Meet some of the New York Bar’s most talented lawyers, who just happen to be women

The 100 New Yorkers named to the inaugural list of Leading Women Lawyers in New York City, powered by Crain’s Custom, are trailblazers who found multiple paths to excellence. Some are partners and practice leaders at the city’s big law firms, others corporate counsel at Manhattan companies. Some unabashedly champion their fellow minority female attorneys, while others feed their passions for public service by donating their time generously to pro bono causes. These are women who juggle both distinguished careers and exceptional civic and philanthropic activities.

In acknowledging the talents of these 100 women, Crain’s is merely tapping into New York’s rich history of female lawyers who refused to be defined by their gender.

Since the 1800s, the state has been home to “amazing trailblazing women attorneys who broke through barriers and blatant discrimination to make major contributions in the legal profession,” the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Women in the Law recently noted. “Their stories are ones of fierce determination, passion for the law, keen intelligence, and inspiring achievement.”

In an age when women grace the Supreme Court of the United States, it may seem out of date to celebrate the achievements of one particular gender. Yet as far as female attorneys have come, let’s not forget what has dominated the news headlines: high-profile cases of sexual harassment against women.

“It’s a mixed sense of it’s about time, but also, we’ve been through this before,” said Myra Freed, president of the New York Women’s Bar Association.

She is referring, of course, to law professor Anita Hill’s testimony and allegations of sexual harassment made during the Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings in 1991.

That history is important to note. Some 130 years after Kate Stoneman became the first woman, in 1886, to be admitted to the New York bar, these 100 women celebrated by Crain’s have climbed to the heights of their careers against a background of sometimes blatant, sometimes unconscious bias. Only a very foolish man, though, would try to objectify or demean these gifted attorneys.

“When someone said obnoxious things or made a stupid comment, I was so incredulous I’d laugh and say, ‘Are you kidding me? because it was so ridiculous,” said Terri Adler, who chairs the real estate practice at Duval & Stachenfeld. “I’m not afraid to confront people openly.”

Adler reminds young lawyers to present themselves as “being as good or better than anyone in the room, because you are.”

Although statistics document a historic lack of gender parity, in a November report, the Diversity & Flexibility Alliance announced that the percentage of women promoted to partnership in 2017 in many of the country’s largest and top-grossing law firms was at a six-year high: 38.1%, up five percentage points since 2012. Another welcome statistic: 32.3% of law firms had a new partner class consisting of at least 50% females.

The numbers are moving in the right direction, but they should be moving along faster.

“The reason we track them is the importance of documenting the partnership pipeline,” said Manar Morales, the alliance’s president and chief executive. “Firms have to dig behind the partnership numbers, and look where they went wrong or did well.”

Morales advises law firms to keep close watch on who they elevate to partner. If there are too few women, they must reassess whether females have access to power in the firm structure, and guard against unconscious bias and blind spots. Law firms must also lean on specific tools that cultivate the careers of younger female attorneys and give them access to training, client development, mentoring and management opportunities. Law firms also should track why associates leave, and set goals to address problems that can include a lack of flexible work policies that improve retention.

Many partners on the Crain’s 100 list are in a position to boost that pipeline of female talent. There are more than 15 practice area chairs, at least five law firm managing partners, and a few firm founders. With such exceptional talent among our inaugural class of Leading Women Lawyers, no doubt the future ratio of female partners will rise at New York law firms as these exceptional women mentor a new generation of legal superstars.

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The profiles in this report are drawn from submitted nomination materials as well as from Crain’s Custom research. No lawyer paid to be featured. There is an exceptional pool of talented female attorneys in New York. We recognize that this year’s inaugural list is not comprehensive, and look forward to a future of exceptional potential honorees nominations as the Leading Women Lawyers in New York City becomes a new tradition for the city’s legal community. Please join Crain’s Custom in congratulating a truly impressive inaugural class.
Karen Artz Ash helps those in the fashion industry with cases involving intellectual property and trademark licensing. When not serving on legal cases, she works as a writer. Her work has appeared in The Licensing Journal and Managing Intellectual Property Magazine, and she has co-written several books, including Fashion Law – A Guide for Designers, Fashion Executives and Attorneys and Becoming a Fashion Designer.

