

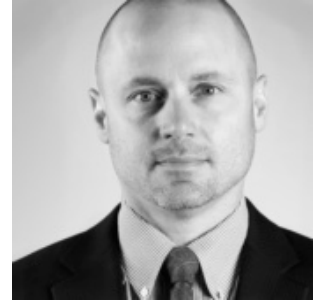
# **Faculty Biographies**

(Alphabetical Order)



# Timothy E. Delahunt, Esq.

Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP



## Buffalo Program Chair

Tim Delahunt is a Managing Partner at KSLN and co-leader of the firm's insurance coverage group. Mr. Delahunt's practice is devoted to insurance law and coverage litigation. He represents major national insurers, specialty insurers, non-admitted carriers, mutuals, managing general agents, third-party administrators, brokers, and agents in all types of coverage matters. Mr. Delahunt advises his clients regarding coverage, underwriting, and drafting matters. He is also an experienced trial and appellate litigator. Although based in KSLN's Buffalo headquarters, Mr. Delahunt predominantly practices in New York City and Long Island.

Mr. Delahunt is also a frequent writer and speaker on insurance law issues. He has given presentations and/or written articles on behalf of, among others, the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, the New York Unified Court System, the American Association of Managing General Agents, the New York Insurance Association, and HB Litigation Conferences.

Prior to joining KSLN in 2004, Mr. Delahunt practiced at policy holder boutique Gilbert Heintz & Randolph in Washington, DC.

### EDUCATION

- B.A., Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*, University of Rochester, 1994
- J.D., Cornell Law School, 1997

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Co-author and co-editor, "Construction Insurance: A Guide for Attorneys and Other Professionals," published by the American Bar Association, Spring 2011
- New York State "Super Lawyer," 2008, 2009, 2011-2017

### ADMISSIONS

- New York State
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court, Northern District of New York
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York
- United States District Court, Western District of New York
- United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- United States District Court, Washington, D.C.



**Timothy J. Fennell, Esq.**

*Amdursky, Pelky, Fennell & Wallen, P.C.  
26 East Oneida Street  
Oswego, New York 13126*

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***Profile:***

Upon graduating from Albany Law School, Union University, in May of 1983, Tim joined the law firm of Leonard Amdursky. Tim was named a partner in 1987. Tim is currently the Managing Partner of this five-attorney law firm. Tim is admitted to both the New York State and Federal Courts, and enjoys a busy practice in both civil and criminal law, with emphasis on litigation, trusts and estates, matrimonial law and real estate. Tim has presented cases to the Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

***Bar Activities:***

*Member:*        New York State Bar Association  
                      (Torts, Insurance, Compensation Law, Trial Lawyers and Real Property  
                      Sections  
                      Sustaining Member; Fellow of the NYS Bar Foundation)  
American Bar Association  
Oswego County Bar Association  
Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association  
New York State Trial Lawyers Association  
New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers

*Leadership:*    New York State Bar Association

<i>1997-1998:</i>	<i>House of Delegates, member</i>
<i>2001-2004:</i>	
<i>2014-2015:</i>	
<i>2006 -2007:</i>	<i>Member-At-Large, Executive Committee</i>
<i>2007:</i>	<i>Member; Special Committee on Legal Specialization</i>
<i>2008-2011:</i>	<i>Liaison to TICL, Trial Lawyers and Real Property Sections</i>
<i>2010-present</i>	<i>Lecturer/Faculty Member – NYSBA Young Lawyers Trial Academy</i>
<i>2011:</i>	<i>President’s Working Group on Judicial Pay Raises</i>
<i>2011-present:</i>	<i>Veteran’s Committee (current Chair), Committee on Mass Disaster Response</i>
<i>2012:</i>	<i>Member, Special Committee on Voter Participation</i>
<i>2013-present:</i>	<i>TICL (co-Chair) Membership</i>
<i>2015-present:</i>	<i>Membership Committee</i>

1998-2009:	5 <sup>th</sup> District Representative to Executive Committee TICL Section
2003-2004:	Nominating Committee (Alternate)/ 5 <sup>th</sup> District
2004-2007:	New York State Conference of Bar Leaders/ At-Large Representative/Awards Committee/Nominating Committee
1995-present: of note:	Lawyer Referral Information Service Committee Chair of Committee 1998-2004

American Bar Association

2007-2010:	Lawyer Referral and Information Committee
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Oswego County Bar Association

