Ms. Cofield graduated from New York University (BA cum laude) and Columbia University School of Social Work (MS with Distinction). She also received an Educational Administration and Supervision Certificate from The City College of New York.

Nicholas F. Cohen

Mr. Cohen is a partner at Cohen Clair Lans Greifer & Simpson LLP, specializing in matrimonial law. He previously served as a law clerk to the Honorable Barry Ted Moskowitz of the United States District Court for the Southern District of California. He then began his career in private practice as a commercial litigator at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Mr. Cohen sits on the board of trustees of the Northside Center, an organization which provides expert behavioral, mental health, education and enrichment programs to children and families living in poverty. He also serves on the alumni council for the Buckley School in New York City. Mr. Cohen received his JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2005, where he served as an editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. Prior to law school, he received his BS from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and graduated from St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire. He lives in New York City with his wife and two daughters.

Robert Stephan Cohen

Mr. Cohen is a Senior Partner at Cohen Clair Lans Greifer & Simpson LLP. His area of concentration is in complex family law matters. Prior to his present affiliation, he was a partner at Morrison Cohen LLP where he was also the Managing Partner and Chair of the firm's Executive Committee. He has been the lead lawyer in some of the most important

equitable distribution and custody matters in New York and represents individuals in significant matters outside New York including in California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, Virginia and jurisdictions as well outside the United States. He has lectured in the United States, Europe and Asia and has been, for the past 20 years, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He is the author of *Reconcilable Differences* published by Simon & Schuster and has been recognized by *The New York Times* as one of the most important divorce lawyers in the United States. He has been profiled by *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Insider* and *The Financial Times*. In 2016, the former Governor Andrew Cuomo named Mr. Cohen Chairperson of the Judicial Screening Committee of the First Judicial Department, which committee he has served on since 2012, and also designated him as a member of the State Judicial Screening Committee. In 2016, he was also appointed as Chairperson of the Supreme Court's Matrimonial Committee, a position he currently holds. Mr. Cohen is a member of The American College of Family Trial Lawyers and a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. His biography appears annually in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, *Best Lawyers in New York* and *Super Lawyers*. He has been designated by *Forbes Magazine* as one of the 200 Most Important Lawyers in America. He attended Alfred University where he is presently a trustee and Fordham University where he was an editor of the *Law Review*. He was an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corp and has completed marathons in both the United States and Europe.

Martha Cruz

Ms. Cruz is employed as an executive director and general counsel for the New York City Loft Board. Her duties include overseeing and managing the legal, administrative, and operational functions of the Loft Board, serving as chief legal advisor, guiding quasi-judicial decision-making and policy, and collaborating with the Law Department attorneys on litigation related to Article 78 proceedings. She began her term of service as a volunteer Committee member in 2025.

William F. Dahill

Mr. Dahill is a founding partner at Coviello Weber & Dahill LLP, where he focuses his practice on employment litigation and counselling, and complex commercial litigation. Areas of focus include employment counseling, securities industry litigation, payment processing disputes, post-sale transaction disputes, secured lending disputes, partnership disputes and shareholder disputes. Mr. Dahill appears regularly in Federal and State Courts

as well as arbitral fora. Mr. Dahill is admitted to the bar in the States of New York and Connecticut, as well as to the bars of the SDNY, EDNY, and the Courts of Appeals for the Second and Fifth Circuits. He is an active member of the Fordham Law Alumni Association, the Network of Bar Leaders, Federal Bar Association – SDNY Chapter, and sits on the Board of Directors for Notre Dame High School, West Haven Connecticut, of which he is an alum. Mr. Dahill received his JD from Fordham University School of Law, cum laude, in 1991, where he served as Managing Editor of the Moot Court Board. Mr. Dahill received his BA in Architecture from Columbia University in 1984.

Lisette A. Duran

Ms. Duran is Counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLC in New York in the Sustainability & Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) Advisory Practice. Ms. Duran has extensive experience advising clients on their ESG efforts, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) initiatives and disclosures, racial equity audits and assessments, and internal investigations. Prior to joining the ESG practice, she was a litigation associate specializing in complex litigation and regulatory defense, representing leading companies in finance, oil and energy, and technology. Ms. Duran is also very active outside of work. She is a Deputy Regional President for HNBA Region II, a member of the Lideres Board of Latino Justice PRLDEF, and a member of the Board of the Dominican Women’s Development Center. Ms. Duran earned her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from Columbia Law School. After graduation, she clerked for Judge Edgardo Ramos at the U.S. District Court for the SDNY.

Julie Goldscheid

Ms. Goldscheid is a Professor of Law Emeritus at CUNY School of Law, where she also served as Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She currently teaches Gender Violence Advocacy at NYU School of Law. She has held positions including senior staff attorney and acting legal director at Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) and as general counsel at Safe Horizon, a leading victim services organization. She is a graduate of NYU Law School and has taught at Yale, Columbia, Penn State and Brooklyn law schools. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Center for Survivor Agency and Justice (CSAJ) and has served on the Board of Directors of the Stonewall Community Foundation and other NGO’s and has been active in bar association committees and task forces.

Virginia Goodman Futterman

Ms. Futterman, a graduate of St. John's University School of Law, is a senior equity partner at London Fischer LLP, heading a litigation team dedicated to defending complex and high-profile labor law/construction and premises liability matters. Other firm activities include acting chair of London Fischer's diversity initiative, which she founded. Ms. Futterman continues, now in the second decade, to serve as an appointed Federal Court mediator in the SDNY and EDNY with primary focus on employment/discrimination cases. Outside the legal arena, continuing a long history of community commitment, Ms. Futterman has acted as President of her co-op board, and has 20 years as an active volunteer at the New York Junior League.

Ida Rae Greer

Ms. Greer is admitted to practice in New York, District of Columbia, and in the U.S. Supreme Court. She is the General Counsel for a nationwide real estate company. Prior to serving as general counsel to various companies, Ms. Greer has had a lengthy career in private practice. Ms. Greer established boutique law firm(s) which specialized in representing building owners, developers, corporations, and individuals in a broad range of transactional and litigation matters. She has previously served on the New York County Democratic Party Independent Judicial Screening Panel and the Housing Court Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Ms. Greer has also served as a volunteer arbitrator in New York County's Civil Court Small Claims Part and has been a contributing author of the Westlaw legal treatise Finkelstein and Ferrara's "Landlord and Tenant Practice in New York.

Wynton Habersham

Mr. Habersham is the Vice President of Rail and Transit and Advanced Train Control at HNTB. He is the former Head of Subways at the MTA-New York City Transit. Mr. Habersham is a Graduate of the State University of New York (SUNY) Empire State College and Majored in Labor Studies. He serves on the Board of the New York Transit Museum and is an Advisory Board Member of The Routing Company, an on-demand micro transit services firm.

Phillip C. Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton, a managing partner at Hamilton Clarke, LLP, manages a caseload primarily consisting of serious, complex felony matters, civil rights actions, and commercial litigation in both state and federal court.

Lynn Horowitz

Ms. Horowitz is currently the Managing Attorney of the Housing Practice at Housing Conservation Coordinators (HCC) where, since November 2013, she has practiced in various forums such as NYC Housing Court, Supreme Court, the Appellate Term, the Southern District of New York, and at administrative agencies, such as NYCHA, HPD, and DHCR. Throughout her practice, she has worked towards the betterment of the litigation culture in NYC Housing Court. She has served as the tenant bar representative of the NY County Landlord-Tenant Bar Association to address issues common to practitioners in Housing Court such as collegiality among landlord and tenant side attorneys. She began her term of service as a volunteer Committee member in 2025.

Kathleen Horton

Ms. Horton is the Senior Administrative Manager of the Office of the Dean at Fordham Law School, a position she has held since 2015. Prior to joining Fordham, Ms. Horton served as a Director in the Office of the Dean at Cardozo School of Law for nine years, having been promoted from Assistant to the Dean in 2006. Upon obtaining her B.A. degree from U.C. Berkeley, Ms. Horton worked in San Francisco as a paralegal, then moved to New York and worked as the Manager of Client Relations at a world-wide provider of marketing and consulting services where she managed over 100 clients in the East Coast and West Coast regions. Soon after, she would become an office manager for a multi-practice law firm in New York.

C. Willem Houck

Mr. Houck is a proven innovator in blue chip companies as well as a successful investor and operator in early and growth stage healthcare and technology businesses. Known for his passionate and encouraging leadership approach to building high performance teams, Mr. Houck enjoys an international reputation for finding and extracting value from new products and business models. Most recently, he was appointed CEO of an early-stage biotech that is developing a highly promising cure for HIV as well as several oncological diseases. Before that, he was the CEO of DEARhealth, a UCLA spin-out of doctors and scientists that supports decision making with the help of AI. Earlier, he identified the market opportunity in the U.S. for automated and personalized consumer healthcare fulfillment services and founded Daklapack US. He co-founded the Health Care Financial Exchange, a market-driven healthcare payment system, creating competition through transparency in the opaque Healthcare market. Founder of Girasol NY, a forward looking and pioneering early-stage technology company specializing in medical devices, healthcare business innovation and database technology, he was involved with NICO-lab, an AI

assisted acute care diagnostic company; iValue UAB, developer of a biological pacemaker based on groundbreaking research by Columbia University Medical Center; and iDx Ventures, maker of ClariFlow, an affordable DIY early stage enlarged prostate detection kit. As the Chairman and CEO of Philips' global B2B board, he refocused the company to a customer driven organization, and he was an early leader of its activities in energy management and led its global technology incubators. At iFortress, he was recruited by a high-profile board to turn the business around in 18 months by renegotiating debt and signing significant new business. A lawyer by training with a bilingual MBA focused on strategic marketing from Hautes Etudes Commerciales (HEC) in Paris and several senior executive degrees from IMD and INSEAD, he's a proud dual citizen of the USA and the Netherlands, spending his time in New York as well as The Hague. For almost 10 years he was the volunteer chairman of The Netherland Club of New York, founded in 1903.

Souren A. Israelyan

Founder of Law Office of Souren A. Israelyan. Mr. Israelyan chairs NYSBA's Standing Committee on Tort System. He is a member of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committee for the Second Department, and a referee for the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct. His practice is focused on plaintiffs' personal injury matters.

Jaipat S. Jain

Mr. Jain represents domestic and international technology and other clients in private mergers and acquisitions, private securities transactions, corporate finance, and choice, organization and governance of business entities. His clients also seek his counsel in matters relating to data transfer and privacy, licensing and development of technology (particularly software as a service), employment, distribution and supply, asset-based lending, leasing and conveyance of commercial real estate, and international trade and financing. His clients include fintech and telepathology companies, manufacturers of specialty chemicals, global conglomerates engaged in mining and manufacturing, private equity funds, among others. Mr. Jain came to the United States as an international business executive with a global trading company. As an international business executive, he traveled to and did business in various countries. As a lawyer, he sees his role as helping clients create wealth and make sound business decisions. He is often the lawyer of choice for private M&A transactions (below about \$150 m) between India and the United States. Mr. Jain's clients also lean on him for help in resolving business disputes. In that role, he works with the firm's litigation teams to take care of client priorities in a personalized setting. Mr. Jain is a member of the New York State Attorney Grievance Committee (First Department) (2021-26). He has held and continues to hold various leadership positions in

local and national bar associations. Notably, with the New York City Bar Association (Board of Directors, 2020-24), and the American Bar Association (Presidential Appointment to Editorial Board of the ABA/ Bloomberg Law Lawyers' Manual on Professional Conduct, 2022-25; Presidential Appointment to the Standing Committee on International Trade in Legal Services (2024-27); Member to ABA Council, Section of Science and Technology (2024-27); Chair, India Committee (2019-2022); Chair, Legal Practice, Ethics & Delivery of Legal Services Division (2022); Vice Chair, ePrivacy Committee (2020-25) and Cloud Computing Committee (2022-26). Mr. Jain has also been elected as a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. On a private level, Mr. Jain was instrumental in replicating Shikharji, Jainism's most important place of pilgrimage, over 120-acres of land at Siddhachalam, New Jersey, and is currently engaged in founding Siddhachal Bahubali Tirth pilgrimage there. He is an Honorary Trustee of Siddhachalam and has in the past served as its President. Mr. Jain is a frequent speaker at business and law conferences in the U.S. and abroad and has chaired several continuing legal education and other programs.

Marissa A. Johnson

Ms. Johnson is a corporate and securities associate at Ellenoff Grossman & Scholle LLP. As lead associate, she represents various multinational, middle market, emerging companies and special acquisition companies in complex public and private merger and acquisition transactions, including cross-border transactions and multijurisdictional de-SPAC transactions, and public companies on general corporate matters, including in matters related to ongoing compliance with SEC regulatory requirements, corporate governance matters, contract drafting and board responsibilities. She began her term of service as a volunteer Committee member in 2025.

Barbara Kairson

Dr. Kairson is the former Administrator of District Council 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Education Fund Trust which provides education benefits to New York City municipal workers and she currently serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Urban Home Ownership Corporation and the Cendevco Corporation. She is a graduate of the City College of New York, the New School, and Capella University and holds a Certificate in Labor Studies from the Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations. She was elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2022 as President of the New York Coalition of One Hundred Black Women, Inc., where she worked with community-based charitable and civic organizations to improve the economic, professional and academic conditions of

women and their families residing in underserved communities throughout New York City. Appointed in 2023, she is serving in her first term with the Committee.

Kenneth A. Kanfer

Mr. Kanfer is a partner at Kanfer & Holtzer, LLP. He represents domestic and foreign clients in real estate acquisitions, sales, leasing and financing of commercial and residential real property; provides counsel on the panoply of business and financial matters, corporate governance and best practices; represents litigants in commercial litigation; and represents high net-worth individuals in matrimonial litigation on issues impacting separate property interests in commercial entities and real estate investments. In 2024, Mr. Kanfer was appointed by the Chair of the New York State Board of Law Examiners to serve as a grader of the New York State Bar Exam. Since 2017, he has been a member of the Judiciary Committee of the New York City Bar Association.

