

## New York Law Course Faculty

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**Marvin N. Bagwell, Esq.**

Vice President and Chief New York State Counsel  
Old Republic National Title Insurance Company  
*Presented Subject: Real Property*

**Rosalia Baiamonte, Esq.**

Partner  
Gassman, Baiamonte, Betts, PC  
*Presented Subject: Matrimonial and Family Law*

**Nina Chernoff**

Associate Professor  
CUNY School of Law  
*Presented Subject: Evidence*

**Neil B. Cohen**

Jeffrey D. Forchelli Professor of Law  
Brooklyn Law School  
*Presented Subject: Conflict of Laws*

**Xavier R. Donaldson, Esq.**

Senior Trial Counsel and Founding Partner  
Donaldson & Chilliast LLP  
*Presented Subject: Criminal Law and Procedure*

**David L. Ferstendig, Esq.**

Attorney at Law  
Law Offices of David L. Ferstendig, LLC  
Adjunct Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School  
and New York Law School  
*Presented Subject: Civil Practice and Procedure*

**Hon. Wilma Guzman**

Justice to the Supreme Court  
Supreme Court, Bronx County  
*Presented Subject: Torts and Tort Damages*

**Hon. James F. Horan**

Chief Administrative Law Judge  
New York State Department of Health  
*Presented Subject: Administrative Law*

**David Paul Horowitz, Esq.**

Member of Geringer, McNamara & Horowitz &  
Lecturer of Law at Columbia Law School  
*Presented Subject: Civil Practice and Procedure*

**Edward Janger**

David M. Barse Professor of Law  
Brooklyn Law School  
*Presented Subject: Contracts*

**David G. Keyko, Esq.**

Partner  
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP  
*Presented Subject: Professional Responsibility*

**William P. LaPiana**

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student  
Engagement  
Rita and Joseph Solomon Professor of the Law of  
Wills, Trusts and Estates  
*Presented Subject: Trusts, Wills and Estates*

**Hon. Evelyn J. Laporte**

Justice to the Supreme Court  
Criminal Court of the City of New York  
*Presented Subject: Criminal Law and Procedure*

**Maria Matos, Esq.**

Chief Counsel, Committee on Character & Fitness  
New York State Appellate Division,  
First Department  
*Presented Subject: Professional Responsibility*

**Robert J. Permutt, Esq.**

Assistant General Counsel Lead  
Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Company  
*Presented Subject: Torts and Tort Damages*

**Patricia J. Shevy, Esq.**

Founder  
The Shevy Law Firm LLC  
*Presented Subject: Trusts, Wills and Estates*

**Lewis A. Silverman**

Professor of Clinical Law  
Director, Family Law Clinic and Associate  
Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center  
*Presented Subject: Matrimonial and Family Law*

**Charles K. Whitehead**

Myron C. Taylor Alumni Professor of Business Law  
Cornell Law School  
*Presented Subject: Business Relationships*

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**Marvin N. Bagwell, Esq.**  
**Old Republic National Title Insurance Company**

Marvin N. Bagwell is the Vice-President and Chief New York State Counsel for Old Republic National Title Insurance Company and is based in Westbury, New York. Prior to joining Old Republic, he was the President of Bagwell & Associates Title Agency LLC based in New York City and in White Plains. He previously served as Vice-President and Eastern Divisional Counsel for United General Title Insurance Company and as Vice-President and Senior Underwriting Counsel at such other underwriters as Title USA, TRW Title, Nations Title and Fidelity Title. Mr. Bagwell has also served as the President of the New York State Land Title Association (“NYSLTA”) and is a former President of the Title Insurance Rate Service Association (“TIRSA”).

Mr. Bagwell is a frequent lecturer on real estate and title insurance matters and has published over 70 articles on the subjects, many of which appeared in the New York Law Journal. Currently, he is an editor of the N.Y. Real Property Law Journal and he sits on the Board of Editors of the New York State Bar Association Journal. He is the most recent editor of the Title Insurance section of Warren’s Weed. Mr. Bagwell is a member of the Executive Committee of the Real Property Section of the New York State Bar and also sits on the Forms Committee of the American Land Title Association. He is a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Attorneys.