1994-1995:	President
1993-1994:	Vice President
1992-1993:	Treasurer
of note:	created Judicial Screening Committee; Participant moot court program and scholarship program; organized first composite photograph of the Oswego County Bar in fifty years; committee on Law Practice Continuity (current Chair)
2013-2014	Chair, Judicial Screening Committee
2015	Chair, Committee on Law Proactive Continuity

Other

2005-2013: of note:	5 <sup>th</sup> District Pro Bono Committee member of Committee which has developed a program to coordinate and deliver legal services to indigent clients
2007-present	5 <sup>th</sup> District Women in the Courts Committee

**Education:**

1983:	Albany School of Law, Union University Juris Doctor
1980:	LeMoyne College B.A. Political Science, <i>cum laude</i>

**Community Activities:**

:	St. Mary's Church
of note:	Trustee 1995-2006 Chair, Finance Committee Co-leader Parish initiative for construction of \$1.8 million Parish Center
1998-2004:	Baldwinsville Little League Board of Directors

*2007-2013:* Hope for Bereaved, Inc., Board Member  
*2006-present:* LeMoyne College Alumni Association,  
President, 2013-2015; Presidential appointment to  
Board of Trustees Finance Committee

***Personal:***

*Home Address:* 7626 Pico Lane  
Baldwinsville, New York 13027

*Email:* [tfennell@apfwlaw.com](mailto:tfennell@apfwlaw.com)

*Family:* Judith Mayne, spouse; Children, Matthew and Maggie





# Joanna Roberto, Esq.

Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady LLP

TICL CLE Committee Chair



Joanna concentrates her practice in complex insurance coverage, product liability, and commercial litigation. She serves as counsel for multi-national insurance carriers in numerous matters pending throughout the country. Joanna has litigated all phases of declaratory judgment actions and arbitrations. She has counseled large insurers on risk management, underwriting procedures, and policy rewriting and claims practices.

She also focuses her practice on professional liability claims, including errors and omissions; property claims; life, health, and disability; construction liability coverage; Coverage B litigation; and products liability. She recently chaired the Annual Meeting for the Torts Insurance and Compensation Law (TICL) Section of the New York State Bar Association.

Joanna is currently the editor of the TICL Insurance Coverage eNews, published by the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance, and Compensation Law Section. She is also a commentator for Mealey's Litigation Report: Insurance Bad Faith.

Joanna is multi-lingual and has attained a degree in linguistics in Florence, Italy. She has a familiarity with and appreciation for international claims handling practices as a result of her experience handling claims arising in Mexico, Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and France.



## **Buffalo Faculty**



# John E. Abeel, Esq.

William Mattar, P.C.



Attorney John Abeel grew up in Cheektowaga, New York, and attended Buffalo State for his undergraduate studies. He was named an Outstanding Philosophy Major in 2000, and he graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in philosophy in 2001.

Studying philosophy helped John discover his passion for examining and considering issues from different viewpoints and angles. This passion inspired him to pursue a career in law, and in 2005, John graduated *cum laude* from SUNY Buffalo Law School.

After receiving his Juris Doctor, John began his law career by representing insurance companies. This experience gives John a unique perspective on personal injury cases, and he puts that knowledge to work in his clients' favor.

John is passionate about helping his clients get compensation when people and companies break important safety rules. He believes that holding those parties accountable for their actions helps keep the community safe and deters others from breaking laws in the future.

We asked John what motivates him in his day-to-day work. He said "As a public-safety trial lawyer, I help severely injured people obtain accountability and financial relief from the rule-breakers who hurt them. Obviously, this helps the injured person, and their family, get their lives back on track. Perhaps less obviously though, this also benefits us all by making our communities safer. Holding rule-breakers accountable makes our communities safer in two important ways. First, it places the financial responsibility back where it belongs—onto the rule-breaker—instead of on the injured person or the taxpayers. Second, holding rule-breakers accountable helps to curb future bad behavior by showing them, and others, what it will cost if they choose to break safety rules and injure someone else in the future. It's true. We all benefit from a strong civil-justice system. Our environment is cleaner, our medicine is better, and our cars are safer, thanks to Americans like you, represented by trial lawyers like me, who stood up to rule-breakers and held them accountable in court."

Whenever he has free time, John likes to spend it traveling or visiting with his family and friends.