J. Andrew Kent

Prof. Kent is the Joseph M. McLaughlin Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, where he has taught since 2007. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Harvard College. After law school, he clerked for judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the EDNY, then practiced law in the litigation departments of Sullivan & Cromwell and Wilmer Hale. While on leave from Fordham, Mr. Kent served as Senior Counsel to the Solicitor General of New York, in the Office of the Attorney General. He is admitted to practice law in New York and in a number of federal courts.

Lisa M. Licata

Ms. Licata is a solo practitioner and Bronx Family Court assigned counsel panel member. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and is admitted to practice in New York, Massachusetts, and in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Licata is a past President and an active member of the Bronx Women's Bar Association serving as delegate and advisor to the board. She is a co-chair of the Wellness Committee for the Women's Bar Association of New York State and has served on the Nominations Committee. Ms. Licata currently serves on the Bronx Early Engagement Committee as well as being a member of the Brooklyn Law School Women's Networking Circle. She is a mentor for an attorney on the Bronx Assigned Counsel Panel and mentors a 2nd year law student at Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Licata is on the Bronx Surrogate Court Part 36 Guardian Ad Litem panel and recently became a certified Mediator.

Amy J. Litwin

Amy J. Litwin is an attorney with more than two decades of public sector experience in criminal justice, professional discipline, legal ethics, and victim advocacy. She currently serves as an Assistant Attorney General for the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, where she is Chief of Staff for the Office of Policing Strategy and Innovation. In this role, she supports strategic reform initiatives across New Jersey's law enforcement landscape, advancing policies focused on continuous improvement, training, officer wellness and leadership, and public trust. Previously, Ms. Litwin served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department Advocate's Office at the New York City Police Department, where she led disciplinary prosecutions, worked with external oversight bodies, guided internal reforms, and advised executive leadership on legal compliance, policy, and risk. She also served for many years in the Bronx District Attorney's Office, including as Bureau Chief of the Domestic Violence Bureau and Counsel to the Special Victims Division, where she oversaw multidisciplinary teams and directed major initiatives in crime prevention, victim response, training, litigation, and interagency collaboration. She served as a member of the office's Professional Responsibility Tribunal ensuring prosecutorial ethics and accountability. Ms. Litwin was twice selected by the U.S. Department of Justice as a domestic violence expert in Kosovo, where she advised on national legal strategies and collaborated with law enforcement, prosecutors, judiciary officials, and advocates to strengthen institutional responses to gender-based violence and to inform improvements to its National Strategy on Domestic Violence. She holds a J.D. from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She completed executive leadership training at Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executives in State and Government Program and is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

Arthur M. Luxenberg

Mr. Luxenberg is a member of the Law Firm of Weitz & Luxenberg, PC. He is a graduate of The Cardozo School of Law and Yeshiva University. Mr. Luxenberg is admitted to practice law in New York, The US Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, and other federal courts. Mr. Luxenberg is the Former first Vice President & Executive Committee Member and Member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association. He is also a Member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Yeshiva College, former President of the North Shore Hebrew Academy of Great Neck, New York, and Chairman of the United Soup Kitchens in Israel.

Douglas B. Maynard

Mr. Maynard is a partner at Lankler Siffert & Wohl LLP. He represents organizations and individuals in criminal and regulatory matters and complex commercial litigation. He has extensive experience representing corporate boards and committees, including conducting internal investigations. Previously he was General Counsel at GTT Communications Inc., a partner and General Counsel at Akin, and the Deputy Commissioner for Legal Matters at the NYPD. Earlier in his career he was an Assistant United States Attorney in the SDNY. Mr. Maynard is a member of the Professional Responsibility Committee of the Association of the Bar of New York City.

Scott E. Mollen

Mr. Mollen is a highly experienced commercial litigation partner at Herrick, Feinstein, LLP. He regularly advises prominent corporations, financial institutions, public officials and real estate investors and lenders in litigation, mediation, arbitration, and negotiations. Mr. Mollen has also been a court-appointed receiver for properties in and outside of NYC and has served as a Special Master in the NYS Supreme Court. He was appointed by the Chief Judge of the NY Court of Appeals to the NYS Supreme Court Commercial Division Advisory Council. He has also served on the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and currently serves on the NYC Bar Association Judiciary Committee. Mr. Mollen has helped lead the Anti-Defamation League's lobbying effort to get New York State's Hate Crimes Law enacted. For more than three decades, he has authored Realty Law Digest, a weekly column in the New York Law Journal that analyzes real estate case law. Over that span, Mr. Mollen has authored more than 1,500 articles on issues such as development, construction, finance, joint ventures, condominiums, cooperatives, brokerage, zoning, foreclosure, condemnation, environmental issues, and landlord/tenant law.

Christopher Morel

Mr. Morel is a senior associate at Hecker Fink LLP. He was previously a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. He received his BA degree magna cum laude in 2015 from Fordham University, where he majored in Political Science and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At Columbia, from which he received his JD in 2018, he was a Stone Scholar, an articles editor of the Law Review, and President of the Latino/a Law Students Association. Following his graduation, from August 2018 to August 2019, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Margo K. Brodie, US District Court for the EDNY (Brooklyn, NY). From September 2019 to September 2020, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Julio M. Fuentes, US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit (Newark, NJ). Mr. Morel is

admitted to practice law in New York and in the SDNY, EDNY, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sharmaine D. Mundy

Ms. Mundy is a graduate of New York Law School, with over ten years of experience in compliance and regulatory enforcement (banking/financial sector). She has worked both in the public and private sectors. She started her legal career at New York State Supreme Court, Second Department, as a Judicial Intern after her first year of law school.

Vianny M. Paulino-Pichardo

Ms. Paulino-Pichardo is an experienced commercial litigator with over 15 years' experience litigating claims in federal and state courts as well as mediation and arbitration. She is a former New York litigation shareholder and former corporate associate of a large international law firm. She is currently a member of Beazley's Cyber and Executive Risk Group providing insurance coverage for Tech E&O, IP, media, advertising, cyber and privacy liabilities. Ms. Paulino-Pichardo has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a New York Metro Rising Star since 2015. She received the Hispanic National Bar Association's Top Lawyers under 40 award and Fordham LALSA's Andrew A. Rivera Alumni Achievement Award. Ms. Paulino-Pichardo has held various high-profile leadership roles including serving as President of The Dominican Bar Association representing the interests of Latino lawyers, judges, and law students in the US and as founder of The DBA's Women's Committee, Las Mariposas. She is also a past member of the Latino Justice PRLDEF's Líderes Board. She is currently a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary.

Shade Quailey

Ms. Quailey is a litigation associate in the firm of BakerHostetler LLP. Her practice focuses on complex commercial and cross-border litigation, and she is a member of the BakerHostetler team serving as court-appointed counsel to the Securities Investor Protection Act Trustee for the liquidation of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC. Prior to joining BakerHostetler, Shade clerked for Justice Peter H. Moulton at the Appellate Division, First Department of the New York State Supreme Court. She is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law and Pace University. Ms. Quailey is admitted to practice in New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit and Fourth Circuit, and other federal courts. Ms. Quailey remains engaged in the community through her appointment on the New York State Appellate Division – First Judicial Department's Attorney Grievance Committee and her involvement with the New York City Bar

Association's Civic Education Committee, the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, the Legal Council on Legal Diversity, and the Fordham Law Recent Graduates Committee.

Virginia A. Reilly

A life-long New Yorker, Ms. Reilly is currently Of Counsel to the Law Offices of Neal Brickman, PC, focusing primarily on real estate transactional work and litigation support. Ms. Reilly received a BA from Fordham University (1976) and her JD from Washington and Lee University (1981). From 1981 to 1986, Ms. Reilly was an ADA for New York County under DA Robert Morgenthau. During her tenure as an ADA, Ms. Reilly was part of the Sex Crimes Unit under ADA Linda Fairstein. Since moving to private practice, Ms. Reilly has also served as an Arbitrator (Small Claims Court), a Guardian Ad Litem (Surrogate's Court), and has served on various local municipal and educational committees in northern Westchester County. Ms. Reilly is admitted to practice in New York State and the SDNY.

Michael Reyes

Mr. Reyes is a deputy general counsel for human capital at the Department of Citywide Administrative Service. He provides legal advice on citywide civil service and employment law issues. He supervises a team of attorneys and manages DCAS's legal involvement in civil service appeals, and administrative proceedings, and employment-related litigation, in coordination with the Office of Corporation Counsel and the Office of Labor Relations. Mr. Reyes advises DCAS leadership and divisions and acts as a legal resource for HR and EEO offices across multiple City agencies. He began his term of service as a volunteer Committee member in 2025.

Joanna Rotgers

Ms. Rotgers is the Chief Regulatory Counsel for Marsh Mercer US, which is part of global professional services firm Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. She works in the Company's New York headquarters handling a variety of compliance, regulatory and legal matters. Previously, she handled complex litigation matters for the Company, with a focus on defending against professional liability/errors and omissions claims in the US, Canada, and other geographies globally. Before joining Marsh & McLennan, she worked in private practice as a commercial litigator. She holds a JD from the University of Iowa and a BA from Loyola University Chicago.

Deborah Schein

Ms. Schein retired from the United Nations in December 2020 after serving on six peacekeeping missions; Angola, Mozambique, Timor Leste, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia and the Republic of South Sudan, and on a United Nations Political Mission in Guinea Bissau. In August 2015 she worked with the United Nations Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan in Addis Ababa during the final phase of the peace talks on the Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan. Ms. Schein has worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Most recently, she served as an Adjunct Professor for a Columbia University, School of International Affairs, Capstone Project during the fall 2021 semester. She has been a short-term electoral observer with OSCE/ODHIR in North Macedonia, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. She has been working as a consultant with the UN investigating abuse of authority and sexual harassment. She holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs.

Calvin H. Scholar

Mr. Scholar is employed as a law professor at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University where he teaches Federal Criminal Procedure. He previously litigated criminal and civil matters in State and Federal Courts including homicide, conspiracy, wrongful death, construction defects, as well as school and municipal liability. Mr. Scholar began his term of service as a volunteer Committee member in 2025.

Matthew A. Schwartz

Mr. Schwartz is a litigation partner in the New York office of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, and a member of the firm's Litigation Group. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Princeton University. Mr. Schwartz is admitted to practice law in New York and numerous federal courts across the country. Mr. Schwartz is a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct and a former member of the New York City Bar's Professional Ethics Committee. He is a board member and vice-president of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert, a board member of the American Jewish Medical Association, and the President of the Heathcote Association in Scarsdale, New York. Mr. Schwartz served as a law clerk to the Honorable Samuel A. Alito, Jr. on the U.S. Supreme Court and on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Beatrice Seravello

Ms. Seravello is a partner at Baretz + Brunelle, a legal growth advisory firm. She leads transformation in law firms through people, process and technology. She has served in C-suite roles at AmLaw 100 firms and is a graduate of Queens College.

Joshua Silber

Mr. Silber is a founding partner of Abend & Silber, PLLC, in Manhattan specializing in civil litigation with a focus on personal injury, medical malpractice and child sexual abuse cases. He has obtained many substantial verdicts and settlements for his clients in nearly 30 years representing the injured in civil cases. Mr. Silber has been named to the NY “Super Lawyers” list as one of the top attorneys in New York in each year from 2011 through the current year and has been selected as among the “Top 100” in Metro New York for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. He is a dean of the New York State Trial Lawyer’s Institute and a board member of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association where he has served as co-chair of the Judiciary Committee for many years and has thereby served as chair of the screening panel for candidates to the New York Court of Appeals for the eleven most recent vacancies at that Court. In addition, he is a member of the BCBA and has been elected as a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, an honorary organization of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars who have been selected by their peers for outstanding achievements and dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. Mr. Silber has frequently lectured on legal ethics, personal injury, and trial practice in New York and across the country. He received a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York College at Brockport in 1993 and served for many years as a member of the Brockport Foundation Board of Directors, including several years as National Chair of the Annual Fund. He received his law degree, with honors, from the University of Miami in 1996. He is admitted to practice law in New York, New Jersey, and Florida.

S. Yan Sin

Ms. Sin is a member of Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP, where she is a partner in the Matrimonial & Family Law department. Ms. Sin was the associate law clerk for the Hon. Ellen F. Gesmer, Associate Justice, Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, First Department, when Justice Gesmer was a judge in the Matrimonial Part of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County. Subsequent to her clerkship, Ms. Sin practiced family law in a boutique matrimonial law firm. She has experience litigating divorce, custody, and support matters in Family Court, Supreme Court and the Appellate Division. She also has a background in immigration law with experience

in family-based petitions and the naturalization process. Ms. Sin serves on the Board of Directors of the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York, a statewide organization that provides support, information and advocacy to foster, adoptive and kinship care families; she also serves on the Board of Directors of the United East Athletics Association. Ms. Sin is an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) where she was the former co-chair of the Pro Bono and Community Service Committee and coordinator of the Manhattan Pro Bono Clinic. She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association's Family Law Section. She enjoys volunteering her time at AABANY's pro bono clinics and Immigration Law and Justice's immigration legal clinics. A graduate of the University of Virginia and New York Law School, Ms. Sin lives in Manhattan and is active in the Chinatown community. She is conversant in Cantonese and loves yoga. Ms. Sin is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey.

Jeffrey S. Stillman

Mr. Stillman is founding partner of the Law Firm of Stillman & Stillman, PC in Bronx County which was established in 1998 and for the past 35 years has exclusively represented victims of accidents and has handled related insurance matters. He is a graduate of New York Law School and SUNY Albany. He is admitted to practice in New York and in the Federal courts and was recently admitted to the Bar of the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Stillman is a Director of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association where he is former co-chair of the Automobile/Insurance committee and is current co-chair of the Privacy Protection/Runners committee and assists in the preparation of their yearly CLE on Legal Ethics. Additionally, he is a long-time member and former Director of the BCBA.