Terri Adler is a real estate lawyer with expertise in both national and international markets. She oversees one of the largest real estate practice groups in New York City and has helped clients understand laws and regulations in countries worldwide. She’s a member of WX—New York Women Executives in Real Estate, which works to advance women in the field.

Elsa Ayoub represents multinational corporations and individuals in industries including media, education, financial services and banking—on issues pertaining to business immigration law, including visa strategies, naturalization and permanent residence status. She also represents foreign business owners looking to immigrate to the U.S. Ayoub is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

In 1943, Florence Perlow Shientag became New York’s first female prosecutor as the assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

In 1886, New York State admitted the first woman, Kate Stoneman, to its bar association.

*Source: New York State Bar Association Committee on Women in the Law
In 1942, Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft’s Catherine Noyes Lee is the first female partner at a major Wall Street law firm*

Judith Kaye was the first woman appointed to serve on New York’s highest court in 1983*

LUISE A. BARRACK
Managing member ROSENBERG & ESTIS

Luise Barrack, who leads the firm’s litigation department, focuses on complex commercial litigation at the trial and appellate levels. She maintains a diverse client roster, comprising not-for-profit companies, developers, educational institutions and more, and has represented many of her clients for nearly three decades. She serves on the leadership council of the YMCA of Greater New York.

MEREDITH BEUCHAW
Partner COOLEY

Meredith Beuchaw counsels clients on matters that include mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, joint ventures and corporate governance. She’s worked extensively in the tech industry, representing strategic and financial acquirers and acquisition targets. Beuchaw has provided assistance pro bono to the Acumen Fund, including projects related to investments in developing countries.

SHEILA S. BOSTON
Partner ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE SCHOLER

A member of Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer’s product liability group, Sheila Boston focuses on complex commercial litigation matters. She is a member of the firm’s pro bono and hiring committees and serves as treasurer of the Federal Bar Foundation. Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed her to serve a three-year term on the judicial screening committee of New York’s First Department.

ERICA F. BUCKLEY
Partner NIXON PEABODY

Erica Buckley specializes in real estate securities filings for cooperatives and condominiums, including new construction plans. She is an expert on affordable housing issues and the Martin Act, a New York law that governs real estate securities. Buckley previously served as general counsel to the Urban Homesteading Assistance Board and is credited with establishing the nonprofit’s first legal department.

COLLEEN CADEN
Partner PRYOR CASHMAN

Colleen Caden’s expertise in immigration law is rooted in 15 years of experience. As chair of Pryor’s immigration group, she represents clients in industries including media, arts and entertainment, and is one of a handful of attorneys providing immigration counsel to professional sports leagues, teams and athletes. Caden regularly speaks on U.S. business immigration issues.

HELEN V. CANTWELL
Partner DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON

Helen Cantwell works on white collar criminal defense cases, regulatory enforcement actions and internal investigations, representing a wide range of individuals, companies, schools, and nonprofits. She served for eight years as an assistant U.S. attorney, during which time she was a member of the securities and commodities fraud task force. Prior to that, she spent a year in Malaysia with the International Women’s Rights Action Watch.

LINDA R. CARLOZZI
Principal JACKSON LEWIS

A labor law specialist, Linda Carlozzi has presented cases before the National Labor Relations Board, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other prominent agencies. Before becoming a lawyer in New York, she cut her teeth doing labor law work in Washington and Philadelphia. Her pro bono and community efforts have benefited philanthropic foundations including the National Italian American Foundation.

SARAH L. CAVE
Partner HUGHES HUBBARD & REED

Sarah Cave has applied her expertise in securities litigation, accountants’ liability and bankruptcy litigation to high-profile crisis-related cases. Her pro bono work has earned her multiple accolades from the Legal Aid Society, and she is the former chair of the firm’s pro bono committee. She has also been active in organizing many of the firm’s diversity and women’s initiatives.

*Source: New York State Bar Association Committee on Women in the Law
DALE CENDALI  
Partner  
KIRKLAND & ELLIS  
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Dale Cendali heads up the firm’s copyright, trademark, internet and advertising practice, leading a group of skilled lawyers representing corporations and individuals in the intellectual property space. Previously, her intellectual property legal work brought her before the U.S. Supreme Court. When not applying her legal knowledge to cases, she’s sharing it with others as an adjunct professor at Harvard Law School.