# Aaron M. Adoff, Esq.

Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP



## EXPERIENCE

Mr. Adoff joined Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak in 2013 as an Associate. Prior to joining KSLN, Mr. Adoff gained considerable experience in all areas of civil litigation while working with another area law firm, and had the opportunity to work for Hon. Patrick H. NeMoyer, J.S.C., as a volunteer student law clerk during law school. Before pursuing a career in law, Aaron served as a Medic in the US Army from 1994-1997.

## EDUCATION

- Middle Tennessee State University
- B.A., Communication, departmental honors, State University of New York, College at Buffalo
- J.D., cum laude, State University of New York, University at Buffalo Law School

## AFFILIATIONS

- Erie County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association

## ADMISSIONS

- New York State





# Robert C. Brucato, Esq.

Counsel Press



Rob Brucato opened the Buffalo Office of Counsel Press in 1992 and has continuously managed it since that time. With 25 years of experience, he has personally been involved with several thousand appeals, primarily to the Appellate Division First, Second, Third and Fourth Departments in New York State, the New York State Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Mr. Brucato is very involved with multiple legal organizations and associations in the upstate NY region. He has presented CLE's on appellate topics to the Bar Association of Erie County, the Monroe County Bar Association, the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY), the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA), SUNY Buffalo Law School Law Alumni GOLD Group, the Western New York Paralegal Association and the Paralegal Association of Rochester. Mr. Brucato is very active with the aforementioned organizations and is a member of the Bar Association of Erie County, the Monroe County Bar Association, the WNY Chapter of WBASNY and GRAWA.

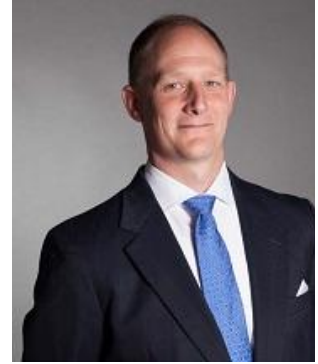
Prior to joining Counsel Press, Mr. Brucato worked for a short time with the United States Small Business Administration, and was also in private practice with Maghran, McCarthy & Flynn, in Buffalo, NY.

Mr. Brucato is also a member of the Board of Directors of the MedLaw Cancer Partnership of Western New York.



# Jesse J Cooke, Esq.

Duggan Pawlowski & Cooke LLP



A native to Western New York, Jesse earned his J.D. and M.B.A. from Arizona State University College of Law (now the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law) and Arizona State University W.P. Carey School of Business after spending a semester abroad in London at Middlesex University as part of his undergraduate studies at Buffalo State College.

For more than a decade, Jesse has concentrated his practice on insurance coverage litigation and has extensive experience in a wide range of first and third-party insurance disputes surrounding general liability, excess liability, homeowners, commercial property, and commercial and personal motor vehicle liability policies. His experience also includes defending self-insured entities, and litigating business disputes and personal injury matters. Jesse's legal and business acumen make him especially suited for complex litigation, and Jesse is proud to put his talents to work in courts throughout New York and Pennsylvania. While in law school, Jesse was an editor of the Arizona State Law Journal. His published contributions include "Beyond an Unfortunate 'Occurrence': Insurance Coverage and the Equitable Redress of Victims of Sexual Predator Priests", which the law school awarded Best Article. Always committed to helping others, Jesse graduated with Highest Pro Bono Distinction for providing more than 150 hours of volunteer legal services during law school and was honored at graduation with the Dean's Award for his academic achievement and contributions to the community.

Jesse is proud to have completed two marathons, but is prouder to now spend most of his free time running after his two children and three step-children with his wife, Beth.

## **Areas of Practice**

- Insurance Coverage Litigation
- Defense of Insureds and Self-Insureds
- Commercial Litigation

## **Litigation Percentage**

- 100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

## **Bar Admissions**

- New York, 2006
- Pennsylvania, 2016

## **Education**

- **Arizona State University, College of Law, Tempe, Arizona**
  - J.D. - 2005
  - Honors: With Distinction
  - Law Journal: Arizona State Law Journal, Editor, 2003 - 2005
- **Arizona State University W.P. Carey School of Business, Tempe, Arizona**
  - M.B.A. - 2005
- **State University of New York College at Buffalo**
  - B.A.
  - Major: History