Hon. Milton A. Tingling

Justice Tingling is the New York County Clerk, Commissioner of Jurors and Clerk of Supreme Court. He is a retired New York State Supreme Court Justice. He is the first former jurist to hold these three positions in the history of New York State, and he is the first and only African American to be a County Clerk and Clerk of Supreme Court. He is a graduate of North Carolina Central University School of Law and Brown University. He sits on the First Department Character and Fitness Committee and First Department Attorney Grievance Committee. He is a member of NYCBA, NYCLA, Metropolitan Black Bar Association and Judicial friends. He is the Chairperson of Not for Profits, West Harlem Development Corp, and Not on My Watch Inc. In addition, he serves on the boards of Community League of The Heights and the City College President's Advisory Board.

Elisabeth Lisa Vicens

Ms. Vicens is a partner in the firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Based in the New York office, Ms. Vicens represents clients in internal and governmental investigations, and in complex litigation matters arising from cross-border disputes. Ms. Vicens received her J.D. from the New York University School of Law and a B.S. from Georgetown University. She is admitted to practice law in New York, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Vicens is a board member of the Office of the Appellate Defender, board member of Her Justice, a member of the Vance Center Committee for Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice, and a member of the Committee on Civic Education for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Terel R. Watson

Mr. Watson currently serves as an ADA and Deputy Director of the Legal Training Unit with the New York County District Attorney's Office. He also briefly worked as an associate at a civil litigation firm on Wall Street. Mr. Watson has investigated and tried numerous serious violent and white-collar felonies in New York State Supreme Court. He is licensed to practice law in New York State, SDNY, and EDNY, and he serves as an Adjunct Professor at the NYC College of Technology-CUNY, where he teaches several legal studies courses, including Ethics, Law Office Management, and Civil Procedure. Mr. Watson is also an Adjunct Professor at Touro Law School, where he teaches Trial Practice. Additionally, he has served as an Adjunct Professor and Co-Director of the Criminal Prosecution Clinic at New York Law School. Mr. Watson is a graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he focused on constitutional law, litigation, and civil rights. During law school, Mr. Watson was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society and interned for now-retired SDNY Judge Ronald L. Ellis. Currently, he sits on numerous boards at the New York City College of Technology-CUNY and advises their Law and Paralegal Studies Program. He is also an active member of the NYC Bar Association, serving on its Education and the Law Committee, and the NYCLA, where he serves on its Law Related Education and Criminal Justice Committees.

Judith E. White

Before becoming a partner at Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter, LLP, where she founded the matrimonial department, Ms. White was a founding member of Garr & White, PC. Ms. White also worked as the Principal Court Attorney to one of the justices of the New York State Supreme Court, Matrimonial Part, for nine years. As a court attorney she had the unique opportunity to learn the practice of matrimonial law from the inside. Ms. White assisted in keeping abreast of all developments in the law, drafting decisions,

and negotiating settlements. Following her tenure in the courts it was a natural progression for Ms. White to include mediation in her practice. She has successfully mediated countless divorce and separation agreements. She is listed as one of the Best Lawyers of America since 2010 and has been recognized as one of the Top Lawyers in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut areas for 2010 to the present, one of the top ten women lawyers in the New York Metro Area since 2018, and Top 50 Women Attorneys in New York since 2014-18 by both The New York Times and New York Magazine. She has received an AV Rating for Legal Abilities and Ethical Standards in the Martindale Hubbell Listing. She has also served as a moot court judge for New York Law School. While Ms. White enjoys her work with private clients, she has maintained a strong commitment to public service. In 2007, under the auspices of the NY CO Women's Bar Association, she co-founded "The Matrimonial Project," the only completely pro bono matrimonial legal service in New York State. She and co-chair were awarded the Hannah Cohen award for pro bono work in 2016. Before attending law school, she interned as a legislative assistant to a US Congressman and worked for the Environmental Protection Agency. While in law school Ms. White continued her dedication to public service by working pro bono with the Vietnam Veterans of America Legal Services, representing former servicemen and women in administrative hearings. Following law school, she worked as a staff attorney for the NYC Legal Aid Society in the Criminal Defense Division where she tried over fifty felony and misdemeanor cases.

Fr. Dennis J. Yesalonia

Father Dennis Yesalonia, S.J. is the Pastor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola, located on Manhattan's Upper East Side. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Notre Dame Law School and holds graduate degrees in theology and philosophy from Fordham University, the University of Toronto, and the Weston School of Theology. A retired member of the bar of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Father Yesalonia served as General Counsel at Boston College and the College of the Holy Cross. He was Of Counsel at the Boston law firm of Sullivan, Weinstein, and McQuay. As a Jesuit priest, he has served as Treasurer of the Society of Jesus of New England, and the Chief Operating Officer, Health Sciences Campus, of Loyola University Chicago. Father Yesalonia also has been a trustee or director at several educational and social services organizations.

Mark C. Zauderer

Mr. Zauderer is a prominent trial lawyer and partner in Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP in New York City. He served by appointment of Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye as Chair of New York's Commission on the Jury; as a member of the Chief Judge's Task Force that

established New York's Commercial Division; and currently as a member of the Chief Judge's Commercial Division Advisory Council. He is currently serving as a referee with all the powers of a Supreme Court judge, to oversee litigation and the wind-up of a major law firm. Mr. Zauderer is a member of the Appellate Division, First Department Grievance Committee. He is a past President of the Federal Bar Council and is a former Chair of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association. He is a member of the Governor's Judicial Screening Committee for Supreme Court judges applying for appointment to the Appellate Division, First Department and since 1992 has been a member of the Advisory Committee on Civil Practice to the Chief Administrative Judge, which drafts the CPLR. In 1995, Mr. Zauderer presented to the House of Delegates of the NYSBA the civility rules that are essentially those that are now in effect in New York State. In 2016, he delivered the commencement address at Touro Law School and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa. Zauderer is a frequent lecturer on legal issues and frequently comments on legal issues both in print and on television.

THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

Complaints, Investigations, and Dismissals

The disciplinary process usually commences with the filing of a complaint with the AGC against an attorney, who is referred to as a “respondent.” Complaints typically come from clients but may also come from other attorneys and members of the public at large. Investigations may also be authorized by a Committee acting *sua sponte*. All disciplinary investigations and proceedings are confidential, pursuant to Judiciary Law 90(10), until the Court publicly disciplines a respondent or issues an unsealing order, upon “good cause being shown.”

When a complaint is entered into the AGC’s database, the system generates a report of the respondent’s disciplinary history, and a staff attorney receives the matter for screening. The screening attorney makes a preliminary recommendation regarding jurisdiction to determine if the complaint should be referred to another public agency or grievance committee. If it appears that there is no misconduct, but there has been a breakdown in communication between the lawyer and the client, the AGC may refer the matter to be mediated by the New York City Bar Association. The screening attorney may also recommend rejection of a complaint for any one of several reasons, e.g., the complaint lacks merit, seeks legal advice, is an attempt to collect a debt, or involves a fee dispute. A mandatory mediation/arbitration program exists to deal with fee disputes in civil and matrimonial matters, where the amount in dispute is between \$1,000 and \$50,000. If the complaint involves the same substantial and material allegations that will be decided in pending litigation, the AGC may defer the matter pending resolution of the litigation, which may result in a judgment binding on the respondent. If the complaint alleges serious misconduct by an attorney, such as conversion of client funds, the AGC will immediately pursue an investigation.

If it appears from the complaint that a respondent may have engaged in serious professional misconduct, the screening attorney brings the matter to the attention of the Chief Attorney for direct assignment to a staff attorney. If the misconduct appears to be very serious, e.g., conversion of escrow funds, investigation of the matter is expedited.

The Chief Attorney approves all “first screening” dismissal recommendations made by the screening attorney. If a matter is not dismissed following the initial screening, a paralegal sends the complaint to the respondent for an answer to the allegations. Thereafter, the paralegal may forward the answer to the complainant for a reply, and the reply is sent to

the respondent. The paralegal may then prepare a summary of the allegations and defenses and refer the file to the initial screening attorney who performs a “second screening,” or further evaluation of the complaint, answer, and reply. On second screening, the screening attorney may recommend dismissal of the complaint for a variety of reasons.

A matter that warrants additional investigation is forwarded by the screening attorney to the Chief Attorney for review and assignment to a staff attorney. The assigned staff attorney may obtain further documentation using subpoenas when necessary, may interview witnesses including the complainant, and may question the respondent on the record and under oath (examination under oath/deposition).

When the investigation is complete, the staff attorney makes a recommendation to the Committee members for dismissal, or the imposition of a Letter of Advisement (non-disciplinary), Letter of Admonition (private discipline), or formal disciplinary proceedings against the respondent which could result in public discipline. The staff attorney’s supervisor (a Deputy Chief Attorney) and the Chief Attorney review all recommendations before they are submitted to the Committee members. One of the volunteer Committees must approve all post-investigation recommendations by a majority vote of those present at a monthly meeting (a quorum of two-thirds of the members is required to conduct business). When matters are dismissed on the merits, the closing letter to the complainant includes a brief explanation of the reason for the dismissal and indicates the complainant’s right to request reconsideration of the dismissal within 30 days.

Letters of Advisement [22 NYCRR 1240.2(i)]

The AGC issues a Letter of Advisement (Advisement) when an investigation reveals that a respondent has engaged in conduct requiring comment that, under the facts of the case, does not warrant the imposition of discipline. An Advisement is confidential, and does not in itself constitute discipline, but may be considered by the Committee or the Court in determining the action to be taken or the discipline to be imposed upon a subsequent finding of misconduct.

Letters of Admonition [22 NYCRR 1240.2(b)]

The AGC issues a Letter of Admonition (Admonition) when an investigation reveals that a respondent has violated New York’s Rules of Professional Conduct¹ (Rules), but not

¹ The Rules, which became effective April 1, 2009, were promulgated by a Joint Order of the Appellate Divisions of the State of New York, dated December 30, 2008, and signed by the Presiding Justice of each of the four departments. These Rules replaced the Lawyer’s Code of Professional Responsibility, previously referred to as the “Disciplinary Rules.”

seriously enough to warrant a formal disciplinary proceeding, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.7(d)(2)(v). For example, an Admonition may be issued if a respondent neglected only one legal matter and there were mitigating factors, whereas formal disciplinary proceedings would likely be commenced if multiple incidents of neglect are alleged.

Although it is private and remains confidential, an Admonition is a finding of professional misconduct and becomes a part of the respondent's permanent disciplinary record. The Admonition may be considered in determining the action to be taken or the discipline to be imposed upon a subsequent finding of misconduct against a respondent. When the AGC proposes to issue an Admonition, the respondent is afforded an opportunity to appear before the Committee to seek reconsideration. After an Admonition is issued, the respondent may file a motion with the Court to vacate it.

Applications to the Appellate Division

Public discipline requires an order of the Court. The AGC applies to the Court by motion or petition which includes the record of the disciplinary proceedings and the Court action requested. When the Court imposes a public sanction, it issues an order and a written opinion which is almost always published in the New York Law Journal and is otherwise public.² The order imposes a public sanction ranging from a public censure (no suspension) or short suspension to disbarment (seven-year bar from practicing). The Court may also impose a private sanction, dismiss a matter, or remand it back to the AGC for further proceedings.

Formal Disciplinary Proceedings [22 NYCRR 1240.7(d)(2)(vi)]

The Committee members authorize a formal disciplinary proceeding when there is credible evidence that a respondent engaged in professional misconduct warranting the imposition of public discipline, and that such discipline is appropriate to protect the public, maintain the integrity and honor of the profession, or deter others from committing similar misconduct.

A staff attorney's recommendation that formal proceedings be filed against a respondent must be based on a showing of professional misconduct reviewed by a Deputy Chief Attorney and approved by the Chief Attorney and the Committee members. Upon approval, the AGC serves the respondent with a petition in which it requests that the Court sustain

² If the Court imposes public discipline, the record of proceedings is available for public inspection at the First Department Committee on Character and Fitness located at 41 Madison Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, New York 10010.

the charges or, if there are factual or legal issues in dispute, to appoint a referee to hear the charges.³ Within 20 days after service of the respondent's answer or, if applicable, a reply, the AGC must file with the Court a "Statement of Disputed and Undisputed Facts." The respondent has 20 days to respond. In the alternative, within 30 days after service of the answer or, if applicable, a reply, the parties may file a Joint Stipulation of Disputed and Undisputed Facts or a statement that the pleadings raise no issue of fact requiring a hearing, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.8(a)(2). At any time after the filing of the petition, the parties may file a joint motion with the Court requesting the imposition of "Discipline by Consent," to avoid a hearing, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.8(a)(5). The motion must outline the agreed upon discipline to be imposed, which may include monetary restitution authorized by Judiciary Law 90(6-a), and the respondent's affidavit conditionally admitting the acts of professional misconduct.

Under the Court's rules, respondents have the right to appear, to be represented by counsel, to cross-examine staff witnesses, and to present their own witnesses and exhibits. The proceedings before the referee are transcribed, and are conducted in two separate parts, liability hearing and sanction (mitigation and aggravation evidence) hearing. A referee cannot proceed with a sanction hearing until the referee sustains at least one charge. A referee makes a finding on the charges shortly after the end of the liability hearing. The referee usually asks the parties to submit memoranda regarding liability and sanction. When the hearing (liability and sanction) is concluded, the referee is required to file with the Court a written "Report and Recommendation" containing findings of facts, conclusions of law, charges sustained or dismissed, and a recommendation as to sanction (referee's Report). The AGC or the respondent may file a motion with the Court to confirm or disaffirm the referee's Report. See NYCRR 1240.8(b).

Collateral Estoppel

Rather than pursue formal charges, in an appropriate case, the AGC may file a motion with the Court applying the doctrine of collateral estoppel, seeking an order finding a lawyer guilty of violating the Rules solely on the basis of prior civil or criminal court decisions without a further hearing. The Court may grant such a motion where the findings and issues in the prior action are identical to the disciplinary issues against the respondent and where a respondent has had a full and fair opportunity to litigate in the prior proceeding. In such

³ Hearings before referees are normally closed to the public, except in rare cases when a respondent waives confidentiality. The referees conduct hearings like trials, taking testimony and receiving exhibits in accordance with the rules of evidence. The referees have broad discretion as to what is considered relevant and admissible evidence. A transcript is made of the entire proceeding.

cases, a hearing is held before a referee on the issue of sanction only and the AGC or the respondent files a motion with the Court to confirm or disaffirm the referee's Report.

Interim Suspensions [22 NYCRR 1240.9]

Under certain circumstances, the Court may suspend a respondent from practice on an interim basis upon the AGC's motion. Such a finding may be based upon the respondent's default in responding to a petition or subpoena to appear for a formal interview, the respondent's admissions under oath of professional misconduct, the respondent's failure to comply with a lawful demand of the Court or the AGC, the respondent's willful failure to pay money owed to a client (which debt is demonstrated by an admission, judgment, or other clear and convincing evidence), or other uncontroverted evidence of professional misconduct.

Resignations [22 NYCRR 1240.10]

A respondent may apply to resign from the practice of law, while an investigation or proceeding is pending, by submitting to the Court an application admitting the nature of the charges or the allegations under investigation. When the matter includes allegations that the respondent has willfully misappropriated or misapplied money or property in the practice of law, the respondent must consent to the entry of an order to make monetary restitution pursuant to Judiciary Law 90(6-a). If the Court accepts the resignation, the respondent is disbarred from practicing law for seven years, pursuant to Judiciary Law 90(2).

Diversion [22 NYCRR 1240.11]

When in defense or as a mitigating factor in an investigation or formal disciplinary charges, the respondent raises a claim of impairment based on alcohol or substance abuse, or other mental or physical health issues, the Court, upon application of any person or on its own motion, may stay the investigation or proceeding and direct the respondent to complete an appropriate treatment and monitoring program approved by the Court. When the Court considers diversion to a monitoring program, it takes into account the nature of the alleged misconduct; whether the alleged misconduct occurred during a time period when the respondent suffered from the claimed impairment; and, whether diverting the respondent to a program is in the public interest.

Convictions [22 NYCRR 1240.12]

If an attorney is found guilty of any crime, the attorney must notify the grievance committee

having jurisdiction within 30 days, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.7(a)(2). The AGC must file a motion directly with the Court when an attorney has been convicted of a felony or “serious crime.” An attorney who is convicted of a felony in New York, or an analogous felony in another state or federal jurisdiction, ceases to be an attorney by operation of law, pursuant to Judiciary Law 90(4-a), and the AGC must apply to the Court to have the attorney’s name stricken from the roll of attorneys in New York. In cases where the Court, on the AGC’s motion, has determined that a lawyer has been convicted of a crime which is not analogous to a New York felony, but is a serious crime under New York’s Judiciary Law 90(4)(d), the Court assigns the case to a referee to hear the matter. Thereafter, the AGC or the respondent files a motion with the Court to confirm or disaffirm the referee’s Report. Serious crime cases result in the same range of sanctions imposed in other formal disciplinary proceedings.

Reciprocal Discipline [22 NYCRR 1240.13]

The AGC is required to file an application with the Court if an attorney has been found guilty of an ethical violation in another jurisdiction and “reciprocal discipline” is warranted. An attorney that is subject to the jurisdiction of the First Department, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.7(a)(2), is required to notify the Court and the AGC if discipline is imposed on the attorney by a foreign jurisdiction. The Court may discipline the attorney for the misconduct committed in the other jurisdiction unless it finds that the procedure in the foreign jurisdiction deprived the respondent of due process, that there was insufficient proof that the respondent committed the misconduct, or that the imposition of discipline would be unjust.

Incapacity [22 NYCRR 1240.14]

If an attorney suffers from a mental disability or condition, alcohol or substance abuse, or any other condition that renders him/her incapacitated from practicing law, the AGC or the attorney may apply to the Court for a determination that the attorney is incapacitated from practicing law. Applications by the attorney must include medical proof demonstrating the incapacity. In such cases, the Court may appoint a medical expert to examine the attorney and render a report. When the Court finds that an attorney is incapacitated, it enters an order immediately suspending the attorney from practicing and may stay the pending disciplinary proceeding or investigation.

Upon application by the AGC that includes a judicial determination that an attorney needs involuntary care or treatment in a facility for the mentally disabled, or is the subject of an order of incapacity, retention, commitment, or treatment pursuant to the Mental Hygiene

Law, the Court may enter an order immediately suspending the attorney from the practice of law.

Reinstatements [22 NYCRR 1240.16, 1240.17]

Upon motion of a respondent who has been disbarred or suspended, the Court may issue an order reinstating such respondent upon the respondent's showing, by clear and convincing evidence, that the respondent has complied with the disbarment order, the suspension order, or the order which removed the respondent from the roll of attorneys; the respondent has complied with the rules of the Court, and has the requisite character and fitness to practice law; and that it would be in the public interest to reinstate the respondent to the practice of law. A suspended respondent may apply for reinstatement after the expiration of the period of suspension or as otherwise directed by the Court, except that respondents suspended for a fixed term of six months or less may apply for reinstatement 30 days prior to the expiration of the term of suspension. A disbarred respondent may apply for reinstatement to practice after the expiration of seven years from the entry of the order of disbarment.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Although the AGC, in conjunction with the Committee, engages in multiple functions in a confidential manner that do not result in public discipline, many matters become public when the Court acts on motions made by the AGC. In 2025, the Court publicly disciplined 68 lawyers as follows: 11 interim suspensions, 18 disbarments, 5 disciplinary resignations by an attorney facing charges (equivalent to disbarment), 16 suspensions as discipline, 3 suspensions for medical disability, and 15 public censures.

The Court also suspended 1,008 attorneys after the AGC filed a motion to suspend those who failed to re-register and pay biennial registration fees.⁴

Interim Suspensions

The Court's rules provide that an attorney may be suspended from the practice of law pending consideration of charges against the attorney for: (1) a default in responding to pending charges of professional misconduct or failure to comply with lawful demands made in connection with an investigation; (2) a substantial admission under oath that the attorney has committed an act or acts of professional misconduct; (3) other uncontested evidence of professional misconduct; or (4) willful failure to pay money owed to a client evidenced by a judgment, or other clear and convincing evidence.

The most serious misconduct involves the theft or misappropriation of money belonging to clients. The Court has repeatedly stated that the intentional conversion of money that an attorney holds as a fiduciary or for a client requires disbarment, except in rare cases where there are exceptional mitigating circumstances. In such cases, the AGC will seek an immediate suspension of an attorney if there is sufficient evidence to justify the motion because such misconduct immediately threatens the public interest. In addition, the AGC will seek the suspension of an attorney who fails to cooperate in answering a complaint or does not comply with lawful demands for information or records. In 2025, the Court suspended 11 attorneys on an interim basis pending resolution of the charges against them in the following cases: *Matter of Zeeshan H. Zaidi*, 235 AD3d 127, *Matter of John J. Goggins III*, 235 AD3d 136, *Matter of Richard J. Wright*, 235 AD3d 159, *Matter of Alan J. Kaufman*, 238 AD3d 5, *Matter of Nicholas Patouris*, 238 AD3d 10, *Matter of Lamon D. Bland*, 238 AD3d 98, *Matter of Karla S. George*, 240 AD3d 29, *Matter of Robert D. Dunne*, 243 AD3d 79, *Matter of Ekaette P. Eddings*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04961, *Matter of Michael J. Biniakewitz*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05890, *Matter of Gisele M. Kalonzo*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06256.

⁴ [2025-Mass-Suspension-PC-List-04042025.pdf](#)

Disbarments

In 2025, the Court disbarred 18 attorneys. Two attorneys were disbarred after formal charges: *Matter of Wayne S. Kreger*, 235 AD3d 85; and *Matter of Inho A. Park*, 241 AD3d 63. Three attorneys were disbarred after petitions for reciprocal discipline: *Matter of Laura M. Rys*, 237 AD3d 82; *Matter of Vy T. Nguyen*, 241 AD3d 95; and *Matter of Alejandro R. Hernandez Jr.*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 07100. Three attorneys were disbarred pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b), when they failed to write to the AGC or Court to request a hearing or reinstatement within six months of their interim suspension: *Matter of Ghenya B. Grant*, 235 AD3d 132; *Matter of Michael O. King, Jr.*, 236 AD3d 14; and *Matter of John Spencer Jenkins*, 240 AD3d 18. One attorney was disbarred after an interim suspension in connection with serious crimes: *Matter of Michael J. Little*, 242 AD3d 49. Finally, the Court struck the names of nine attorneys after felony convictions: *Matter of Marina Trubitsky*, 239 AD3d 46; *Matter of Ronald B. Weisenberg*, 242 AD3d 53; *Matter of Richard D. Dorfman*, 243 AD3d 74; *Matter of Daniel P. Waxman*, 243 AD3d 84; *Matter of Matthew C. Browndorf*, 244 AD3d 23; *Matter of Tong-Hyon Suh*, 245 AD3d 111; *Matter of Eef Gerard Qing Long Van Emmerik*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04754; *Matter of Daphna Zekaria*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04962; and *Matter of Jennifer Jacques*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05891.

Disciplinary Resignations

An attorney is permitted to resign from the bar during an investigation by the AGC, or after the filing of charges, if the attorney submits an affidavit, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.10, acknowledging that the attorney knows the nature of the potential charges and cannot defend against them. A resignation is the equivalent of disbarment. In 2025, the Court accepted five resignations under 22 NYCRR 1240.10, and ordered their names stricken from the roll of attorneys: *Matter of Martin E. Elling*, 238 AD3d 1; *Matter of Michael Schwartz*, 241 AD3d 41; *Matter of Regina L. Darby*, 244 AD3d 133; *Matter of Steven C. Bennett*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 07099; and *Matter of Mark J. Nussbaum*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 07101.

Suspensions as Discipline

A suspension can be ordered by the Court as discipline and to protect the public. The Court imposes suspension for conviction of “serious crimes,” as defined in Judiciary Law 90(4)(d), for reciprocal discipline, and for misconduct. In 2025, the Court suspended 16 attorneys for periods ranging from three month(s) to three year(s): *Matter of Allison G. Kort*, 235 AD3d 35; *Matter of Tristan W. Gillespie*, 235 AD3d 91; *Matter of Robert A. Walters*, 236 AD3d 10; *Matter of Michael A. Jimenez*, 237 AD3d 87; *Matter of Ying*

Stafford, 238 AD3d 106; *Matter of Tomas Espinosa*, 239 AD3d 21; *Matter of Andrew S. Hurwitz*, 239 AD3d 27; *Matter of Scott L. Fenstermaker*, 239 AD3d 51; *Matter of John P. DeMaio*, 239 AD3d 193; *Matter of Ronald S. Salomon*, 240 AD3d 1; *Matter of Raymond C. Osterbye*, 240 AD3d 9; *Matter of Stefan M. Miller*, 241 AD3d 30; *Matter of William D. Perry*, 241 AD3d 34; *Matter of Matthew D. Barocas*, 244 AD3d 127; *Matter of Peter F. Edelman*, 245 AD3d 105; and *Matter of Angus Ni*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05893.

Suspensions for Medical Disability

The Court's rules provide that an attorney may be suspended if judicially declared incompetent or if the Court concludes that the attorney is incapacitated from continuing to practice law. Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.14(b), any pending disciplinary proceedings against the attorney shall be held in abeyance after the Court decides that the attorney is incapacitated to practice of law. In 2025, the Court suspended three attorneys on these grounds: *Matter of Tadashi N. Dumas*, 235 AD3d 41; *Matter of Edward A. Schneider*, 235 AD3d 144; and *Matter of Aaron Etra*, 238 AD3d 103.

Public Censures

The least severe form of public discipline that the Court may impose is a censure (see 22 NYCRR 1240.2[c]). In 2025, the Court issued public censures in 15 cases: *Matter of Vinoo P. Varghese*, 236 AD3d 40; *Matter of Matthew T. Wait*, 237 AD3d 110; *Matter of Carlos A. Martir, Jr.*, 238 AD3d 87; *Matter of Matthew B. Waller*, 239 AD3d 17; *Matter of Arnold P. Keith, Jr.*, 241 AD3d 85; *Matter of Alan M. Weintraub*, 243 AD3d 110; *Matter of Daniel D. Feldman*, 244 AD3d 8; *Matter of Brian M. Dratch*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05463; *Matter of Richard S. Lubliner*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05892; *Matter of Ryan H. Asher*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06254; *Matter of Anthony Matos*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06257; *Matter of Theodore Oshman*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06258; *Matter of Roberta D. Asher*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06651; *Matter of Robert J. Hantman*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06652; and *Matter of Rollyn G. Malig*, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06653.

Reinstatements

Judiciary Law 90 and rule 22 NYCRR 1240.16 permit attorneys to apply for reinstatement to the practice of law after a period of suspension, or seven years after disbarment. Attorneys who are suspended for six months or less may file an application for reinstatement pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.16(d). An attorney who has been suspended for a period of more than six months may apply to the Court for reinstatement upon the expiration of the period of suspension. An attorney who has been disbarred, or stricken from the roll of attorneys, may not apply for reinstatement until the expiration of seven

years from the effective date of disbarment. In 2025, the Court granted 12 petitions for reinstatement after discipline.

Dishonored Check Investigations

Deputy Chief Attorney Kevin P. Culley screens all complaints which the AGC receives, pursuant to the dishonored check reporting rule 22 NYCRR 1300; he also investigates and prosecutes other matters involving allegations of professional misconduct. Mr. Culley coordinates all necessary contacts with banking institutions and the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, supervises staff investigators in obtaining required banking and bookkeeping records, and recommends the disposition of the dishonored check matters. He has also delivered several presentations about proper escrow management at Continuing Legal Education courses and has testified as an expert witness for the District Attorney of New York County and has testified as an expert witness for the District Attorney of New York County.

Immigration Complaints

Staff attorney Jun Hwa Lee screens all immigration matters; she also investigates and prosecutes other matters involving allegations of professional misconduct. She coordinates the AGC's efforts with other agencies that target immigration fraud, and she supervises the AGC's use of immigration "Special Counsels" appointed by the Court to assist in our investigations. Ms. Lee participates in a task force called Protecting Immigrants New York (PINY) and speaks at various Continuing Learning Education courses regarding immigration matters.

PUBLIC DISCIPLINE CASES

Several of the cases prosecuted by staff attorneys which became a matter of public discipline in 2025 are reviewed below:

Matter of Matthew D. Barocas, 244 AD3d 127 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) Matthew Barocas, representing a landlord in Tennessee, obtained a default judgment against a tenant. Through levy actions on two separate banks, Barocas collected a total of approximately \$190,545.43, which was \$60,453.81 more than the judgment amount. He disbursed part of the funds (\$117,703.22) to his client (less his fees) and retained the \$60,405.81 in excess funds in his escrow account without obtaining a court order to release or disburse the levied funds. In addition, Barocas failed to comply with a court order to return the funds to the Court. Barocas entered a conditional guilty plea to the charges in Tennessee, resulting in a one-year suspension, with three months actively served and the remainder on probation. Based on the misconduct, the Committee moved for reciprocal discipline. Upon a finding that the Court does not have a policy of staying suspensions to impose a probationary period, the Court granted the Committee's motion for reciprocal discipline and ordered a one-year suspension. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Ekaette P. Eddings, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04961 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Ekaette Patty-Anne Eddings provided immigration-related legal services in Colorado. Despite receiving \$3,159 in advance payment for agreed upon work, and promising to commence said work immediately, Eddings failed to perform any meaningful work. Instead, she deposited \$2,609.00 of the unearned fee into her personal checking account and converted the remainder of the client's funds for personal use. Furthermore, she failed to cooperate with Colorado's investigation. As such, she was interimly suspended by the Colorado Supreme Court. Likewise, the Committee moved for her interim suspension in New York. Eddings opposed the motion, but failed to put forth any of the defenses available to her by statute. Instead, she argued that the Committee needed to conduct its own independent investigation before seeking discipline. The Court found that the Committee has no obligation to conduct its own independent investigation and therefore ordered an interim suspension. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Aaron Etra, 238 AD3d 103 (1st Dept 2025)

(Medical suspension.) Aaron Etra was previously found guilty of misconduct for conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice and conduct adversely reflecting on his fitness as a lawyer. The Court scheduled a sanction hearing. Prior to the hearing, the Committee

moved for Etra's medical suspension, based on multiple medical infirmities which rendered him unable to defend himself at the sanction hearing or to otherwise practice law. Etra consented to said suspension. Based on the foregoing, the Court immediately suspended Etra from the practice of law and stayed all disciplinary proceedings. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Scott L. Fenstermaker, 239 AD3d 51 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) Scott Fenstermaker was suspended for three years by the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine for, *inter alia*, failing to provide competent representation to criminal clients, harassing and unprofessional conduct toward prosecutors (including a physical confrontation), engaging in frivolous litigation, and making baseless accusations against court officials and Bar Counsel. The Committee filed a motion for reciprocal discipline and asked the Court to impose a three-year suspension. The Court found that while discipline was appropriate, a one-year suspension was more consistent with New York precedent for comparable misconduct. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Karla S. George, 240 AD3d 29 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) The AGC received a complaint that George misappropriated approximately \$275,000 as an estate executor. George intermittently failed to respond to Committee communications, and otherwise delayed, obfuscated and refused to turn over requested bank records. The Committee moved for her interim suspension. The Court agreed, and interimly suspended George, finding that her actions evinced a shocking disregard for the judicial system, and could only be interpreted as a deliberate and willful attempt to impede the Committee's investigation. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Tristan W. Gillespie, 235 AD3d 91 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) Tristan Gillespie was counsel of record in approximately 600 "tester" cases brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) against defendant hotels. The United States District Court for the District of Maryland found that during those cases, Gillespie misrepresented and inflated his billing hours in fee petitions, provided shifting explanations for his billing practices, and misled opposing counsel during settlement negotiations by representing that clients had incurred attorneys' fees that would never actually be collected due to side agreements. The Committee moved for reciprocal discipline and asked for a one-year suspension. The Court agreed, finding that the severity of Gillespie's misconduct and established precedent warranted a one-year suspension. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Allison G. Kort, 235 AD3d 35 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension). The Supreme Court of Missouri suspended Allison Kort from the practice of law for one year, stayed the suspension, and placed her on probation for a period of three years. This discipline was based on Kort's admission that she neglected five different client matters. The Committee filed a motion for reciprocal discipline. The Court followed its policy not to stay suspensions and suspended Kort from the practice of law for a one-year period, effective *nunc pro tunc* to her earlier suspension in Missouri. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Richard S. Lubliner, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05892 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) Richard S. Lubliner was publicly reprimanded by the Supreme Court of Florida owing to his failure to properly supervise his former law firm's non-attorney bookkeeper, which resulted in the bookkeeper stealing \$146,000 from the firm's trust account. Although his partner oversaw the accounting department, the Court found that Lubliner, as a managing attorney, was responsible for ensuring reasonable supervision of nonlawyer staff. The Committee filed a motion for reciprocal discipline. The Court, having found that none of the enumerated defenses to reciprocal discipline were applicable, issued a public censure. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Rollyn G. Malig, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06653 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure). In 2015, Rollyn Malig was convicted of a misdemeanor in Pennsylvania, arising out of her violation of an order of protection. Prior to the violation, Malig sought an order of protection against her then wife. The order, however, also forbid Malig from contacting her wife. As such, when she attempted to reconcile by email and text message, she violated the order of protection. Malig was convicted of same after a bench trial. Although the Court found that Malig's conviction constituted a "serious crime," it also found that her communications with her wife lacked malice. The Court therefore concluded that public censure was the appropriate sanction and approved joint motion for discipline by consent with the Committee. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Anthony Matos, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06257 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure). Anthony Matos was publicly reprimanded by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) for submitting cases to the USPTO's Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) without reading the cases and then relying on them in his brief. The TTAB found that the case law cited by Matos was either nonexistent, misquoted, or did not support his arguments. The Committee filed a motion for reciprocal discipline. The Court,

having found that none of the enumerated defenses to reciprocal discipline were applicable, issued a public censure. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Vinoo P. Varghese, 236 AD3d 40 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) Vinoo Varghese was publicly censured by the Court based on a joint motion for discipline by consent with the Committee. The misconduct involved sending two inappropriate emails to the judge presiding over his *pro se* matrimonial matter in August 2023: one was an *ex parte* email sent to the judge's personal email, and the other was sent after the judge had recused, using discourteous language and baselessly accusing the judge of racism and sexism. Varghese admitted the misconduct, attributing it to the highly charged personal nature of the custody dispute over his children. Considering his clean disciplinary history, cooperation, remorse, and the fact the misconduct occurred while representing himself in a personal matter, the Court agreed that public censure was the appropriate sanction. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Matthew B. Waller, 239 AD3d 17 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure). Matthew Waller was publicly censured by the Court, based on a joint motion for discipline by consent with the Committee. The misconduct involved improper notarization practices between March 2020 and June 2022 while representing incarcerated clients in lawsuits against the City of New York. Specifically, Waller admitted to: (1) signing his clients' names on over 200 settlement documents with their permission for expediency and then notarizing the documents as if the clients had signed them in his presence; and (2) notarizing two documents that clients signed outside of his presence. Given the non-venal nature of the misconduct and significant mitigation, the Court found public censure to be the appropriate sanction. (Staff Attorney Louis J. Bara)

Matter of Tadashi N. Dumas, 235 AD3d 41 (1st Dept. 2025)

(Medical suspension.) By motion, dated October 16, 2024, Tadashi N. Dumas, who was the subject of a pending investigation by the Committee, moved the Court for an order, pursuant to 22NYCRR §1240.14(b), declaring that Dumas was incapacitated from practicing law due to debilitating medical and mental health issues, immediately suspending him from the practice of law, and staying the Committee's investigation until such time as he would no longer be incapacitated. The Committee did not oppose Dumas's motion. By decision and order, dated January 7, 2025, the Court granted Dumas's motion, indefinitely suspending him from the practice of law until further order of the Court. (Staff Attorney Sean A. Brandveen)

Matter of Andrew S. Hurwitz, 239 AD3d 27 (1st Dept 2025)

(Six-month suspension.) In 2008, New York suspended Hurwitz for failure to register. In 2014, Pennsylvania likewise imposed an administrative suspension upon him. In 2022, Pennsylvania imposed a six-month suspension on Hurwitz for the unauthorized practice of law while suspended and returned him to administrative suspension status in 2023. By motion dated February 5, 2025, the AGC sought an order to suspend Hurwitz pursuant to the doctrine of reciprocal discipline. On May 20, 2025, the Court granted the AGC's motion and imposed a six-month suspension upon Hurwitz. His nonregistration suspension in NY remains extant. (Staff Attorney Andrea B. Carter)

Matter of Inho A. Park, 241 AD3d 63 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) Following a *sua sponte* investigation, and by letter dated October 29, 2015, the AGC expressed its concern that Park was practicing law under the name Law Offices of Andrew Park, P.C, while being admitted to practice under the name Inho A. Park. In February 2021, the AGC filed a Petition of Charges which reiterated the discrepancy between the name of his practice and the name under which he was admitted. The charges also alleged that Park falsely informed a client, who was in Korea, that it was illegal in the United States for the client to record their telephone conversation and that if the former client came back to the U.S., Park would report him to a prosecutor; Park also falsely notarized a client's affidavit outside of the client's presence. The AGC jointly moved with Park for a public censure, which the Court denied. Pursuant to further investigation into respondent's conduct during the course of the AGC's investigation, Park was served with a supplemental petition alleging that he offered his subordinate associate increased financial compensation and job security in exchange for falsely representing to the AGC that the associate, not Park, improperly notarized the client's signature on the affidavit at issue. The associate provided the AGC with two recorded conversations in which Park admitted improper notarization. In aggravation, Park had three prior admonitions for: 1) making threatening telephone calls to a rival attorney's paralegal; 2) neglect of a client's personal injury matter; and 3) improper attorney advertising. Finding that Park demonstrated a complete disregard for his legal and ethical responsibilities, the Court disbarred him by order dated June 10, 2025. (Staff Attorney Andrea B. Carter)

Matter of Wayne S. Kreger, 235 AD3d 85 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) The AGC initiated an investigation after the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection reported that a \$4,000 check drawn on Kreger's escrow account was dishonored for insufficient funds. The Committee determined that Kreger—facing more than \$1 million in tax liens—improperly used his escrow account as a personal and business

account to shield assets from tax authorities. It further found that he misappropriated a client's personal injury settlement for personal use, commingled client and personal funds, made impermissible cash withdrawals, and failed to maintain required records. Following a hearing on the Petition for Charges, the Referee rejected Kreger's claim that his conduct was unintentional and sustained all nine charges of professional misconduct. The Referee recommended disbarment, which the Court affirmed. By order dated February 4, 2025, Kreger was disbarred. (Deputy Chief Attorney Kevin P. Culley)

Matter of Mark J. Nussbaum, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 07101 (1st Dept 2025)

(Resignation.) Following his indictment by the District Attorney of New York County and charged with embezzlement of more than \$15,000,000 from his attorney escrow account, Nussbaum moved to resign from the practice of law based on his acknowledged "handling of funds in [his] IOLA account." The Committee opposed the motion on grounds that Nussbaum's affidavit failed to adequately acknowledge the specific allegations of professional misconduct against him in accordance with the Rules for Attorney Disciplinary Matters (22 NYCRR) 1240.10(a) and Appendix A to the rule. Notwithstanding the Committee's opposition, the Court determined that the rule did not require an acknowledgement of specific allegations of misconduct, and accepted Nussbaum's resignation. (Deputy Chief Attorney Kevin P. Culley)

Matter of Michael J. Biniakewitz, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05890 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Biniakewitz failed to comply with the AGC's lawful investigative demands that he submit written answers to nine client complaints. Upon the AGC's initial filing of a motion for his immediate suspension, he provided the answers. The AGC withdrew the motion and requested answers to follow-up questions and additional documentation. Biniakewitz failed to comply with these investigative demands and did not respond to the AGC's motion to seek his suspension. The Court determined that Biniakewitz's misconduct constituted an immediate threat to public interest and imposed an interim suspension upon him. (Staff Attorney Gillian C. Gamberdell)

Matter of Lamon D. Bland, 238 AD3d 98 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Bland failed to comply with the AGC's lawful investigative demands that he submit a written answer to a complaint as well as supporting documentation. He refused to participate in an examination under oath, as ordered by judicial subpoena, and did not respond to the AGC's motion to seek his suspension. The Court determined that Bland's misconduct constituted an immediate threat to public interest and imposed an interim suspension upon him. (Staff Attorney Gillian C. Gamberdell)

Matter of Gisele M. Kalonzo, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06256 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Kalonzo represented the seller in a real estate transaction and held the buyer's initial deposits in her attorney escrow account. The Court determined that there was sufficient evidence to support that Kalonzo had misappropriated and converted funds for her own benefit. As such conduct constituted an immediate threat to the public interest, the Court imposed an interim suspension upon her, effective November 13, 2025. The Court denied Kalonzo's initial request for diversion, finding that the seriousness of the alleged conflict weighed heavily against diversion. (Staff Attorney Gillian C. Gamberdell)

Matter of Angus Ni, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05893 (1st Dept 2025)

(Three-month suspension.) Ni contracted with an intellectual property service provider based in China to file United States trademark applications in the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). The non-lawyer employees of the provider made numerous filings without Ni's review or approval. Ni permitted the provider to sign his name to these filings, violating the USPTO's rule that only the named signatory enter signatures on documents filed with the USPTO. Based on these facts, the USPTO suspended Ni for five months. Upon the AGC's motion, the Court found that the USPTO is a foreign jurisdiction for purposes of imposing reciprocal discipline, but the Court's precedent warranted a shorter, three-month suspension. (Staff Attorney Gillian C. Gamberdell)

Matter of Michael Schwartz, 241 AD3d 41 (1st Dept 2025)

(Resignation.) In 2023, the Court imposed an interim suspension upon Schwartz based on uncontroverted evidence that he converted and misappropriated funds in connection with two separate real estate transactions. By motion dated October 21, 2024, Schwartz sought to resign as an attorney, which the AGC did not oppose. The Court accepted Schwartz's resignation and disbarred him *nunc pro tunc* to the date of his affidavit. The Court also directed him to make monetary restitution to his clients in the amounts of \$30,000.00 and \$35,915.48. (Staff Attorney Kelly A. Latham)

Matter of Michael O. King, Jr., 236 AD3d 14 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) In June 2024, the Court imposed an interim suspension on King for his failure to cooperate with the AGC's investigations. The complainants alleged that he failed to diligently represent them, neglected their matters, failed to communicate with them and failed to refund fees. In January 2025, the AGC moved to disbar King pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b), as he neither responded to nor appeared for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings within six months of the date of his suspension. On March 13,

2025, the Court granted the AGC's motion and immediately disbarred King. (Staff Attorney Jun H. Lee)

Matter of Ronald S. Salomon, 240 AD3d 1 (1st Dept 2025)

(18-month suspension.) In August 2021, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) suspended Salomon from practicing before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Immigration Courts for six months based on findings of professional misconduct. Salomon had engaged in contumelious or otherwise obnoxious conduct by loudly accusing a legal assistant of antisemitism with no proof to substantiate his claims. Salomon thereafter admitted that he engaged in the unauthorized practice of law or aided in the unauthorized practice of law before the Immigration Courts in violation of the August 2021 suspension order and received another six-month suspension. The AGC, who sought to impose reciprocal discipline, argued that circumstances called for an upward departure to an 18-month suspension due to Salomon's significant disciplinary history, which includes his admonishment in 2016 for virtually the same misconduct that is at issue here. The Court agreed with the AGC's argument and suspended Salomon for 18 months. (Staff Attorney Jun H. Lee)

Matter of Regina L. Darby, 244 AD3d 133 (1st Dept 2025)

(Resignation.) Darby became the subject of an AGC investigation involving allegations that the dismissal of a commercial matter was, in part, due to her failure to appear in court. A second allegation was that Darby commenced an action, subsequently advised the client that she could no longer provide representation, and then failed to formally withdraw as counsel. Darby attested that she could not successfully defend against the allegations, and she submitted her resignation, which the Court accepted. (Deputy Chief Attorney Vitaly Lipkansky)

Matter of John P. DeMaio, 239 AD3d 193 (1st Dept 2025)

(Six-month suspension.) In 2023, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit publicly reprimanded DeMaio for misconduct before that court. Specifically, he ceased representation without permission from the court, provided inappropriate responses or failed to respond to court orders, assigned responsibility to respond to court orders to another attorney without authority to do so, failed to file required status reports, and failed to remedy defective responses to court orders. The AGC sought a six-month suspension and argued that the upward departure was due to the fact that the Court publicly censured DeMaio in 2021 and admonished him four times. Moreover, the AGC referred to the

Second Circuit’s finding that DeMaio continued his misconduct after being warned of potential sanctions and failed to acknowledge that his conduct was inappropriate. The Committee also noted that DeMaio failed to advise the AGC of the discipline imposed by the Second Circuit as required by 22 NYCRR 1240.13(d), which the Court found to be an aggravating factor. By order dated May 20, 2025, the Court granted the AGC’s motion and imposed a six-month suspension. (Deputy Chief Attorney Vitaly Lipkansky)

Matter of Peter F. Edelman, 245 AD3d 105 (1st Dept 2025)

(Three-month suspension.) The AGC commenced an investigation against Edelman after the Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection advised that a \$1,300 check issued from his escrow account was returned for insufficient funds. The AGC thereafter issued an admonition, which Edelman moved to vacate. The Court then ordered the AGC to file charges. The petition of charges was based upon Edelman’s engagement in professional misconduct by maintaining his earned legal fees in an IOLA account and paying his personal and business obligations directly from that account, thus using the account as his *de facto* business and personal account in violation of rule 1.15(b)(1); by failing to maintain a ledger or similar record of disbursements and deposits for the IOLA account in violation of rules 1.15(d)(1)(i), (ii), and (2); and, as a result, engaging in “conduct that adversely reflects on [his] fitness as a lawyer” in violation of rule 8.4(h). A Court-appointed Referee conducted a hearing on the charges, as well as a sanctions hearing, and recommended a two-year suspension for Edelman. The Court found the Referee’s recommendation excessive because there was no evidence that he misused his escrow account as a personal account to shield personal funds from creditors. By order dated August 21, 2025, the court imposed a three-month suspension instead. (Deputy Chief Attorney Vitaly Lipkansky)

Matter of Marina Trubitsky, 239 AD3d 46 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) By order entered March 26, 2020, this Court immediately suspended Trubitsky from the practice of law, based on her failure to cooperate with the AGC’s investigation of over 20 complaints. On September 18, 2024, Trubitsky was convicted, upon her plea of guilty, in Supreme Court, New York County, of grand larceny in the second degree in violation of New York Penal Law § 155.40(1), a class C felony. The conviction was based on her 2016 theft of over \$80,000 from Necessity Funding Partners, LLC. In December 2024, the ACG moved to strike Trubitsky from the roll of attorneys on the ground that she was convicted of a felony as defined by Judiciary Law 90(4)(e). Trubitsky requested that her disbarment be made *nunc pro tunc* to the date of her interim suspension, which the Court denied. By order dated May 1, 2025, the Court granted the AGC’s motion to strike retroactive to the date of her conviction. (Deputy Chief Attorney Vitaly Lipkansky)

Matter of Nicholas Patouris, 238 AD3d 10 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) A client, whom Patouris represented in a property sale, complained to the AGC that Patouris received the proceeds from the sale, but failed to turn the funds over to the client. In a separate matter, a complainant alleged that Patouris wrote unauthorized checks to himself while serving as co-executor of an estate. Patouris failed to cooperate with the AGC's investigation into the allegations, and on April 1, 2025, the Court granted the AGC's motion to immediately suspend him. (Staff Attorney Norma I. Lopez)

Matter of Roberta D. Asher, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06651 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) The AGC brought a petition of charges (seven charges) against Asher, alleging professional misconduct stemming from her handling of three separate client matters. Specifically, the charges included lack of diligence and promptness in representing a client; neglect of client matters; failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and to comply with a client's reasonable requests for information; advancing a frivolous claim and causing delay in litigation; and failure to supervise associates and nonlawyers. Subsequent to the filing of the petition of charges, the parties jointly moved, and the Court granted their motion for discipline on consent in the form of public censure, with Asher admitting that her actions violated all seven charges alleged by the AGC. The Court also considered such stipulated factors in aggravation as Asher's two prior instances of private discipline for failure to advise and warn a client of the possibility that she would not file a lawsuit on his behalf unless he had a significant injury and for failure to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, failure to keep a client reasonably informed, and failure to respond to client's reasonable requests for information, in connection with her personal injury matter. The Court also noted such stipulated facts in mitigation as Asher's cooperation with the AGC's investigation, lack of a desire for personal profit, lack of dishonesty towards the clients, adversaries, or the courts, Asher's 40 years of practice with an overall positive reputation in the legal community, and anticipated reforms to her practice to avoid repetition of the misconduct in the future. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Ryan H. Asher, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06254 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) The AGC brought a petition of charges (five charges) against Asher, stemming from his mishandling of three separate client matters. Specifically, the charges included lack of diligence and promptness in representing a client; neglect of client matters; failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of the matter and to comply with a client's reasonable requests for information; failure to withdraw from representation

when he was discharged; failure to take steps to avoid prejudice to a client upon termination of representation; and engaging in conduct that adversely reflected on his fitness as a lawyer. During the pendency of the charges petition, the parties jointly moved for discipline on consent, requesting the Court to impose a public censure, which the Court granted in light of Asher's admission that his actions violated all five charges alleged in the AGC's petition. The Court also considered Asher's prior private discipline for neglecting a client's matter and failing to notify and obtain consent from the client regarding strategic actions as an aggravating factor. The Court also noted such stipulated factors in mitigation as Asher's cooperation with the AGC's investigation, lack of desire for personal profit, lack of dishonesty toward the clients, adversaries, and the courts, Asher's 26 years of practice in personal injury litigation with an overall positive reputation in the community, as well as anticipated reforms to Asher's practice to avoid repetition of such misconduct in the future. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Robert D. Dunne, 243 AD3d 79 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) In April 2024, the AGC was notified by the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection (LFCP) that a payment made from Dunne's IOLA account was returned due to insufficient funds. The AGC, therefore, commenced its investigation, including a request for Dunne to provide his IOLA account bank records for the six-month period prior to the dishonored check. Despite the AGC's efforts to gain Dunne's cooperation from April to November 2024, including service of a judicial subpoena, Dunne failed to comply with the AGC's lawful investigative demands, failed to appear for an Examination Under Oath (EUO), and failed to produce specified documents. Thus, the AGC moved for Dunne's interim suspension pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(1) and (3). The Court granted the AGC's motion on July 17, 2025, suspending Dunne from the practice of law, effective immediately. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Alejandro R. Hernandez Jr., AD3d, 2025 NY Slip Op 07100 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) On July 12, 2024, the State Bar of Texas disbarred Hernandez based on nine client complaints alleging, *inter alia*, association with lawyers not in Hernandez's law firm and division of legal fees with them as well as the division of legal fees not in proportion to the professional services rendered by each attorney, without consent of the clients. The complaints were also based on Hernandez's failure to keep the clients reasonably informed of the status of their matters and neglect of their files. On November 22, 2023, the U.S. Department of Justice's Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) imposed reciprocal discipline based on Hernandez's disbarment in Texas. By January 9, 2025, Hernandez was reciprocally disbarred by the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, based on his

Texas disbarment. Hernandez did not report his disbarment in Texas, nor the reciprocal disbarments imposed by the BIA and the New Mexico Supreme Court to the AGC or the Court. On September 15, 2025, the AGC brought a motion seeking an order pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13, Judiciary Law §90(2), and the doctrine of reciprocal discipline, to disbar Hernandez for the underlying misconduct. The Court granted the motion on December 18, 2025, disbaring Hernandez from the practice of law in the State of New York, effective immediately. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Carlos A. Martir, Jr., 238 AD3d 87 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) In 2021, Martir was hired to obtain and review a client's transcripts from a prior hearing related to his petition to expunge his criminal record. Upon receipt and review of the transcripts, Martir was to make an application to the New Jersey Commission on Pardons to enforce the expungement of the client's criminal record, as it was still appearing on his background checks. Martir submitted a transcript request three months after being retained and failed to follow up on the status of the transcript thereafter. In addition, Martir failed to adequately communicate with his client and to keep him apprised of the status of his matter, and failed to reply to the client's phone calls, emails, and text messages requesting the status of the matter. In March 2022, frustrated by Martir's lack of communication, his client filed a civil complaint against him, as a result of which a judgment was entered against Martir on default. Martir failed to pay the judgment and did not appeal it. Martir did not pay judgment until the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (Board) initiated its investigation against him. In 2024, Martir joined the Board in a petition requesting discipline by consent in the form of a public reprimand, which was administered on July 18, 2024. Based on such discipline from a foreign jurisdiction, the AGC brought a petition for reciprocal discipline pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13, which was granted on April 8, 2025, with Martir being publicly censured. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Vy T. Nguyen, 241 AD3d 95 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) In August 2023, the Commission for Lawyer Discipline of the State Bar of Texas filed a petition against Nguyen stemming from five separate complaints filed against her, alleging, *inter alia*, failure to communicate with clients regarding the status of their matters, failure to explain a mediated settlement agreement to her client to the extent necessary to allow him to make an informed decision about it, missing several deadlines, neglecting client matters, and failure to remit attorney's fees to opposing counsel in contravention of a court order. Following an evidentiary hearing of May 8, 2024, the Evidentiary Panel of the State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee concluded that Nguyen

violated various disciplinary rules and that the appropriate discipline for same was disbarment from the practice of law in the State of Texas. In determining the sanction, the panel found the following aggravating factors: Nguyen's prior disciplinary record, including two prior private reprimands; her dishonest or selfish motive; her pattern of misconduct; her multiple violations; her submission of false evidence, false statements, or other deceptive practices during the disciplinary process; her refusal to acknowledge the wrongful nature of her conduct; the vulnerability of her victims; and her substantial experience in the practice of law. The panel found no mitigating factors. The Texas Board of Disciplinary Appeals affirmed the panel's judgment in all respects. Upon the AGC's application pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13 for reciprocal discipline, the Court granted the AGC's motion, disbaring Nguyen from the practice of law in the State of New York, effective June 17, 2025. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Raymond C. Osterbye, 240 AD3d 9 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) New Jersey imposed two public reprimands upon Osterbye in 2020 and 2022 based on petitions for discipline by consent. In view of Osterbye's disciplinary history, failure to comply with the conditions of prior court orders, and failure to cooperate with the New Jersey Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE), the Disciplinary Review Board of the Supreme Court of New Jersey (DRB) suspended Osterbye for six months effective August 21, 2024, with conditions precedent to his reinstatement. The AGC subsequently filed a motion for reciprocal discipline pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13, requesting an upward departure to a one-year suspension based on Osterbye's two prior public reprimands of which he never apprised the AGC or the Court, and his prior suspension in New York for failure to register, in violation of Judiciary Law 468-a. The Court granted the AGC's motion, and suspended Osterbye for a period of one year, effective 30 days from the May 29, 2025 order. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Ying Stafford, 238 AD3d 106 (1st Dept 2025)

(Two-year suspension.) Stafford, whose legal career focused on capital defense litigation, represented John Burke, an alleged hitman for John Gotti, Jr., a member of the Gambino crime family, in his underlying criminal matter in the EDNY, and his appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (Second Circuit), which affirmed the conviction. After the Second Circuit issued its decision, Stafford drafted a petition for certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States. However, she failed to file the petition by the applicable deadline. After realizing her mistake, Stafford sent Burke what she claimed was the Supreme Court's denial of the petition, but which was in reality a forgery with a false docket number. In 2019, the Second Circuit referred Stafford to its Committee

on Admissions and Grievances for investigation of her conduct and preparation of a report. The Second Circuit Committee ultimately recommended, and the Second Circuit approved, a two-year suspension imposed *nunc pro tunc* to the Second Circuit's July 9, 2019 order interimly suspending Stafford for conduct "unbecoming of a member of the bar" and an attorney's fundamental duty of candor, and ordered that Stafford be permitted to resume practicing before the court, pointing to "significant mitigating factors," including but not limited to a genuine fear of retribution from her former client, personal and financial issues, and genuine remorse regarding her conduct. Based on the Second Circuit's decision, the EDNY initiated its own reciprocal proceedings against Stafford, ultimately suspending her for two years from the practice of law in that court, commencing on January 5, 2023. Upon being notified of the Second Circuit's suspension, the AGC sought an order pursuant to the doctrine of reciprocal discipline, 22 NYCRR 1240.13, and Judiciary Law 90(2), seeking a reciprocal two-year suspension. The Court granted the AGC's motion on May 1, 2025 to the extent of suspending Stafford for two years *nunc pro tunc* to November 6, 2019, the date on which the Second Circuit referred Stafford to its Committee on Admissions and Grievances. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Matthew T. Wait, 237 AD3d 110 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) On August 13, 2024, the Supreme Court of New Jersey publicly reprimanded Wait for nonvenal escrow related misconduct. On December 12, 2024, the AGC brought a motion seeking an order pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13, Judiciary Law 90(2), and the doctrine of reciprocal discipline, to impose public censure in New York for the misconduct underlying Wait's discipline in New Jersey. Wait did not submit any opposition to the AGC's motion, and the Court found that the AGC correctly argued that no defenses to a reciprocal discipline motion were available to him and there was ample proof of misconduct in the form of Wait's admissions and corroborating documentary evidence, in violation of New York Rules of Professional Conduct, rules 1.15(a) and 1.15(d). Therefore, the Court agreed that a public censure was the appropriate reciprocal discipline and was commensurate with the public reprimand imposed in New Jersey. (Staff Attorney Diana Neyman)

Matter of Steven C. Bennett, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 07099 (1st Dept 2025)

(Resignation.) Bennett voluntarily resigned from the Connecticut bar after the Connecticut Statewide Grievance Committee commenced an audit of his attorney escrow account. The AGC received notice of the resignation and consulted with Bennett, who agreed to resign in New York pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.10 rather than face a motion pursuant to the doctrine of reciprocal discipline. By order dated December 18, 2025, the Court accepted

the disciplinary resignation, and disbarred Bennett from the practice of law. (Staff Attorney Gina M. Patterson)

Matter of Brian M. Dratch, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05463 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) The Court publicly censured Dratch pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.13 and the doctrine of reciprocal discipline, finding that he had been disciplined by a foreign jurisdiction. Dratch received a public reprimand in New Jersey for his conduct in a personal injury lawsuit on behalf of an incarcerated inmate. Dratch failed to: 1) inform the client that he had filed a claim against the State; 2) respond to a letter from the client requesting an update; 3) seek to withdraw as counsel despite advising the client that he was uncertain whether the client had a case any longer; 4) fulfill the State's request for medical records; 5) depose the client's treating physician at the prison and 6) either follow up with the client regarding the State's summary judgment motion or file opposition. Dratch thus signed an Affidavit of Consent in Support of Motion for Discipline by Consent in which he admitted to violating various rules including 1.1(a), 1.3, 1.4(b), and 1.16(d). (Staff Attorney Gina M. Patterson)

Matter of Tomas Espinosa, 239 AD3d 21 (1st Dept. 2025)

(Three-year suspension.) The Court imposed a three-year suspension pursuant to the doctrine of reciprocal discipline as set forth in 22 NYCRR 1240.13, predicated upon the discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Espinosa's New Jersey suspension was predicated upon the determination that he violated numerous provisions of the disciplinary rules in two Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) cases during which he improperly shared fees with a non-lawyer, continued misguided litigation with no chance of success, charged excessive or unreasonable fees, engaged in conflicts of interest, and paid his wife for paralegal services out of the litigation fund. (Staff Attorney Gina M. Patterson)

Matter of Daniel D. Feldman, 244 AD3d 8 (1st Dept. 2025)

(Public censure.) The AGC filed a motion for reciprocal discipline based on the Grievance Commission of Maine's imposition of a public reprimand and six months' probation imposed upon Feldman. His misconduct stemmed from his failure to provide proper representation to a client charged with criminal matters, causing arrest and immigration consequences for the client. As probation is not available in New York as a disciplinary measure, no such request was made to the Court in this reciprocal motion. The Court granted the Committee's motion and ordered Feldman publicly censured. (Staff Attorney Gina M. Patterson)

Matter of John S. Jenkins, 240 AD3d 18 (1st Dept. 2025)

(Disbarment.) After Jenkins repeatedly failed to answer a complaint as directed by the AGC and was suspended in Florida for conversion and misappropriation of client funds, the Court granted the Committee's motion for immediate suspension pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(a)(3) and (5). Jenkins then failed to respond to the Committee's motion to appear for further investigatory or disciplinary proceedings within six months of his suspension. Accordingly, the Court granted the Committee's motion to disbar him pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b). (Staff Attorney Gina M. Patterson)

Matter of Edward A. Schneider, 235 AD3d 144 (1st Dept 2025)

(Medical suspension.) The Court granted the Committee's unopposed motion to immediately suspend Schneider pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.14(b), based on his treating physician's confirmation that he has dementia. The physician attested to Schneider's cognitive decline in attention and concentration and concluded that he was unable to practice law. (Staff Attorney Orlando Reyes)

Matter of Arnold P. Keith, Jr., 241 AD3d 85 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) Keith entered into a stipulation in which he admitted to falsely certifying on his attorney biannual registration statement that he completed the required continuing legal education (CLE) credits for an attorney registration cycle, that he retained the required certificates for those CLEs, and that he did not actually complete the credits he had falsely certified he completed. Based on the foregoing, after a hearing on sanction only, the Court publicly censured Keith. (Staff Attorney Christopher S. Ronk)

Matter of Theodore Oshman, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06258 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) Oshman was publicly reprimanded in New Jersey for negligently misappropriating client funds and knowingly practicing law in New Jersey while administratively ineligible to do so. The Committee, by motion, sought Oshman's reciprocal discipline of public censure on the ground of his having been similarly disciplined in New Jersey. Oshman did not appear, and the Court publicly censured him in New York. (Staff Attorney Christopher S. Ronk)

Matter of Richard J. Wright, 235 AD3d 159 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) The Committee, by motion, sought to have Wright suspended on an interim basis due to his failure to cooperate with its investigation into his alleged misconduct connected to his attorney escrow account. In granting the Committee's motion,

the Court found that Wright provided only minimal, incomplete responses to the AGC's legitimate requests for information and documentation related to his escrow account. (Staff Attorney Christopher S. Ronk)

Matter of Alan J. Kaufman, 238 A.D.3d 5 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Kaufman failed to cooperate with the AGC's investigation into allegations that he ignored a client's matter and then refused to return her \$350 retainer. He thereafter disregarded the AGC's judicial subpoenas and did not explain his failure to appear. The Court found that Kaufman's misconduct threatened the public interest and granted the AGC's motion for interim suspension, effective April 1, 2025. (Staff Attorney Yvette A. Rosario)

Matter of Laura M. Rys, 237 AD3d 82 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) In April 2024, the Supreme Court of New Jersey suspended Rys for two years for practicing law while suspended and failing to cooperate with disciplinary authorities. The Supreme Court of New Jersey noted that Rys had remained suspended from the practice of law in New Jersey since 2016. The AGC moved for reciprocal discipline in the form of a disbarment because the record showed that Rys repeatedly engaged in the unauthorized practice of law while suspended. The Court, after considering the gravity of Rys's misconduct, departed from the discipline issued in New Jersey and ordered Rys disbarred. (Staff Attorney Eric Sun)

Matter of Matthew C. Browndorf, 244 AD3d 23 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Browndorf was convicted, upon his plea of guilty, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, of the willful failure to collect or pay over tax, and was sentenced to a prison term of 48 months, three years of supervised release and restitution of \$831,260.06. The Court deemed the crime of which Browndorf was convicted to be a "serious crime," within the meaning of Judiciary Law §90(4)(d), and suspended him on an interim basis. Thereafter, he pleaded guilty, in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, to wire fraud and money laundering for which he was sentenced to two concurrent 66-month terms of imprisonment, three years of post-release supervision, and restitution of \$1,351,795.64. The Court determined that the federal felonies of which Browndorf had been convicted corresponded to the New York felonies of scheme to defraud and grand larceny, warranting his automatic disbarment. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Richard D. Dorfman, 243 AD3d 74 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Dorfman pleaded guilty, in the 15th Judicial Circuit in Florida, to the felony of Vehicular Homicide for which he was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment followed by seven years probation. The conviction stemmed from Dorman's use of his car's "full self-driving" feature and excessive speeding by which he caused the death of another motorist. In a case of first impression, the Court determined that the Florida statute was "essentially similar" to the New York felony of Manslaughter in the Second Degree [Penal Law §125.15(1)] warranting Dorfman's automatic disbarment. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Martin E. Elling, 238 AD3d 1 (1st Dept 2025)

(Resignation.) Elling was convicted, after his guilty plea in the United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia, of the felony of destruction, alteration, or falsification of records in federal investigations and bankruptcy. He admitted to having deleted documents with the intent to impede state and federal investigations. The Court deemed the offense of which Elling was convicted to be a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law §90(4)(d), and accepted his disciplinary resignation whereby his name was struck from the roll of attorneys. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of John J. Goggins, 235 AD3d 136 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Goggins pleaded guilty, in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, to willful failure to file federal tax returns for the tax years 2018 through 2021, a misdemeanor. Goggins admitted that he knew he earned an income and was required to file federal income taxes for those years and failed to do so. He also admitted that, as a result, he owed \$3,109,576 in taxes. Goggins was sentenced to a term of imprisonment of eight months and, upon his release, was directed to be on supervised release. The Court found that the offense of which Goggins was convicted was a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law §90(4)(d), ordered his interim suspension, and remanded the matter for a hearing on the issue of sanction. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Ghenya B. Grant, 235 AD3d 132 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) Grant was interrimly suspended based on allegations that she converted \$79,000 in funds that was tendered to her in her capacity as a referee in a foreclosure action and her failure to cooperate with the Committee's investigation. The Court granted the Committee's motion for her disbarment based on her failure to appear or respond within six months from the date of the interim suspension, pursuant to 22 NYCRR 1240.9(b). The

Court rejected respondent's argument that she had been waiting for the Committee to contact her and denied her request for additional time to provide the requested documentation. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Robert J. Hantman, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 06652

(Public censure.) Hantman pleaded guilty, in the Supreme Court of New York, New York County, to Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, a class "A" misdemeanor, for which he was sentenced to a \$250 surcharge and a one-year conditional discharge. Hantman's conviction stemmed from his failure to timely file his 2019 New York State income tax return and pay the tax due. Prior to pleading guilty, Hantman paid \$168,842.17, the entirety of his remaining New York tax liabilities for 2016 through 2019. The Court granted a joint motion for discipline by consent that Hantman be publicly censured, taking into consideration factors in mitigation including his remorse and contrition, his acceptance of responsibility, and his prior unblemished disciplinary history. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Jennifer Jacques, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 05891

(Stricken.) Jacques pleaded guilty, in Supreme Court, New York County, to grand larceny in the second degree, scheme to defraud in the first degree, and offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree, all felonies. The misconduct stemmed from Jacques' fraudulent acquisition of affordable housing in Manhattan via the NYC Department of Housing, Preservation, and Development. Jacques admitted that she was not eligible for the housing she obtained, as well as the hundreds of thousands of dollars in benefits she received by providing false information on applications to rent and own housing units. She was sentenced to a term of probation of five years, 500 hours of community service and a \$300 surcharge. The Court found that Jacques' conviction was a basis for automatic disbarment, pursuant to Judiciary Law §90(4), and accordingly, struck her name from the roll of attorneys. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Michael A. Jimenez, 237 AD3d 87 (1st Dept 2025)

(Three-year suspension.) Jimenez pleaded guilty, in the Superior Court of New Jersey, to Endangering the Welfare of a Child (possession of child sexual exploitation/abuse material), and was sentenced to two years' probation. The Court found that the offense of which Jimenez was convicted constituted a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) and remanded the matter for a hearing on the issue of sanction. The referee found that Jimenez had pleaded guilty to possessing 100 or more items of "child pornography," at least some of which depicted children engaged in sexual intercourse and that he knew it

was illegal to possess those materials. In mitigation, Jimenez had no criminal or disciplinary history and submitted impressive character evidence. The Court agreed with the referee's recommendation of a three-year suspension and conditioned Jimenez's reinstatement on passing an independent forensic examination. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Michael J. Little, 242 AD3d 49 (1st Dept 2025)

(Disbarment.) Little was convicted in the SDNY, following a jury trial, of, *inter alia*, obstructing and impeding the due administration of the internal revenue laws, conspiracy to defraud the IRS, aiding and assisting the preparations of false IRS forms, all felonies, and willful failure to file individual income tax returns, a misdemeanor. He was sentenced to 20 months incarceration, followed by one year of supervised release, and directed to pay over \$4 million in restitution. The Court found that disbarment was the appropriate sanction given the level of criminal conduct, dishonesty, and the lack of any significant mitigation found by the referee. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Stefan M. Miller, 241 AD3d 30 (1st Dept 2025)

(Four-month suspension.) Miller pleaded guilty, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, to Criminal Contempt in the Second Degree and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge. The Court found that Miller's conviction constituted a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law §90(4)(d). The misconduct stemmed from his violation of an order of protection when he visited his paramour, which resulted in an altercation between them. The Court granted a joint motion for discipline by consent and suspended Miller for four months, taking into consideration his prior unblemished disciplinary history, his cooperation with both the NY County DA's Office and the Committee, and his expressed remorse. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of William D. Perry, 241 AD3d 34 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) Perry was convicted following a jury trial, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, of Criminal Contempt in the Second Degree, Stalking in the Fourth Degree, and Harassment in the First Degree, for which he was sentenced to three years' probation. The conviction stemmed from his violating two orders of protection in favor of his former girlfriend through the use of social media to create approximately 17 fake accounts for which he used account names that could easily be mistaken to be social media accounts of his former girlfriend, and used the fake accounts to make it appear that the content of the posts came from his former girlfriend. The Court found that Perry's conviction constituted a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law

§90(4)(d). The Court disaffirmed the referee’s recommendation of a six-month suspension and ordered Perry suspended for one year, given the egregious nature of his criminal misconduct, and his failure to admit to any wrongdoing or express remorse. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Tong-Hyon Suh, 245 AD3d 111 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Suh pleaded guilty, in the SDNY, to Attempted Enticement, for which he was sentenced to a prison term of 120 months and 10 years of supervised release. His plea established that by telephone and by a messaging and chat application and platform, he communicated with someone whom he believed to be a 14-year-old living in another state for the purpose of soliciting her agreement to engage in various sexual encounters, including sexual intercourse. The Court determined that Suh’s conviction was analogous to the New York felony of disseminating indecent material to minors in the first degree, warranting his automatic disbarment. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Eef Gerard Q. Van Emmerik, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04754 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Van Emmerik pleaded guilty, in the Supreme Court, New York County, to Burglary in the Third degree, a felony, for which he was sentenced to 30 days incarceration and a full and final order of protection was issued in favor of the victim. The Court subsequently struck Van Emmerik’s name from the roll of attorneys ruling that, by operation of law, he was automatically disbarred as a result of his New York State felony conviction. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Robert A. Walters, 236 AD3d 10 (1st Dept 2025)

(One-year suspension.) Walters was convicted, in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, following a bench trial, of Criminal Contempt, for which he was sentenced to 30 days incarceration. His misconduct stemmed from his violation of protective orders which applied to police reports in a criminal matter in which Walters represented the defendant. Walters’ incarcerated client was found to have been in possession of the police reports which were used in an attempt to tamper with a witness. The Court found the conviction to be a “serious crime,” as defined by Judiciary Law 90(4)(d), and suspended Walters for one year, taking into consideration his failure express remorse and his extensive disciplinary history, which included a suspension and the issuance of Letters of Admonition. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Daniel P. Waxman, 243 AD3d 84 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Waxman pleaded guilty, in Rockland County Supreme Court, to the felony of Attempted Dissemination of Indecent Materials to Minors in the First Degree, for which he was sentenced to five years' probation, a \$300 surcharge, a \$50 sex offender registration fee and a \$1,000 supplementary fee. Waxman admitted that he used a messaging application on the internet to communicate with an individual whom he believed to be 14 years of age, but was actually an undercover investigator, with the intent to engage in sexual conduct. The Court ruled that his New York felony conviction was a proper predicate for automatic disbarment, pursuant to Judiciary Law 90(4)(b). (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Alan M. Weintraub, 243 AD3d 110 (1st Dept 2025)

(Public censure.) Weintraub pleaded guilty, in the Criminal Court of the City of New York, to Possession of Usurious Loan Records, a class "A" misdemeanor, for which he was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge and a \$1,000 fine. The conviction stemmed from his involvement in a usurious loan operation and his possession of a document containing a list of individuals and the amounts of money each owed. The Court granted a joint motion for discipline by consent which recommended the imposition of a public censure. The Court considered that Weintraub had no prior disciplinary history, his misconduct did not involve the misuse or misappropriation of client funds, his cooperation with the criminal justice system, and his acceptance of responsibility for his misconduct. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Ronald B. Weisenberg, 242 AD3d 53 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Weisenberg pleaded guilty, in Supreme Court, New York County, to Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, a class "D" felony, for which he was sentenced to a 10-year term of probation and was required to register as a sex offender. Weisenberg's conviction stemmed from his conduct when, knowing the character and content thereof, he promoted a performance, which included sexual contact by a child less than 17 years old, through his use of a computer program called BitTorrent. The Court found that Weisenberg was automatically disbarred by operation of law as of the date of his guilty plea to a New York felony. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Zeeshan H. Zaidi, 235 AD3d 127 (1st Dept 2025)

(Interim suspension.) Zaidi pleaded guilty, in the EDNY, to Computer Intrusion and Wire Fraud Conspiracy. The conviction stemmed from his admission that he conspired with others to illegally access a competitor's computer system to obtain information that would

assist his employer's business. The Court found that Zaidi's conviction constituted a "serious crime," as defined by Judiciary Law §90(4)(d) and ordered his immediate suspension pending further proceedings. A hearing on sanctions is to be held once Zaidi is sentenced. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Matter of Daphna Zekaria, _AD3d_, 2025 NY Slip Op 04962 (1st Dept 2025)

(Stricken.) Zekaria pleaded guilty, in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County, to the felonies of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, as well as Criminal Contempt in the Second Degree, a class "A" misdemeanor. The conviction stemmed from, inter alia, Zekaria's representation of a woman during her divorce and the sale of her marital home. Zekaria was expected to hold approximately \$150,000 in her escrow account, however, instead of dispersing the funds, she improperly used the funds for personal and/or business purposes. The Court ruled that she was disbarred by operation of law at the time she pleaded guilty to the felonies, despite the fact that she had not yet been sentenced. (Deputy Chief Attorney Raymond Vallejo)

Appendix A: Committee Composition

Committee Members from January 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

Committee 1

Abigail T. Reardon
Milton L. Williams, Jr.
Marijo C. Adimey
Erica Barrow
Martin S. Bell
Peter A. Bellacosa
Eleazar F. Bueno*
John P. Buza
Miguelina M. Camilo
Russell Capone
William F. Dahill
Lissette A. Duran
C. Willem Houck*
Kathleen Horton
Arthur M. Luxenberg
Scott E. Mollen
Virginia A. Reilly
Beatrice Seravello*
Joshua Silber
S. Yan Sin
Hon. Milton A. Tingling
Judith E. White

Committee 2

Robert J. Anello
Tina M. Wells
Steven Benathen
Hon. James M. Catterson
Susan M. Cofield*
Robert Stephan Cohen
Julie Goldscheid
Virginia Goodman Futterman
Phillip C. Hamilton
Jaipat S. Jain
Barbara Kairson, PhD
Andrew Kent
Devika Kewalramani
Christopher Morel
Vianny M. Paulino-Pichardo
Joanna Rotgers
Deborah Schein
Matthew A. Schwartz
Jeffrey S. Stillman
Elisabeth Lisa Vicens
Terel R. Watson
Mark C. Zauderer

*Lay member

Appendix A: Committee Composition

Committee Members from October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Committee 1

Milton L. Williams, Jr.
Devika Kewalramani
Marijo C. Adimey
Tawakalitu M. Amusa
Erica Barrow
Martin S. Bell
Peter A. Bellacosa
Miguelina M. Camilo
Russell Capone
Nicholas F. Cohen
Martha Cruz
Wynton Habersham
Lynn Horowitz
Kathleen Horton
Marissa A. Johnson
Shade Quailey
Michael Reyes
Calvin H. Scholar
Beatrice Seravello*
Joshua Silber
S. Yan Sin

Committee 2

Tina M. Wells
Catherine A. Christian
Helene E. Blank
Julie Goldscheid
Ida Rae Greer
Phillip C. Hamilton
Souren A. Israelyan
Barbara Kairson, PhD
Kenneth A. Kanfer
J. Andrew Kent
Lisa M. Licata
Amy J. Litwin
Douglas B. Maynard
Christopher Morel
Vianny M. Paulino-Pichardo
Sharmaine D. Robergeau Mundy
Deborah Schein*
Matthew A. Schwartz
Jeffrey S. Stillman
Terel R. Watson
Fr. Dennis J. Yesalonia, SJ*

2025

Appendix B: Office of the Chief Attorney: Attorneys

Chief Attorney

Jorge Dopico

Deputy Chief Attorneys

Angela Christmas

Kevin P. Culley

Vitaly Lipkansky

Raymond Vallejo

Staff Attorneys

Louis J. Bara

Sean A. Brandveen

Andrea B. Carter

Roy E. Chon

Kevin M. Doyle

Jesse M. Feldstein

Gillian C. Gamberdell

Thanh T. Hoang

Kristen M. Lasak

Kelly A. Latham

Jun H. Lee

Diana Neyman

Gina M. Patterson

Orlando Reyes

Christopher Ronk

Brian E. Shulman

Eric Sun

Appendix C: Office of the Chief Attorney: Administrative Staff

Investigators

Joel Peterson, Chief
Robert Murphy
Anthony Rodriguez

Paralegals

Joel A. Peterson, Chief
Reginald E. Thomas

Office Manager

Nancy DeLeon

Data Personnel

Mark Hernandez, Data Entry
Shayna LaPlante
Tennille Millhouse

Accountant

Martin Schwinger

Support Staff

Devin B. Anglada

GeeHun Fung

Sara Garcia

Teve Guerra

Monique R. Hudson

Shante C. Jackson

Emily McIntyre

Tina M. Nardelli

Celina M. Nelson

Michael J. Ramirez

Natasha S. Solomon

Nathalie P. Suarez

Shaniyia Z. Thomas

Lorraine Wright

Appendix D:

**ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
FIRST JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
MATTERS PROCESSED IN 2025**

Matters Pending as of December 31, 2025.....	1,104
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Details

1. Matters pending on January 1, 2025.....	919
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2. New matters received between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.....	7,883
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3. Closed matters reactivated between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.....	<u>24</u>
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Total matters processed between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025 (1+2+3)	8,826
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Total matters disposed between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025.....	<u>(7,722)</u>
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Matters pending as of December 31, 2025.....	1,104
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Appendix E: Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Attorney Grievance Committee Budget
Fiscal Year April 2025 – March 2026

	<u>Allocation:</u>
Personal Service Total:	\$5,279,000
<u>Non-Personal Service:</u>	
Office Supplies	17,000
EDP Supplies	4,000
Legal Reference & Subscriptions	17,000
Misc. Supplies and Materials	5,000
Travel General	200
Rentals of Equipment	1,000
Repairs of Equipment	11,900
Shipping, Postage & Mailing Services	6,000
Printing - General	800
Telephones	1,000
Office/Clerical Services	0
Records Management Services	22,000
Professional Services Expert Witnesses	0
Other Court-Appointed Services	22,800
Other General Services	3,000
Professional Services Per Diem Interpreters	300
Transcript Costs General	50,000
Non-Personal Service Total:	162,000
TOTAL BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026	5,441,000

Appendix F: Complaint Form

(Rev. 7.30.2020)

ATTORNEY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Supreme Court, Appellate Division
First Judicial Department
180 Maiden Lane, 17th Floor
New York, New York 10038
(212) 401-0800

JORGE DOPICO

Chief Attorney

Email Complaint and Attachments to: AD1-AGC-newcomplaints@nycourts.gov. In addition, please send **one copy** of your complaint and attachments **by regular mail** to the above address. (If you do not have a personal email account, please send two (2) complete sets of your complaint and all attachments. There may be a delay in processing your matter if it is not emailed. Please **do not** include any original documents because we are unable to return them.)

Background Information

Today's Date: _____

Your Full Name: (Mr. Ms. Mrs.) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Business/Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Are you represented by a lawyer regarding this complaint? Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes:

Lawyer's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Attorney Information

Full Name of Attorney Complained of: (Mr. Ms. Mrs.) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Date(s) of Representation/Incident: _____

Have you filed a civil or criminal complaint against this attorney? Yes ☐ No ☐ If Yes:

If yes, name of case (if applicable): _____

Name of Court: _____

Index Number of Case (if known): _____

Have you filed a complaint concerning this matter with another Grievance Committee, Bar Association, District Attorney's Office, or any other agency? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, name of agency: _____

Action taken by agency, if any: _____

Details of Complaint

Please describe the alleged misconduct in as much detail as possible including what happened, where and when, the names of any witnesses, what was said, and in what tone of voice, etc. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Complainant's Signature (Required): _____