KIMBERLY Y. CHAINEY  
Associate general counsel  
AVIS BUDGET GROUP  
•••  
Kimberly Chainey joined Avis Budget Group in 2014 and leads the legal teams that support key mobility initiatives for emerging technology, including autonomous vehicles. She additionally leads the legal team that supports the company’s Latin America business unit. Chainey serves on the board of trustees of the Montclair Art Museum, and previously served as treasurer of the board for the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, a nonprofit, public-service law firm.

KATHY HIRATA CHIN  
Senior counsel  
CADWALADER WICKERSHAM & TAFT  
•••  
Kathy Chin’s practice covers health care and real estate litigation. In the former area, she has represented clients in matters including suits pertaining to Medicaid reimbursement issues; in the latter, she has focused on such matters as compliance and transferable development rights. She is a member of the New York City Commission to Combat Police Corruption, appointed by former mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

JANE CHUANG  
Partner  
LEE ANAV CHUNG WHITE KIM RUGER & RICHTER  
•••  
Jane Chuang advises clients—predominantly in the creative industries—on intellectual property, including copyright and trademark matters, as well as internet and media law. She was a founding partner of Yim & Chuang. Chuang is co-chair of the National Asian Pacific Bar Association’s Entertainment Law Committee and a member of the New York Chapter Planning Committee of the Copyright Society.

JAYNE CONROY  
Shareholder  
SIMMONS HANLY CONROY  
•••  
Jayne Conroy litigates product liability and mass torts cases for the firm, which is one of the nation’s largest focused on mass tort law. Her representation has helped thousands of victims receive medical assistance and financial retribution. Conroy has played a key role in Simmons Hanly Conroy’s efforts to contribute to mesothelioma cancer research and support the mesothelioma community.

VICTORIA S. COOK  
Partner  
FRANKFURT KURNIT KLEIN & SELZ  
•••  
A leading entertainment lawyer, Victoria Cook has represented filmmakers, actors, directors and other stakeholders in the motion picture and television industries. She has lectured at film schools, law schools and producer conferences, and has participated in panels at Cannes and other prominent film festivals. She is a regular mentor at the Sundance Institute Creative Producing Conference and the Sundance Institute Catalyst Conference for film investors.

MELANIE CYGANOWSKI  
Partner  
OTTERBOURG  
•••  
Melanie Cyganowski chairs the firm’s restructuring and bankruptcy department, working on bankruptcy cases for clients in industries ranging from retail to manufacturing to real estate. She is a former federal bankruptcy judge. Cyganowski is on the editorial board of the Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice and fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

LISA E. DAVIS  
Partner  
FRANKFURT KURNIT KLEIN & SELZ  
•••  
In her role as an entertainment lawyer representing businesses and celebrities in the film, television, publishing, music and theater industries, Lisa Davis has served as counsel on major motion pictures and documentaries. She has also worked with several notable authors and playwrights. Davis has been featured at the annual Corporate Counsel Women of Color conference several times.

Hon. Sonia Sotomayor was the first Hispanic (man or woman) appointed to the federal bench in New York.†

The late Sheila Abdus-Salaam, in 2013, was the first black woman appointed to the New York Court of Appeals.∗

∗Sources: New York State Bar Association Committee on Women in the Law  † New York Women’s Bar Association
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LEADING WOMEN LAWYERS IN NYC

YASMIN DWEDAR
Supervising attorney of driver protection unit
NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Before assuming her current role in the TLC’s driver protection unit, Yasmin Dwedar clerked at the New York State Supreme Court and served as an assistant district attorney for Kings County. She is the president and co-founder of the Arab American Bar Association, whose mission includes advancing Arab-American attorneys by providing support such as mentorship and scholarship assistance to law students.

DANIELLE EPSTEIN-DAY
Partner
SADIS & GOLDBERG

Danielle Epstein-Day focuses on real estate, finance, corporate and trademark legal matters, representing clients ranging from property owners and investors to landlords and tenants. She also prepares and negotiates commercial and residential leases, including for shopping centers and office buildings. In the corporate realm, she handles matters including franchise, shareholder, licensing and other agreements, as well as employment practices and compensation.

REGINA E. FAUL
Partner
PHILLIPS NIZER

Regina Faul advises companies on such matters as employee relations, collective bargaining, employment litigation and insurance defense. She is particularly well-versed in human resources policies, helping clients to implement corrective action and to avoid potential government investigations and class-action suits. Faul is on the advisory board of the Business of WE (Women Entrepreneurs), which supports opportunities for women and minorities.

MELANIE FIGUEROA
Partner
MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP

Securities regulation, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate financing transactions are among Melanie Figueroa’s legal specialties. She has assisted in IPO alternatives, including reverse mergers, and is particularly well-versed in the Securities Act and Exchange Act. Figueroa additionally focuses on helping entrepreneurs and early-stage businesses with corporate formation and initial capital raising as a member of Mitchell Silberberg’s Start ‘n Knupp team.

FAITH GAY
Partner
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART & SULLIVAN

Faith Gay focuses on complex civil litigation for plaintiffs and defendants, as well as on corporate governance matters. She has assisted clients in investigations by the I.R.S., Department of Justice and others. Gay is on the board of trustees of The Public Theater and the Law Board of Northwestern University’s Pritzker School of Law, and on the board of directors of Union Theological.

SANDRA C. GOLDSTEIN
Partner
CRAVATH SWAINE & MOORE

With a focus on mergers and acquisitions, securities and commercial disputes, Sandra Goldstein has represented clients in litigation cases representing a cumulative value of more than $400 billion. Her significant client list has included corporations in the tech and retail spaces. She also serves as a member on the board of the trustees at New York University School of Law.

Today, women occupy 25% of law firm governance roles, nearly double the volume a decade ago*

Sources: *American Bar Association †2017 National Association of Women Lawyers survey
Women have constituted more than 40% of law school students for more than 30 years†

WENDY GOLDSMITH
Partner
COOLEY
... An expert on health care fraud and abuse, Wendy Goldstein has provided counsel to clients on pharmaceuticals and medical devices, and advised on government health care program compliance risks. She shares her expertise on these issues as an adjunct professor at Pace University School of Law. Goldstein has also done pro bono work in the field of pediatric oncology research.

WANDA N. GOODLOE
Senior vice president, general counsel
CBRE
... Wanda Goodloe oversees the day-to-day operations of CBRE’s New York tri-state region legal department, preparing and negotiating over 3,000 brokerage transactions annually. Goodloe has also provided legal advice to more than 500 brokers in the region. She has served on the board of The Harlem Community Development Corporation and the advisory board for African-American Real Estate Professionals of New York.

JENNIFER K. GRADY
Managing partner
RICHARDS KIBBE & ORBE
... Jennifer Grady has applied her expertise on derivatives transactions, distressed debt and bankruptcy-claims to financial institutions including investment banks and broker-dealers. Notably, her resume includes working on financing facilities secured by solar renewable energy credits. Grady played a crucial role in creating the documentation, standards and customs adopted by the secondary loan trading marketplace.

KEISHA-ANN G. GRAY
Partner
PROSKAUER ROSE
... Keisha-Ann Gray, who focuses on civil law, is respected for her handling of highly sensitive employment discrimination claims, earning victories in both state and federal courts. She also serves as co-head of the firm’s policies, handbooks and training group. Gray is a columnist for Human Resources Executive Online magazine, and helps up-and-comers as a highly regarded mentor of junior lawyers.

TAA GRAYS
Vice president and associate general counsel, information governance
METLIFE
... Taa Grays heads MetLife’s strategic management information lifecycle management program, a role that involves managing corporate ILM policies, processes, procedures, standards and tools. She co-chairs the technology governance committee and previously chaired the legal affairs’ diversity committee. Grays is the former president of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

NICOLE L. GREENBLATT
Partner
KIRKLAND & ELLIS
... Nicole Greenblatt’s business law expertise has made her a leader in handling all aspects of corporate restructurings on behalf of debtors, creditors, equity holders and investors. She has worked on Chapter 11 cases and on matters that cross jurisdictions and borders. She was selected as a nominee to participate in the inaugural Next Generation Program at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges.

DARYN A. GROSSMAN
Partner
PROSKAUER ROSE
... Daryn Grossman, who heads up her firm’s life sciences group, works with clients in fields ranging from cloud computing, software and electronics to retail, fashion and entertainment. Previously, she served as a partner liaison to the Proskauer Women’s Alliance, a resource affinity group for the firm. She often lectures on entrepreneurship and issues pertaining to tech, licensing and intellectual property law.

CAROLINE G. HARRIS
Managing partner
GOLDMANHARRIS
... Eight years ago, Caroline Harris co-founded the firm Goldman-Harris, where she focuses on development rights deals and New York City zoning, land use and historic preservation. She has worked on a pro bono basis to promote sustainability-focused zoning modifications, and this year established the Caroline G. Harris Endowment for Leadership to support exceptional lawyers focused on policies affecting women and minorities.

In 2006, women represented 30.2% of the legal profession; in 2016, that figure was 36%*
TANYA HOBSON-WILLIAMS
Principal
HOBSON-WILLIAMS

Tanya Hobson-Williams’ practice, which focuses on elder law and guardianship matters, has been part of several key successes, including a recent reversal of a Supreme Court decision regarding easement access. When not working on cases, she mentors and provides pro bono assistance to young people in the LGBTQ community. She additionally provides free legal assistance to residents of senior-living facilities.

MARY BETH HOGAN
Partner
Debevoise & Plimpton

Mary Beth Hogan utilizes her expertise on litigation and investigations practice areas as co-chair of her firm’s litigation department. She has represented many large financial institutions, and has focused on actions involving the Department of Justice, attorneys general and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, among others. She serves on the board of directors of Catalyst, the global non-profit that supports female leadership in the workplace.

LENORE HORTON
Partner
FisherBroyles

An experienced entrepreneur, Lenore Horton provides legal counsel to businesses and nonprofits as well as investors and startups. Her expertise includes handling complex litigation involving embezzlement, copyright and trademark infringement, and sexual harassment. Horton has also lectured on international justice issues, with a focus on the intersection of business and human rights.

LISA K. HOWLETT
Senior vice president, general counsel and secretary
Hunter Roberts Construction Group

Lisa Howlett ensures that Hunter Roberts is provided with effective counsel on all legal issues, with a focus on contractual and uninsured litigation matters. She also manages the company’s ethics programs. Howlett is the former co-president of Episcopal Property Assistance, an affiliate entity of the Episcopal Diocese of New York that guides development of parish property.

NARGES M. KAKALIA
Member
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo

Narges Kakalia specializes in complex business disputes, with a focus on matters including securities litigation, contracts, corporate governance and insurance coverage. She also advises clients on legal ethics, attorney-client privileges, big data and other issues. She manages the firm’s pro bono practice for the New York office, and has honored by Human Rights First.

SONG KIM
Staff attorney
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Song Kim represents survivors of trafficking, on their applications for immigration relief and in federal civil litigation. She is a steering committee member of the New York Anti-Trafficking Network, as well as a member of the Brooklyn Human Trafficking Task Force and the Freedom Network. She regularly informs immigrant communities by giving Know-Your-Rights presentations.

LAURIN BLUMENTHAL KLEIMAN
Partner
Sidley Austin

As a global co-leader of the firm’s investment funds, advisers and derivatives practice team, Laurin Kleiman represents investment funds and managers, with a focus on issues such as compliance, governance and reorganizations. She is co-chair of Sidley’s committee on retention and promotion of women and has provided pro bono services to individuals seeking asylum in the U.S.

EVE I. KLEIN
Partner
Duane Morris

Eve Klein specializes in employment law, labor relations and litigation. She particularly has expertise in laws and regulations affecting the workplace, including employment discrimination statutes, union representation, wage rules, employee benefits and more. Klein has spoken at conferences and annual meetings of the American Health Lawyers Association and New York State Bar Association, among others.

The percentage of female equity partners has remained relatively flat over the last 10 years (16% in 2007, 19% in 2017)

In 2017, Women in Law Empowerment Forum gave its gold standard of certification to 44 big firms, meaning that at least 20% of their equity partners are female

Sources: *Women in Law Empowerment Forum    †2017 National Association of Women Lawyers survey
JEANINE T. MARGIANO
Partner
WINDELS MARX LANE & MITTENDORF

Jeanine Margiano’s real estate practice has included representing developers in the construction of affordable and supportive housing projects. She also serves as general counsel to both for-profit and not-for-profit companies, offering legal support on everything from intellectual property to non-disclosure agreements. She serves on Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf’s women’s committee, which supports the advancement of female lawyers.

MARNI J. LERNER
Partner
SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT

Marni Lerner practices in the corporate department, where her specialties include private divestitures, strategic investments and corporate and securities law. During her 25 years in the field, Lerner has worked on complex acquisition cases involving many high-profile companies. She serves on Simpson Thacher’s women’s committee, which supports the advancement of female lawyers.

LORI MARKS-ESTERMAN
Partner
OLSHAN FROME WOLOSKY

As chair of Olshan’s litigation practice group, Lori Marks-Esterman is the firm’s youngest practice group leader. In addition, she co-leads the securities litigation practice group and the commercial real estate litigation practice group. Her experience ranges from contract and unfair-competition disputes to corporate dissolution. Marks-Esterman also mentors other female attorneys at the firm.

HAZEL-ANN F. MAYER
Executive vice president, general counsel
SIMON & SCHUSTER

Hazel-Ann Mayers handles all legal affairs for the publishing juggernaut, including litigation, intellectual property and legal strategies for transitioning to digital publishing. Previously, she worked for Simon & Schuster’s parent company, CBS Corporation. Mayers serves as a vice president of the New York City Bar Fund and as an advisory board member of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum.

MARJORIE MESIDOR
Partner
PHILLIPS & ASSOCIATES

Marjorie Mesidor has won significant awards and settlements for her clients—employees who have been sexually assaulted or discriminated on the basis of race, gender, disability and other protected characteristics. She regularly prosecutes Fortune 500 companies as well as smaller organizations. The Office of the Public Advocate has recognized her work against the disparate impact of “poor door” policies on rent-stabilized tenants.

Slightly less than 25% of general counsel at Fortune 500 companies are women; 19.8% of general counsel at Fortune 501-1000 companies are women*

In 1899, 18 women denied admission to other bar associations created the Women Lawyers Club located in NYC†
MELANIE MEYERS
Partner
FRIED FRANK HARRIS SHRIVER & JACOBSON

A member of her firm’s real estate department, Melanie Meyers focuses on issues including land use, environmental review and public approvals. In this capacity, she draws on her previous experience as an architect and as general counsel to the NYC Department of City Planning. Meyers is a member of the WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate.

AKIKO MIKUMO
Managing partner, Asia
WEIL GOTSHAL & MANGES

At Weil, Akiko Mikumo advises on takeovers, mergers, proxy fights, spin-offs and strategic alliances, leveraging her three decades of experience with mergers and acquisitions. She is also a member of the firm’s management committee. She is a regular participant on the Mergers and Acquisitions Update panel at the Practising Law Institute’s Annual Institute on Corporate & Securities Law in Hong Kong.

PAMELA A. MILLER
Partner
O’MELVENY & MYERS

In addition to representing banks and insurance companies in litigation ranging from bank liability to securities fraud, Pamela Miller has conducted internal investigations on anti-money laundering compliance, accounting fraud and more. In this role, she has appeared before the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission, among others. Her pro bono work for the Legal Aid Society has earned her accolades.

JESSICA M. MILLETT
Partner
DUVAL & STACHENFELD

Jessica Millett advises on domestic and international matters across industries, but specializes in U.S. tax issues arising out of cross-border real estate transactions. She’s also worked with financial institutions on tax and compliance issues, including those related to tax treaty planning. She serves as chair of the firm’s pro bono committee, helping assist clients in U-Visa and asylum applications.
NANCY A. MITCHELL  
Shareholder  
GREENBERG TRAURIG  

Nancy Mitchell is co-chair of the firm’s national restructuring and bankruptcy practice. She is also the regional operating shareholder and co-managing shareholder for the firm’s New York office, representing debtors, acquirers and creditors in complex distressed situations. In this role, she utilizes more than 30 years of experience as both an attorney and an investment banker. Mitchell is a member of the American Bankruptcy Institute.

CHRISTINE MONTENEGRO  
Partner  
KASOWITZ BENSON TORRES  

One of a handful of female Hispanic lawyers in the country handling high stakes litigation matters, Christine Montenegro’s specialties include protecting the rights of Native Americans. She’s been instrumental in reconstituting Kasowitz’s women’s initiative committee, of which she is now co-chair and an active leader. In this role, she works with female partners, associates and staff to help ensure professional growth.

SHEILA M. MURPHY  
Senior vice president and associate general counsel  
METLIFE  

Leader of the U.S. regulatory and retail litigation group, Sheila Murphy provides litigation, regulatory and risk mitigation advice. She serves on the advisory board to MetLife’s U.S. Women’s Business Network and previously served on the company’s U.S. Diversity Task Force. Murphy is a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Women Lawyers.

JAIMEE L. NARDIELLO  
Partner  
ZETLIN & DE CHIARA  

Jaimee Nardiello focuses on disputes involving construction, contracts and environmental/energy laws on behalf of her clients in the design industry. In her role, she negotiates contracts in transactions for high-profile construction projects, represents clients in commercial litigation, and works on intellectual property disputes. She is the current president-elect of Commercial Real Estate Women of New York.
SHARON NELLES
Partner
SULLIVAN & CROMWELL

Sharon Nelles represents financial institutions and global companies in civil litigation and related regulatory, congressional and criminal investigations and enforcement actions. Her practice currently focuses on matters arising from the subprime mortgage crisis. She spearheaded the firm’s founding sponsorship of Out Leadership, an organization supporting LGBT leaders in the financial services and legal professions.

LYNN K. NEUNER
Partner
SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT

Lynn Neuner represents clients including large financial institutions, pharmaceutical companies and prominent insurers. She focuses on litigation involving securities, mergers, insurance coverage and false advertising. Neuner has served in several prestigious roles, including as vice president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. She currently serves on the lawyers committee of the Inner-City Scholarship Fund.

AMANDA H. NUSSBAUM
Partner
PROSKAUER ROSE

Amanda Nussbaum specializes in the structuring of domestic and international private investment funds, and advises those funds on investment activities and operations issues. Nussbaum also advises not-for-profit clients on tax-related matters, including applying for and maintaining exemption from federal income tax. She is the co-author of the New York Limited Liability Company: Forms and Practice Manual.

MOYA M. O’CONNOR
Senior trial attorney
METLIFE

In her role, Moya O’Connor provides litigation counsel in fields such as premises liability, automobile liability, property damage, subrogation and personal injury. Outside the courtroom, she serves as founder and CEO of Caribbean Attorneys Network, Inc. (CAN), which aids in the development of attorneys, law students and legal professionals of Caribbean descent. O’Connor has also been published in the New York State Bar Association Torts, Insurance, & Compensation Law Section Journal.
Kathleen Pakenham’s specialties include representing clients on tax shelter and tax fraud issues. She is a seasoned litigator with extensive experience advising clients at the prelitigation assessment phase. Pakenham is a member of the board of directors of the Legal Aid Society’s Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic and of the global advisory board of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum.

Michele Penzer specializes on strategic planning, client relations, recruitment and integration and diversity. Previously, she served as chair of the firm’s diversity committee and associates committee. She also co-founded Women Enriching Business, an initiative dedicated to empowering women with tools to develop their business skills.

Hara Perkins has helped structure significant real estate transactions and negotiated low-income-tax-credit transactions on behalf of investors and developers. She is known for incorporating new technologies into the practice of law, and serves as co-chair of the firm’s multifamily housing industry group. Additionally, she is a regular speaker on industry issues and trends.

Vered Rabia focuses on the firm’s real estate practice, including acquisitions, dispositions, developments, restructurings and joint ventures. She has worked with clients in connection with the acquisition, financing, development and disposition of office buildings, arts venues, senior living residences and more. Her pro bono work includes representing a nonprofit in developing a new high school building and covenant house in New York.
VALERIE RADWANER
Deputy chair and partner
PAUL WEISS RIPKIND WHARTON & GARRISON

Valerie Radwaner helps fashion, retail and luxury-brand companies with acquisition financings, asset-based loans and more. She is also a member of the firm’s management committee, a partner in the finance practice group of the firm’s corporate department, and deputy chair. Radwaner is a member of the 30% Club, an organization that has set a 30% target for women on corporate boards by 2020.

KARA I. SCHECHTER-RAKOWSKI
Partner
BELKIN BURDEN WENIG & GOLDMAN

Kara Rakowski specializes in administrative law, with a focus on rent regulation and human rights. She has represented owners in litigation involving agencies like the New York City Commission on Human Rights and the New York City Environmental Control Board, and advised owners on compliance with federal regulations for lead paint. Rakowski is responsible for introducing the human rights practice to Belkin.

JULISSA REYNOSO
Partner
WINSTON & STRAWN

Julissa Reynoso previously served as U.S. ambassador to Uruguay, and as deputy assistant secretary for Central American, Caribbean and Cuban affairs in the U.S. department of state. Her work has involved, among other things, advising on complex cross-border disputes and investigations. Her public-interest work—she’s served on several nonprofit and advisory boards—has been recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Foundation.

AIMEE L. RICHTER
Partner
LEE ANAV CHUNG WHITE KIM RUGER & RICHTER

Aimee Richter serves as co-chair of the matrimonial and family law division at Lee Anav, the fourth-largest minority-owned law firm in New York state. Richter was sworn in this year as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association. She was also one of the founders of the Kings County Matrimonial Pro Bono Project and serves as co-chair.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
Kara Schechter-Rakowski
ON HER ACCEPTANCE TO
The 2018 Legal List/Leading Women Lawyers in NYC!
Olshan congratulates Nina Roket & Lori Marks-Esterman on their selection as Leading Women Lawyers in New York City.

Their commitment to diversity and inclusion reinforces our core values.
We join in honoring Crain’s Leading Women Lawyers in NYC including our friend and New York Office Managing Partner Laurie Ruckel.

We salute your dedication to our clients and continued contributions to the industry, paving the way for generations of women to come.
Wilson Elser congratulates our partner Ricki Roer on her recognition by Crain’s as among the Leading Women Lawyers in New York City.

Ricki chairs Wilson Elser’s Employment & Labor litigation practice, serves on the firm’s Executive Committee, is a member of the Chairman’s Office and acts as role model and mentor to scores of attorneys.

Ricki has already made significant contributions to the local, national and international legal communities. We look forward to following this remarkable leader as she scales still greater heights.
Congratulations to our Partner, Jeanine T. Margiano, on her recognition among the Crain’s New York Leading Women Lawyers.

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Congratulations to Crain’s Legal List 2018 Leading Women Lawyers in NYC.

Cravath is proud to have Christine Varney, Sandra Goldstein and Lauren Angelilli among this year’s distinguished honorees for their work across the antitrust, litigation and tax fields.

CHRISTINE A. VARNEY
Partner
CRAVATH SWaine & MOoRe

Before assuming her current role chairing the firm’s antitrust practice, Christine Varney headed the Justice Department’s antitrust division and served as a commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. She’s worked with clients in fields including cable, financial services, manufacturing, retail and transportation. She currently serves on the boards of trustees of the American Museum of Natural History and Third Way.

NAOMI B. WALTMAN
Senior vice president and associate general counsel
CBS CORP.

As co-head of the CBS law department’s intellectual property group, and deputy head of litigation, Naomi Waltman focuses on IP, defamation, employment and general commercial disputes. Waltman serves on the global advisory board of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum and co-chairs the Association of the Corporate Counsel-NYC Women’s Group Steering Committee.

JAMIE WINE
Partner
LATHAM & WATKINS

Jamie Wine is global chair of the firm’s litigation and trial department, in which capacity she serves as a securities litigator specializing in, among other matters, class action litigation and Securities and Exchange Commission investigations. She also has significant trial and arbitration experience in areas outside the field of securities litigation. Wine regularly speaks about the role of women in the legal profession.

NICOLE WOOLARD
Associate
DUANE MORRIS

Nicole Woolard works with clients to resolve and litigate issues arising from the construction process, and negotiates agreements for construction projects. Her work encompasses operating agreements, license agreements, property damage and more. She serves on Duane Morris’ Women’s Impact Network for Success, and provides assistance pro bono to survivors of human trafficking.

Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP
Latham & Watkins congratulates all of the talented women lawyers recognized by *Crain’s*, including our partners Michèle Penzer and Jamie Wine.

We are thrilled and proud to be part of the New York legal community.

Michèle Penzer  
Jamie Wine