## **Representative Cases**

- [\*Dryden Mut. Ins. Co. v. Goessl\*, 117 A.D.3d 1512 \(4th Dept. 2014\)](#)
- [\*Teague v. Automobile Ins. Co. of Hartford, Conn.\*, 71 A.D.3d 1584 \(4th Dept. 2010\)](#)
- [\*Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co. v. Posa\*, 56 A.D.3d 1143 \(4th Dept. 2008\)](#)

## **Classes/Seminars**

- Intro to Civil Practice Skills: Torts, NYS Bar Association, 2015
- The Examination Under Oath, The CLM, 2015

## **Professional Associations and Memberships**

- Erie County, Member
- New York State Bar Association, Member, 2006 - Present
- American Bar Associations, Member, 2006 - Present

## **Past Employment Positions**

- The Long Firm, LLP, Partner, 2014 - 2016
- Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP, Attorney, 2005 - 2014

## **Languages**

- English

# Dan D. Kohane, Esq.

Hurwitz & Fine, P.C.



Mr. Kohane is a nationally recognized insurance coverage counselor who conducts extensive training, consultation and in-house seminars on this highly specialized practice. For over 25 years, he has served as Adjunct Professor of Insurance Law at the University at Buffalo Law School. Mr. Kohane is also known in the industry for his comprehensive newsletter, Coverage Pointers, a bi-weekly publication summarizing important insurance coverage decisions in New York State courts with overviews of other jurisdictions.

A senior member at Hurwitz & Fine, P.C., Mr. Kohane has distinguished himself in managing the ever-evolving area of insurance coverage serving regional, national and international clients. An accomplished trial lawyer and litigator, Mr. Kohane is also active behind the scenes, advising clients on a broad range of matters involving litigation including insurance coverage, bad faith, tort defense and professional ethics. Mr. Kohane also has extensive experience mediating complex casualty and insurance coverage disputes and serves on the American Arbitration Association Complex Coverage Neutral Evaluation Panel and Commercial Arbitration panels.

An active industry participant, Mr. Kohane is an elected member of the board of the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence, which provides educational programming and support to officers of the court. In 2017, Mr. Kohane was selected as a member of the American Law Institute, an organization of nationally prominent judges, lawyers, and law professors who work together to produce scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law.

He is a past president of the highly selective Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC), is immediate past president of the FDCC Foundation and previously chaired its Insurance Coverage Section. He has also served on the Board of Directors of DRI, serves on its Insurance Law Steering Committee and served as program chair for its Insurance Coverage and Practice Symposium and as Co-Editor in Chief of its Reservation of Rights

Compendium. He was a founding member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Coverage and Extracontractual Counsel. Mr. Kohane is an AV-Rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, a Top 50 New York Super Lawyer in Upstate New York and has been listed in Best Lawyers in America since 2009 where he was named Lawyer of the Year in Insurance Law for 2017.

A frequent resource for journal and newspaper articles, he lectures widely on insurance coverage and tort issues. He heads the firm's Insurance Coverage and Extra Contractual Liability, Class Actions/Mass Torts and ADR practice groups.

The first recipient of the Young Lawyer's Award from the Insurance, Negligence and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, he was also honored with the Section's John E. Leach Memorial Award for Outstanding Service and Distinguished Contributions to the Legal Profession. Mr. Kohane is a member of the Torts, Insurance, Compensation and Municipal Law Sections of the New York State Bar Association, a member of the Erie County Bar Association and the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association and is a past president of the Erie County Bar Foundation.

Mr. Kohane is a graduate of the University at Buffalo Law School and received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

# Elise L. Cassar, Esq.

Law Offices of Destin C. Santacrose

ELISE L. CASSAR, State Delegate, has been an associate at the Law Offices of Destin C. Santacrose, staff counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, since March 2011. Her practice focuses on defending corporate and individual clients in personal injury litigation. Previously, Ms. Cassar worked as a law clerk at Cohen & Lombardo, and with the Domestic Violence Unit of Legal Aid Services in Rochester, New York.

Ms. Cassar graduated cum laude from the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2007. She went on to receive her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 2010. During law school, Ms. Cassar was a member of the Desmond Moot Court Board. She was also an Articles Editor for the Buffalo Human Rights Law Review.

In addition to serving on the Board of WNY WBASNY, Ms. Cassar is also a board member of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association. She lives in Williamsville with her loving and supportive husband.