Mr. Bagwell is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He is licensed to practice law in New York State and in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Rosalia Baiamonte, Esq.**  
**Gassman Baiamonte Betts, PC**

Ms. Baiamonte was admitted to the Bar in January, 1994. Since admission to the Bar, Ms. Baiamonte has been engaged exclusively in the practice of matrimonial and family law.

Ms. Baiamonte is a graduate of Brandeis University (B.S., *cum laude*, 1990) and Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1993; Senior Notes and Comments Editor, Syracuse Law Review), where she received the Order of the Coif. After graduating law school, Ms. Baiamonte was an associate of the Garden City firm of DaSilva & Keidel from October 1993 through February 1996. During this time, she was Associate Editor of the Domestic Relations Reporter, a legal publication by Matthew Bender. In March, 1996, Ms. Baiamonte became an associate of Stephen Gassman, Esq., a renowned leader in the field of matrimonial and family law. Ms. Baiamonte was named a member of the firm on August 1, 2007, at which time the firm was renamed Gassman, Baiamonte, Betts & Tannenbaum, P.C. In April 2011, the firm became known as Gassman Baiamonte Betts, PC.

Since 1994, Ms. Baiamonte has been and remains an active member of the Nassau County Bar Association. She has served on the Executive Committee of the Matrimonial Law Committee since July 2009; and effective July 1, 2015, she began her two-year term as Chair of this Committee. In June 2014, she received The Richard J. Keidel Memorial Award in recognition of

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her contributions as a skilled advocate, leader and her professionalism in the practice of Matrimonial Law. Ms. Baiamonte served on the NCBA Judiciary Committee from July 2009 through June 2015 (serving as Vice Chair from July 2013-June 2014, and as Chair from July 2014-June 2015). Ms. Baiamonte received the Bar Association's 2014-2015 Directors' Award for Outstanding Service as Chair of the Judiciary Committee. Ms. Baiamonte was installed as a member of the NCBA Board of Directors in June 2013.

Ms. Baiamonte is also an active member of the New York State Bar Association. She was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section in July 2011; she held the position of Financial Officer from June 2014-February 2016; and immediately thereafter commenced her two-year term as Secretary of the Family Law Section. Ms. Baiamonte also serves as a Co-Chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee.

Ms. Baiamonte has served as an Arbitrator in the Early Neutral Evaluation Program in the Nassau County Supreme Court, and currently serves as a Discovery Referee in the Matrimonial Center as well as a Part 137 Fee Arbitrator for the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Ms. Baiamonte is a frequent lecturer on various matrimonial topics for the New York State and Nassau County Bar Associations and Nassau Academy of Law. She has appeared as a guest lecturer at various law schools (C.W. Post and St. John's University School of Law) and other Bar groups; and she has been invited by Justices of the Nassau County Supreme Court to address Law Interns on the topic of legal research and writing.

Ms. Baiamonte is an Editor of *Library of New York Matrimonial Law Forms*, a 1,350+ page compendium of matrimonial law forms available through the New York Law Journal (©2012).

Ms. Baiamonte also has extensive experience dealing with a full range of matrimonial issues, among them: agreements (pre-nuptial, post-nuptial, and separation), custody and visitation, equitable distribution, spousal and child support issues, license and professional practice valuations, enforcement and modification proceedings, awards of counsel fees and experts' fees. Ms. Baiamonte has extensive appellate advocacy experience, having prosecuted and defended dozens of appeals involving complex matrimonial and family law issues.

### **Professor Nina Chernoff** **CUNY School of Law**

Nina Chernoff is an Associate Professor at the CUNY School of Law. Prior to joining CUNY's faculty, Nina was an Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering at New York University Law School. Before entering academia, Nina was a staff attorney in the Special Litigation Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). In that capacity she litigated systemic criminal justice issues, including prosecutorial misconduct, jury representation, and the reliability of forensic evidence. Prior to PDS, she was a staff attorney and Zubrow Fellow at Juvenile Law Center, where she advocated on behalf of children in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Thomas L. Ambro, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

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Professor Chernoff graduated from Georgetown University Law Center magna cum laude in 2003, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif, served on the board of the Innocence Project for the National Capital Region, and received the International Academy of Trial Lawyers Student Advocacy Award for the D.C. Legislation Clinic. She received her B.A. in Sociology from Bryn Mawr College in 1997 and her M.S. with distinction in Justice, Law & Society from the School of Public Affairs at American University in 2000. Before law school, Nina worked on programs and policies affecting at-risk youth at Public/Private Ventures in Philadelphia.

### **Professor Neil B. Cohen** **Brooklyn Law School**

Neil B. Cohen, the Jeffrey D. Forchelli Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, teaches courses in domestic and international commercial law, contracts, and conflict of laws. For over two decades, Professor Cohen has been a key participant in major domestic and international law reform projects with respect to commercial transactions. In recognition of his accomplishments, in 2014 Professor Cohen received both the American Law Institute's John Minor Wisdom Award and the Homer Kripke Lifetime Achievement Award of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers. He was the Reporter for Revised Article 1 of the Uniform Commercial Code and for the American Law Institute's *Restatement of the Law of Suretyship and Guaranty*; in honor of his accomplishments as Reporter for the *Restatement*, he was named as the Institute's R. Ammi Cutter Reporter. Professor Cohen currently serves as the Director of Research of the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code. In addition, he has been a member of several drafting committees for revising various articles of the Uniform Commercial Code, including the two most recent revisions of Article 9 (Secured Transactions).

Professor Cohen has been active since 1995 in the modernization, harmonization, and internationalization of international commercial law. He has served as a member of United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law for its work on harmonizing and modernizing the law of secured credit, as a member of the Working Group at the Hague Conference on Private International Law that prepared the Hague Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, and as an observer and working group member for the work of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Unidroit) in its development of principles for international contracts. Since 2009, he has been a member of the United States Department of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law.

### **Xavier R. Donaldson, Esq.** **Donaldson & Chilliest, LLP**

Xavier R. Donaldson, is a senior trial counsel and founding partner of Donaldson & Chilliest, LLP, with offices in New York City and a former Assistant District Attorney in Bronx County. He is admitted to practice law in the Courts of the State of New York, the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Donaldson has also represented individuals in the Federal and State Courts of the District of Columbia, Western District of Pennsylvania, Chicago, Illinois, Miami, Florida and New Jersey on a *Pro Hac Vice* basis.

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Mr. Donaldson graduated from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina Magna Cum Laude. He then received a law degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1994.

As an attorney, Mr. Donaldson has served as lead trial counsel to verdict on criminal matters including murder, federal and state narcotic conspiracies, gang associated criminal activity, bank fraud, mail and wire fraud, immigration fraud, federal and state firearm conspiracies, domestic violence and a variety of other federal and state matters. Mr. Donaldson also provides critical advice and counsel to Federal and State elected officials, businesses facing federal investigation, not for profits, prominent entertainers and professional athletes.

Mr. Donaldson currently serves as Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Brooklyn Law School, has appeared on various radio and television programs providing legal commentary on nationally recognized legal issues and has served as a lecturer, panelist and guest professor at prestigious law schools and universities as well as participated in programs designed to educate attorneys on current issues affecting the law.

Mr. Donaldson has served as the Administrator of the prestigious New York County Supreme Court Judicial Screening committee where he presided over the evaluation, vetting and interviewing of candidates for prominent seats on the New York County Supreme Court and has also vetted candidates for the Appellate Divisions of the State of New York and New York State Court of Appeals.

Mr. Donaldson is a former President and Board Member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association. Mr. Donaldson also serves as a Delegate of the New York State Bar Association, member of the New York State Bar Association firearm task force and as a member of the Criminal Justice and International Law Executive Committees of New York State Bar Association.

Mr. Donaldson has received awards from the New York Attorney General's Office, the New York State Black and Hispanic Caucus, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the New York City Council, local political organizations and is consistently invited to speak at high schools, youth programs, community boards and other associations relating to the significance of the law, public policy, business and politics.

### **David L. Ferstendig, Esq.** **Law Offices of David L. Ferstendig, LLC**

David L. Ferstendig of Law Offices of David L. Ferstendig, LLC litigates a spectrum of civil and commercial matters including breach of contract, products liability, toxic tort, insurance and reinsurance coverage, jewelers' block, political risk, environmental liability, trade secret, and professional indemnity. With offices in midtown Manhattan, he has served as coordinating counsel for insurers and foreign country defendants on products liability matters throughout the United States. In over 30 years of practice, he has successfully mediated, reserved, litigated, and settled thousands of cases.

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Mr. Ferstendig has a well-earned reputation for his uncompromising dedication to his clients' interests and for his broader service to the bench and bar through his writings and teaching.

He is recognized as a foremost authority on New York practice and procedure and is a current member and a past Chair of the New York State Bar Association's CPLR Committee, which evaluates and drafts proposed legislation. He is the General Editor of *Weinstein, Korn & Miller New York Civil Practice: CPLR* (LexisNexis), the premier 15-volume litigation treatise cited regularly as authoritative by New York State and Federal courts; author of *Ferstendig, Chase New York CPLR Manual* (LexisNexis) and *LexisNexis AnswerGuide New York Civil Litigation*; and General Editor of *CPLR Practice Insights*, published in *New York Consolidated Laws Service* (LexisNexis). He has written articles for the New York Law Journal, authored a law review article entitled: "A Practitioner's Continued Uncertainty: Disclosure from Nonparties," 74 ALB. L. REV. 731 (2010/2011) and was a panelist at New York University School of Law in March 2013 for the symposium entitled "The CPLR at Fifty: Its Past, Present, and Future" which resulted in the publication of his remarks, "The CPLR: A Practitioner's Perspective." Recently, Mr. Ferstendig co-authored a law review article with Professor Oscar Chase entitled: Should Counsel for a Non-Party Deponent be a "Potted Plant"?, 2014 N.Y.U. J. Legis. Pub. Pol'y Quorum 52.

Effective with the May, 2015 edition, Mr. Ferstendig became the Editor of the New York State Law Digest.

Mr. Ferstendig has provided expert testimony interpreting the meaning and application of New York law, most recently providing testimony in a London litigation.

He is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and New York Law School, where he teaches New York Practice. He has lectured on civil practice issues for the New York State Bar, New York City Bar, New York Judicial Institute, and LexisNexis.

Mr. Ferstendig is a graduate of Yeshiva University and received his Juris Doctor degree from New York University School of Law. He is admitted to practice in New York State, in all of the New York Federal District Courts and in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

### **Hon. Wilma Guzman** **Justice to the Supreme Court, Bronx County**

Justice Wilma Guzman was born and raised in the borough of The Bronx. She attended the New York City Public Schools and upon graduation from High School Justice Guzman began a career as a legal secretary/ paralegal for a personal injury firm. She continued her education and received a Bachelors of Science degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, while simultaneously raising two daughter and working full time. After graduation, she took a leave from education and worked as a police officer in the Kings County District Attorney's Office assigned to the Sex Crimes Unit, where she investigated sex crime cases and major offenses cases.



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In 1982, Justice Guzman decided to further her education and attend law school. She was attended St. John's University School of Law in the evenings while working full time. She received her Juris Doctorate in 1986. She was admitted to the practice of law in the State of New York in 1986 and the State of New Jersey in 1987.

Upon graduation from law school, she began her legal career in civil litigation as a trial attorney. Justice Guzman was a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, an association of trial attorneys throughout the United States who have achieved a verdict of one Million Dollars or more.

In 1998 Justice Guzman, was elected to a Citywide position as a Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York and assigned to Kings County. Subsequently, she was transferred to Bronx County. In May, 2005, Justice Guzman was appointed Acting Supreme Court Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and in November 2005 was elected a Justice of the Supreme Court presently presiding in Bronx County, Civil Division. In 2006, Justice Guzman was one of three trial judges to be assigned to the Summary Jury Trial Project in Bronx County. Justice Guzman has served both in the Criminal Division and Civil Division of the Supreme Court, Bronx County.

Justice Guzman serves as a mentor and role model to students at John Jay College of Criminal Justice Pre Law Institute Internship Program and Celine and Sonia Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program. Justice Guzman, has participated, since its inception, in the Thurgood Marshall Junior Mock Trial Program, and the National Association of Women Judges-Color of Justice Program. Justice Guzman has been an Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Borough of Manhattan Community College and is currently teaching the law to future paralegal students at Pace University.

Justice Guzman is the President of the Latino Judges Association, Inc. and the Third-Vice President of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York, Inc. She is a member on the Gender Fairness Committee for the Twelfth Judicial District. She has served as Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and is currently a Member of the Executive Board. She also served as Co-Chair of the Committee for Note-Taking/Notebooks for the New York State - The Jury Trial Project.

Justice Guzman has received recognition for her work and dedication from the National Association of Professional Women; United States Coast Guard; John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Puerto Rican Bar Association, Inc. and New York State Hispanic Court Officers Society.

### **Hon. James F. Horan** **Chief Administrative Law Judge, New York State Department of Health**

James F. Horan has served as an Administrative Law Judge for the New York State Department of Health since 1991 and as Chief Administrative Law Judge since 2007. He received his A.B. from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from Albany Law School. Upon graduating from Law School, he served as Confidential Law Assistant to Fulton County Judge Robert P. Best.

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He joined the Department of Health as a Senior Attorney in the Bureau of House Counsel in 1986. He is past president of the New York State Association of Administrative Law Judiciary and past member of the Board of Governors of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary. He also served as Chair of the New York State Bar Association's (NYSBA) Committee on Attorneys in Public Service and as Chair of that Committee's Administrative Law Sub-Committee. He has spoken at continuing education programs on Administrative Law and Health Law and has published articles in the NYSBA Health Law Journal and NYSBA Journal on Government, Law and Policy. He also contributed several chapters to the NYSBA Legal Manual for New York Physicians, a joint project between NYSBA and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

**David Paul Horowitz, Esq.  
Geringer, McNamara & Horowitz**

David Paul Horowitz (david@newyorkpractice.org) is a member of Geringer, McNamara & Horowitz in New York City. He has represented parties in personal injury, professional negligence, and commercial cases for over twenty-seven years. In addition to his litigation practice, he acts as a private arbitrator, mediator and discovery referee and serves as an expert witness on civil practice issues. He is the author of *Bender's New York Evidence* and *New York Civil Disclosure* (LexisNexis), the most recent supplement to *Fisch on New York Evidence* (Lond Publications), and since 2004 has penned the monthly column *Burden of Proof* in the NYSBA Journal. Mr. Horowitz teaches New York Practice at Columbia Law School, the annual New York Practice/CPLR updates statewide for the New York State Bar Association and for the New York City Bar and New York County Lawyers Association, and is a frequent lecturer and writer on civil practice, evidence, ethics, and alternative dispute resolution issues. He serves on the Office of Court Administration's Civil Practice Advisory Committee, is active in a number of bar associations, and was a Reporter to the New York Pattern Jury Instruction (P.J.I.) Committee.

**Professor Edward Janger  
Brooklyn Law School**

Edward Janger is a well-known authority on commercial transactions and bankruptcy law. He has published in the areas of bankruptcy law, commercial law and data privacy in many of the leading law reviews. He is the past chair of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Commercial and Consumer Law, and a member of the American College of Bankruptcy, International Insolvency Institute and American Law Institute. He has served as consultant to the Business Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the Federal Bankruptcy Rules Advisory Committee, and is a member of the board of directors of the Coalition for Debtor Education. He has been the Anne Urowsky Visiting Professor at Yale Law School, and the Bruce W. Nichols Visiting Professor at Harvard Law School, as well as the Robert Zinman Scholar-in-Residence at the American Bankruptcy Institute in Washington, D.C.

Professor Janger joined the Brooklyn Law School faculty in 1998, after teaching at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and Ohio State University College of Law. Prior to teaching, he practiced as an associate with the firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in



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Washington, D.C., specializing in bankruptcy and litigation, and was a law clerk to Judge Irving L. Goldberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

**David G. Keyko, Esq.**  
**Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP**

David Keyko is a partner in the law firm's Litigation practice and is located in the New York office. His practice has focused on major, complex litigation, often involving multiple parties. He has handled cases involving allegations of securities or other types of fraud, antitrust violations, ethics issues and trusts and estates issues across the country, often involving insurance coverage issues. He has conducted internal investigations and represented clients responding to government probes. Trials include: representing a plaintiff in a four-week bench trial in federal court in New York concerning a fraudulent scheme to finance the importation of coffee beans, which resulted in a \$90 million judgment; a five-week jury trial in federal court in New Jersey concerning an alleged scheme to manipulate world-wide commodity prices; and a four-month bench trial in federal court in Louisiana concerning the finances of a bankrupt oil and gas company. He has also served as an expert witness in connection with legal malpractice litigation. Among the prominent cases Mr. Keyko has handled was the representation of the primary claimant to a \$1.5 billion estate in lawsuits filed in several jurisdictions.

Mr. Keyko was named the "New York City Best Lawyers Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law Lawyer of the Year" for 2012. He has lectured and written widely on securities, antitrust, legal ethics and general litigation topics, and chairs PLI's programs on federal pretrial practice and ethics for corporate lawyers. He is a former columnist for the *New York Law Journal* and has written several dozen articles on litigation and ethics issues for such publications as the National Law Journal, and Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, on whose advisory board Mr. Keyko served.

Mr. Keyko has undertaken a variety of pro bono projects, including representing for over 20 years a death row inmate in Alabama asserting that the inmate is innocent of the crime for which he was convicted, serving as Chair of the Board of MFY Legal Services, Inc., and serving two terms as a member of the Departmental Disciplinary Committee of the First Department. He was Chairman of the Professional Responsibility Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He chaired the ad hoc committee of the Association that commented on proposed SEC regulations under Section 307 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. He is currently the chair of the Association's Legal Referral Service Committee and is a member of the Association's Professional and Judicial Ethics Committee.

Mr. Keyko is a member of Pillsbury's Sarbanes-Oxley Committee, Opinions Committee and Professional Responsibility Committee.

**Dean William P. LaPiana**  
**New York Law School**

Professor William P. LaPiana holds both a Ph.D. in History and a J.D. from Harvard, where he also received his B.A. and an M.A. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1978,

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Professor LaPiana, who is originally from suburban Buffalo, spent four years as an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York.

After four years spent at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, Professor LaPiana joined the faculty at New York Law School in 1987. In 1993, he was named the Rita and Joseph Solomon Professor of the Law of Wills, Trusts and Estates.

His doctoral dissertation was published as *Logic and Experience: The Origins of Modern American Legal Education* (Oxford University Press, 1994). An analysis of the intellectual roots of the case method and of the reasons for its success, it is widely cited in discussions of legal education and, as Professor LaPiana notes, still sells enough copies to buy one average bottle of wine per year. In 2012 he published *Inside Wills and Trusts: What Matters and Why*, part of the “Inside” series of student study aids published by Wolters Kluwer. Professor LaPiana’s other major publication is *Drafting New York Wills and Related Documents*, 4th edition, published by LexisNexis of which he is co-author with Prof. Ira Mark Bloom.

Professor LaPiana also has been active with the trusts and estates sections of both the New York State and the American Bar Associations, and is an academic fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, serving on its Committees on State Laws and Legal Education. He is also a member of the American Law Institute and served on the Members Consultative Groups for the Restatements (Third) of Trusts and of Property (Donative Transfers). Professor LaPiana has been a member of the Office of Court Administration Surrogates Court Committee since 2009. He has been a member of the New York City Bar Associations Surrogates Court, Trusts and Estates Committee and currently serves on the Estate and Gift Tax Committee.

Professor LaPiana was the reporter for the revised Uniform Disclaimer of Property Interests Act, which was promulgated by the Uniform Law Commission in 1999 and has been adopted in fifteen states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands. He was the American Bar Association advisor to the drafting committee for the Uniform Power of Attorney Act promulgated in 2006. Professor LaPiana has been a frequent speaker at continuing legal education events, including several conferences sponsored by the Real Property Trusts and Estates Law Section of the ABA and the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, the Heckerling Institute, and the New York Estate Planning Institute. He has also been a regular participant since 1987 in the New York University Law School Legal History Colloquium.

### **Hon. Evelyn J. Laporte**

#### **Justice to the Supreme Court, Criminal Court of the City of New York**

Justice Evelyn J. Laporte has traveled a long and winding road in her journey to the bench. She was born and raised in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico. When she arrived in New York City in 1973 she did not speak any English. Undaunted, she plunged forward, struggling with the language as she attended CUNY colleges and eventually found her way to John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Like many students, Justice Laporte had to work many jobs just to get by. She did babysitting, was a telephone operator, and even worked in a meat factory making hot dogs. It

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wasn't easy and often she was working more than three jobs at once while taking classes and helping to support her family back in Puerto Rico.

Her diligence paid off. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and went on to earn a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from the same college. In 1986, Justice Laporte received a Juris Doctor Degree from the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. and upon her graduation from Law School, Justice Laporte returned to New York City and began her many years of public service.

Justice Laporte has worked in the New York City and State court systems. She gained a wide range of experience working in Civil Court, by initiating civil lawsuits under the Nuisance Abatement Law of the New York City Administrative Code, as she fought to obtain permanent injunctions and civil penalties against owners and operators of premises that were using their property as store fronts for drug operations. In Housing Court Justice Laporte handled residential non-payment, holdover, and licensee trials. And in Family Court she conducted hearings on neglected and abused children. She has also done work handling administrative hearings for Social Security and Medicare benefits.

A former Assistant District Attorney for nearly twelve years, Justice Laporte conducted countless suppression hearings, grand jury presentations and handled several high profile cases. Justice Laporte built a reputation prosecuting numerous felonies and misdemeanor cases involving sexual abuse and domestic violence; cases that present a special challenge because, due to the victim and perpetrator's relationship, the victims often do not wish to press charges. Justice Laporte has successfully prosecuted both types of cases where the victim has cooperated with the prosecution and where the victim did not cooperate.

In 2005, Justice Laporte was elected to the Brooklyn Civil Court, and began presiding over criminal cases in Manhattan. A few years later she was re-assigned to Brooklyn Criminal Court where she heard misdemeanor and felony cases. During her years as a Civil Court Judge sitting in Criminal Court, Justice Laporte published sixteen of her numerous decisions in the New York Law Reporter.

In 2014, she was elected Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Kings. Presently, she presides over felony criminal cases in Supreme Court.

Justice Laporte is the Former Region 1 President of the National Hispanic Prosecutors Association. She was selected by the U.S. Department of Justice to participate in training prosecutors and law enforcement personnel in Chile and Honduras on the U.S. Criminal Justice System in 2001. That same year, she was also selected by the Vera Institute of New York City to participate in training judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement and service providers in Chile on issues of domestic violence and child abuse. Justice Laporte is a highly sought after public speaker on the subject of domestic violence and the criminal justice system.

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### **Maria Matos, Esq.**

#### **New York State Appellate Division, First Department Committee on Character & Fitness**

Ms. Matos is responsible for running the Office of the Committee on Character and Fitness for the Appellate Division, First Department. The Committee screens candidates for admission to the New York State Bar. Her duties also include supervising the office responsible for all attorney related inquiries and filings for the Court, including *pro hac vice* applications, student practice orders, applications for non-disciplinary resignations, maintaining disciplinary records, issuing Certificates of Good Standing and swearing in applicants from other jurisdictions. Ms. Matos is a former President of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and Board of Director and is a member of the New York City Bar's Council on the Judiciary and the New York City Bar's Committee on Minorities in the Profession. She has participated in several C.L.E. programs for different bar associations and New York area law schools. Ms. Matos was admitted to the First Department in 1994.

### **Robert J. Permutt, Esq.**

#### **Nationwide Mutual Fire Insurance Company**

Robert J. Permutt currently serves as a Lead Assistant General Counsel for Nationwide Insurance. In this role, he supervises a team of attorneys that provide legal support to the Personal Lines Casualty Claims Organization for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States. He also individually provides legal support to the New York Personal Lines Casualty Claims Organization.

Robert graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1991, with a Bachelor's Degree in History. Robert then attended Brooklyn Law School, obtaining a Juris Doctorate in 1996.

Following his graduation from law school, Robert worked in the Orange County District Attorney's Office for four years, ending his tenure in the office's Violent Felony Unit.

Upon leaving the District Attorney's Office, Robert worked for two New York State insurance defense law firms, handling a varied case load including products liability, Labor Law, premises liability, municipal liability and automobile liability cases.

Robert then joined the House Counsel operations for Progressive Insurance Company, handling large loss exposures throughout the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island.

Robert is a frequent presenter at New York CLE programs having presented for the New York State Bar Association as well as the New York Judicial Institute.

Robert is a member of the Executive Committee of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. On January 29, 2014, the Section honored him with the Committee Chairman of the Year award.

## New York Law Course Faculty

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**Patricia J. Shevy, Esq.**  
**The Shevy Law Firm, LLC**

Patricia J. Shevy is the founder of The Shevy Law Firm, LLC, of Albany, New York.

Tricia focuses her practice exclusively in the areas of estate planning and administration, elder law and business succession planning.

Tricia believes in the teamwork approach and regularly works with her clients and their investment advisors, bankers, insurance agents and accountants to ensure that the plan meets the client's long term objectives.

Tricia is an active member of the New York State Bar Association- Trusts and Estates Section (Vice Chair of the Continuing Legal Education Committee and former Chair of the Life Insurance and Employee Benefits Committee) and Elder Law Section (Co-Chair of the Estates, Trusts and Tax Issues Committee). She is also a member of the Albany County Bar Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and Schoharie County Chamber of Commerce.

Tricia's past public service includes serving on the Boards of Directors of Childs Nursing Home, Albany County Correctional Facility for Children's Benefit, Rensselaer County Housing Resources Corporation and the Watervliet City School District Board of Education, serving as president for 3 years. Currently, Tricia is on the board of directors and Treasurer of The Bus Stop Club, Inc., a support program for the siblings of chronically ill children.

Tricia earned a Bachelor of Science in Management-Finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 3 years. Following graduation from RPI in 1994, Tricia received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Albany Law School of Union University in 1997, where she was a member of the Justinian Society.

Tricia routinely lectures to small groups regarding estate tax planning, long term care planning, estate planning issues when disabled children are involved as well as the unique issues of estate planning for non-traditional families and small business owners. Tricia also regularly lectures and writes for continuing legal education programs offered by the New York State Bar Association.

**Professor Lewis A. Silverman**  
**Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center**

Lewis A. Silverman is Director of the Family Law Clinic and Associate Professor of Clinical Law at Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center in Central Islip, New York. B.A., 1973, New York University; J.D., 1976, Boston University. He served from 1976-1985 as an Assistant Suffolk County Attorney assigned to the Family Court Bureau, including Unit Head of the Child Abuse/Neglect Unit and Deputy Bureau Chief of the Family Court Bureau. From 1985 until joining the Law Center in 1995 he was a Hearing Examiner in Suffolk County Family Court where he presided at hearings to determine child support and spousal support obligations. He served as President of the New York State Hearing Examiners Association from 1988 to 1995

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and had numerous decisions published by the New York Law Journal. He has also served as chair of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Social Services, as an officer of the Suffolk Academy of Law, and the first chair of the Suffolk County Bar Association's Family Court Committee, and presently serves on the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on LGBT People and the Law. In addition to his duties as Director of the Family Law Clinic, Professor Silverman also teaches courses in Family Law, Children and the Law, Sexual Orientation and Law, Civil Procedure, and Pre-Trial Litigation, and serves as faculty advisor to the Moot Court Board. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Hofstra University School of Law in Hempstead, New York and St. John's University School of Law in Jamaica, New York. Professor Silverman has published several articles and presented at numerous conferences and programs on topics on family law and civil rights for sexual minorities. He has served as a resource for the press and been quoted frequently in print and television news. He has also been recognized five times by the Suffolk County Bar Pro Bono Foundation for his pro bono activities. Professor Silverman was also Village Justice for the Incorporated Village of Lake Grove in Suffolk County, New York, from 1998 to 2006.

### **Professor Charles K. Whitehead Cornell Law School**

Charles K. Whitehead is the Myron C. Taylor Alumni Professor of Business Law and the Director of the Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship program at Cornell Law School. He specializes in business organizations, capital markets, financial institutions and transactions, and mergers and acquisitions. Professor Whitehead represented clients and held senior legal and business positions in the financial services industry, in New York, London, and Tokyo, before entering academia, including as a Managing Director of Nomura Securities International, Salomon Brothers, and Citigroup. His practice included representation involving IPOs and other exempt and registered securities offerings (from start-ups to seasoned global issuers), acquisitions and other strategic transactions, derivatives and other complex financial instruments, and loan and other credit transactions. He was a Research Fellow at Columbia Law School (where he continues as a Visiting Scholar in Residence) before joining the Boston University School of Law in 2006 and Cornell Law School in 2009. Professor Whitehead was the first "foreign expert" visiting professor at Peking University Law School, Beijing, China, is a Research Fellow in the Center for Financial Studies at Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany, and is the first honorary professor at Yaroslav Mudriy National Law University, Kharkiv, Ukraine. He was a law clerk to the Hon. Ellsworth A. Van Graafeiland, U.S. Court of Appeals (2nd Circuit), and is a graduate of Columbia Law School and Cornell University.