## Ron F. Wright – Partner

We at Russell Friedman & Associates are proud to work with a dedicated New York no-fault insurance attorney such as Ron F. Wright. When handling no-fault insurance cases, he is meticulous and driven to reach a timely resolution. He has represented numerous medical providers in claims against insurance companies, including those involving denied no-fault claims. He is very familiar with how insurance companies operate and knows how to navigate the state's no-fault laws. He can recommend the strongest course of action and help you take swift action in order to resolve a no-fault issue.

While studying the law at Albany Law School, he was the executive editor of the Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology and his published note, "Shocking the Second Amendment: Invalidating State Prohibitions on Taser with the District of Columbia v. Heller," was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in an amicus brief. He was awarded the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association Award and the Judge

Merle Nahum Fogg, Jr. '45 Moot Court Prize. He was also winner of the Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trials Competition and a member of the Albany Law School Trial Team.

If you need legal representation you can trust, Attorney Ron F. Wright is readily available to guide you through the legal process. He will remain at your side to ensure your rights remain protected and to provide timely counsel. Schedule a free initial consultation in order to discuss the details of your no-fault case as soon as possible.

### Education

- Albany Law School, J.D. – 2010
- Sacred Heart University, B.S. – 2007

### Professional Associations & Memberships

- New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Vermont Bar Association
- Monroe County Bar Association

***To discuss your case with Attorney Ron Wright, [please call us today.](#)***



# David M. Goodman, Esq.

Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP



Dave joins KSLN with over 25 years of experience litigating cases throughout New York State in both state and federal courts. His practice focuses on the defense of professional liability, motor vehicle and transportation, premises, products liability, labor law, construction defect and general liability claims.

Dave has also represented doctors, health care providers, attorneys and other professionals in the defense of medical malpractice claims and in licensure and disciplinary proceedings. He has worked in the community as a mentor, educator, and as a faculty member at many Continuing Legal Education seminars. Considered a “lawyer’s lawyer”, his opinion and representation is frequently sought out by his fellow attorneys

## EDUCATION

- B.S., Economics, Dual Concentration: Commerce and Labor Relations, Niagara University
- J.D., The University of Dayton School of Law

## AFFILIATIONS

- Erie County Bar Association
- Boy Scouts of America

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Member, New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Member, Western New York Trial Lawyers Association
- Member, New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Member, American Association of Justice
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated – AV® Preeminent™
- New York State Super Lawyer, 2008 – present.
- Member, Board of Directors, Hands Down With Heart, Inc.
- Advisory Board Member, Honor Flight

- Author, *Rear-End Accidents in New York State*, Bill of Particulars, New York State Trial Lawyers, 2011
- Editorial Board Member, New York Motor Vehicle Accidents, James Publishing Co.
- Lifetime Member *Million Dollar Advocates Forum* the Top Trial Lawyers in America
- Selected to *Best Lawyers in America* Annually since 2001
- Faculty Member, Erie Institute of Law (Lecturer, Continuing Legal Education)
- Faculty Member, NBI Training (Lecturer, Continuing Legal Education)
- Guest Lecturer, University at Buffalo School of Law, Personal Injury Litigation Practice and Procedure, October 2009
- Guest Lecturer, Bar Association of Erie Co. Negligence Comm., Dram Shop Liability
- Guest Lecturer, Canisius High School, Law and Litigation
- Faculty Member, Lecturer, Erie Institute of Law, Ethical Motion Practice, July, 2011
- Faculty Member, Lecturer, Erie Institute of Law, Discovery the New Normal, 2012
- Martindale-Hubbell Directory of Distinguished Attorneys
- Cambridge Who's Who Among Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs.
- International Who's Who Historical Society
- Buffalo Spree, Best Lawyers in Western New York, Annually since 2011
- The National Association of Distinguished Counsel – Member of the Nation's Top One Percent of Attorneys
- Corporate Vision Magazine, Attorney of the Year New York, 2017
- Past President, St. George's Parish Council, West Falls, New York
- Coach and Sponsor, Orchard Park Little League
- Editor, New York Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Judge, High School Mock Trial Competitions
- Judge, Mock Trial Competitions, University at Buffalo School of Law
- Judge, Desmond Moot Court Competition, University at Buffalo School of Law

#### ADMISSIONS

- State of New York, All Courts
- United States District Court, Western District of New York
- United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of New York
- United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania