

# Chevon Andre Brooks, Esq.

Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.



**Chevon Andre Brooks** is managing partner of the New York City office of Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. and is a partner in the Atlanta office with active cases throughout Georgia. He is an insurance and litigation defense attorney who concentrates in the defense of property and casualty matters in both federal and state courts and has extensive appellate experience. His practice is emphasized in the areas of civil litigation defense and insurance coverage litigation, excess/umbrella coverage, labor and employment law and construction related matters, Federal Civil Rights 42 USC §1983 and municipal liability, premises and products liability, asbestos exposure, motor vehicle, workers' compensation defense and general negligence cases.

Mr. Brooks represents clients engaged in the default servicing, banking, mortgage lending and mortgage servicing, construction and development, and title insurance industries in both transactional and litigation matters. In this area, his practice focuses on residential and commercial foreclosures, asset recovery, REO real estate transactions and title insurance, title insurance claims, construction disputes, evictions, creditors' rights in bankruptcy, documentation of leases, loans and secured transactions, evictions, and collection matters.

He is a former Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, who has significant experience defending municipalities. Mr. Brooks has litigated a wide range of federal cases in the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and New York State Court, including: class actions involving the New York City Department of Education; actions involving federal claims against the Department of Correction, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Education, and New York City Police Department; and administrative appeals, including a successful defense of a FOIL challenge featured on the cover of the New York Law Journal.

Mr. Brooks has presented Continuing Legal Education seminars on conducting plaintiffs' depositions in personal injuries actions and with respect to the utilization of accident reconstruction experts in construction defect cases.

Mr. Brooks received his Juris Doctor from The George Washington University School of Law, Washington, D.C., in 2005 and Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2001.

Mr. Brooks is licensed to practice law in Georgia and New York. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts for the Middle and Northern Districts of Georgia; U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York; and is a member of the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association.

He serves as treasurer of the National African American Insurance Association's (NAAIA) New York Chapter.

**Awards:**

- Recipient of the 2016 Network Journal's Top 40 under 40 Award.
- Recipient of the 2017 Stony Brook University Top 40 under 40 Award.

**Publications:**

- Author, "Liability Waivers. What Are They Good For?" Featured in USLAW's Spring/Summer 2014 magazine.

# Lisa M. Campisi, Esq.

Blank Rome LLP



Lisa M. Campisi has more than 20 years of experience in the insurance coverage industry, and focuses her practice on insurance coverage litigation, transactions, and counseling. She also has extensive experience in all insurance-related areas in the representation of policyholders.

Lisa counsels and litigates insurance coverage issues for policyholder clients across virtually all types of insurance coverage, including general liability, representations and warranty coverage, cyber liability, directors and officers insurance (“D&O”), employment practices liability (“EPL”), fiduciary liability, errors and omissions (“E&O”), professional liability, environmental, fidelity, fiduciary, crime, cargo, and political risk coverages. Her practice also includes providing insurance consulting and advice on underwriting, claims handling, and other risk management issues.

Lisa’s extensive experience applies to both domestic and foreign markets. She has wide-ranging experience in litigating insurance coverage cases, as well as in providing insurance diligence, consultation, and advice in connection with various mergers, acquisitions, and restructurings, and in the placement and negotiation of transactional-related coverage. She has been retained as an insurance expert, adviser, and consultant for a broad array of clients, including private equity firms and their portfolio companies, hedge funds, *Fortune* 100 companies, and financial services firms (including broker dealers).

Before joining Blank Rome, Lisa worked in the litigation departments of various Am Law 100 corporate law firms, where her practice focused on insurance coverage litigation.

JONATHAN A. DACHS, a graduate of Columbia College and NYU Law School, is a member (since 1990) of the Mineola, New York law firm of Shayne, Dachs, Sauer & Dachs, LLP. After spending the initial three years of his legal career at the distinguished New York City firm of Chadbourne & Parke, Jonathan joined Shayne, Dachs in 1987, where he worked closely with, and was schooled in the areas of insurance and tort law by, his esteemed father and mentor, Norman H. Dachs, for 27 years, until Norman's passing in 2014.

A recipient of the NYSBA's TICL Section's Young Lawyer Award in 1995, Jonathan has always given freely and generously of his time to educate lawyers (and judges) in the areas of his expertise -- most notably the area of uninsured, underinsured, and supplementary uninsured motorist ("SUM") law and practice, in which he is widely recognized as the leading expert in the State. A prolific writer, Jonathan has, since September 1987, been a co-author (with Norman H. Dachs) and is now the sole author of a regular column in the New York Law Journal on Insurance Law, and has published 180 articles in that publication to date. In addition, he has, for the past 23 years, published annual reviews of SUM case law, regulations and legislation in the New York State Bar Journal, and has published numerous additional articles that have appeared in the New York Negligence Reporter, Trial Lawyers Quarterly, Nassau Lawyer, and Trial Lawyers Section Digest.

In August 2016, Jonathan published a 500+ page treatise, entitled New York Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Law and Practice (Lexis Nexis/Matthew Bender). In his book review in the New York Law Journal, Dan Kohane (a previous recipient of both the Young Lawyer Award and the John E. Leach Memorial Award) called this book "a scholarly and practical treatise," "the first, comprehensive handbook in the New York UM/UIM field," and "a wonderful desktop 'handbook' when a lawyer, claim professional or judge requires clear authority and practice direction." The second edition of this book was released in August 2017, and the next edition is expected to be published in August 2018.

In addition to all of his published writings, Jonathan has served the legal profession and TICL Committee members by his participation as a lecturer at numerous CLE programs throughout the State, given by many bar groups, including NYSBA. To date, he has given over 140 lectures on various insurance and negligence topics, including SUM, automobile insurance, Dram Shop liability, legal writing, civil practice, and appellate practice. He has been designated a New York Metro "Super Lawyer" (Appellate Practice) and one of "Long Island's Top Legal (Personal Injury) Eagles" since 2010.

# Daniel G. Ecker, Esq.

Lever Gottfried Ecker PLLC



Daniel G. Ecker, a partner with the firm and its managing attorney, is an experienced civil litigation and trial attorney who handles a wide variety of personal injury matters. Dan was previously a partner at a national defense firm, and he uses that experience to great advantage on behalf of the firm's clients. Dan has tried numerous cases to verdict, and also argued numerous appeals, in both state and federal courts.

Dan received his Juris Doctor from Fordham University School of Law in 1996 and his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1993. He is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of New York, the United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Dan also lectures frequently on risk management strategies for lawyers. Dan is a member of several bar associations, including the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the New York State Trial Lawyers Association (NYSTLA), the Westchester County Bar Association, and the Justice Brandeis Law Society (JBLS). He is a long-time member of the NYSBA's Trial Lawyers Section, including as a member of its Executive Committee, as Chair of its Lawyers Professional Liability and Ethics Committee, and as a recipient of its 2015 Exceptional Contributions Award. He is also a member of JBLS's Executive Committee. Dan also serves on the board of The Sharing Shelf, an organization that collects and distributes clothing and school supplies to children in Westchester County, New York.



# Steven T. Goldstein, Esq.

Goldstein & Handwerker, LLP



Steven Goldstein was admitted to practice in New York State in 1992. He was admitted to practice in New Jersey in 1993.

His practice areas are plaintiff's personal injury and criminal defense.

He attended the State University of New York at Albany and graduated from New York Law School.

Steven has recovered millions of dollars for his clients in both New York and New Jersey. He has also served as the Mayor of Springfield Township in New Jersey and was also the alternate public defender in Springfield.





# Colleen Hastie, Esq.

Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP



Colleen Hastie is a partner with Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP in New York. Ms. Hastie is a litigation attorney with experience in a range of matters including civil disputes and commercial matters. Ms. Hastie concentrates on the defense of construction accident, legal malpractice, products liability, construction defect.

Ms. Hastie earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Psychology from University of Michigan where she served as research assistant with the Ormond and Hazel Hunt Laboratory for the study of Conscious and Unconscious Processes. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Pace University School of Law in 2002. Ms. Hastie served as Contracts for the International Sale of Goods ("CISG") book editor for the Pace International Law Review.

Ms. Hastie is admitted to the New York State Bar and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Ms. Hastie is a member of the New York State Bar and New York County Bar.



# Steven D. Jannace, Esq.

Simmons Jannace Deluca LLP

Steven Jannace's practice includes commercial litigation, general liability, labor and employment law, municipal law and banking law. Mr. Jannace was a Senior Appellate Court Attorney, State of New York Appellate Division. He is a Federal Court Arbitrator for the Eastern District of New York. Steven has achieved an "AV" Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating, which is assigned to lawyers who have reached the height of professional excellence and who are recognized for the highest levels of skill and integrity.

Mr. Jannace successfully represented corporate clients in employment and discrimination matters. His representation of a major bank resulted in new defenses for the retail operations of money center banks. His defense of an insurance company resulted in a landmark decision affecting business auto insurance coverage.

Mr. Jannace has degrees from New York University School of Law, (LL. M., 1993) and Hofstra University School of Law (J.D., With Distinction, 1987), and State University of New York at Old Westbury (B.S., 1984). At Hofstra, Mr. Jannace was Managing Editor of the International Property Investment journal, and a Torts Lawfellow. Publications: "The Noseworthy Doctrine: A Three-Part Rule for its Application, 6 Touro L. Rev. 269; "Note, New York's Condominium Conversion Legislation: Examining the Protections against Displacement and the Need for Further Amendment," 1 HPLJ 167 (1988).



# Hon. Tanya R. Kennedy

New York State Supreme Court,  
County of New York



The Honorable Tanya R. Kennedy is a Supreme Court Justice and former Supervising Judge of Civil Court, New York County. She also served as an Adjunct Professor at Fordham University School of Law where she taught a Juvenile Justice seminar course from 2006 to 2016.

She is the President-Elect of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and former Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair, Vice President of Publications, Vice President of Districts, Secretary and New Judges' Committee Chair of NAWJ. She is also a board member of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association.

Justice Kennedy received her law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. She is a member of Cardozo's Alumni Association Executive Committee, where she served as Corresponding Secretary and Activities Committee Chair. She is also a member of Cardozo's Black Asian Latino Law Student Alumni Association, the Dean's Advisory Council, as well as the Dean's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and has served as an instructor for Cardozo's Intensive Trial Advocacy Program in the winter 2012 and 2013 sessions.

Her various honors include the 2012 Pat Irvin Personal Service Award from the Association of Black Women Attorneys; the 2014 Award from the New York County Lawyers' Association Civil Court Practice Section; the 2015 Alumni of the Year Award from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; and the 2017 Diversity Leadership Award from Penn State Law.



# Thomas M. Oliva, Esq.

The Law Offices of Thomas M. Oliva, Esq. & Associates



Presently Tom is a Partner at the personal injury firm of Thomas M. Oliva & Associates. As a litigating partner Tom has represented individuals at all levels of State and Federal Courts. The primary focus of his practice is major catastrophic injuries due to either medical negligence or personal injury. He has handled cases involving birthing departures, failure to diagnose cancer, construction site accidents, defective elevators / escalators, product liability, motor vehicle accidents, slip and falls, lead-paint exposure, and other general negligence accidents and medical negligence that result in personal injuries. Tom has handled cases from inception through completion of trial.

Born and raised in the Harlem / Washington Heights area, Tom graduated from the Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts at City College in 1980. After a brief career in the performing arts, Tom enrolled and graduated from the Hofstra University School of Law in 1988. Tom took first place in the Tom C. Clark Moot Court Appellate Competition in 1988 and was selected to represent the Hofstra School of Law in the National Moot Court Competition that year. While attending Hofstra Law School Tom co-founded the Latino Law Student Association. He also served as Treasurer for the Black American Law Students Association in his second year.

Tom's community involvement goes back many years and includes anti-drug programs as a member of the Bronx District Attorney's office, going to schools in the South Bronx. He has been a board member and past president of the Queens Parents for the Education of Gifted and Talented Children, board member of the Douglas Manor Environmental Association and Douglas Manor Association. Tom traveled to Gulfport Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina to help communities rebuild homes. He has served as a Deacon at the Community Church of Douglaston, and choir member of both the Community Church of Douglaston and Zion Episcopal Church.





# 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.



# Amy L. Schaefer, Esq.

Cornell Grace, P.C.



**Amy L. Schaefer** joined Cornell Grace, P.C. in 2013. Ms. Schaefer's practice areas include New York Labor Law, construction accident and construction defect litigation, insurance coverage, product liability, governmental liability, and education institution liability. Ms. Schaefer is a litigator with experience in all aspects of litigation, including successfully trying cases to verdict.

## Admissions

Ms. Schaefer is admitted to practice in the state courts of New York, as well as the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.

## Education

Ms. Schaefer received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and her Juris Doctorate degree from Syracuse University College of Law.



# Mickey R. Schneider, Esq.

Kennedys Law LLP



Mickey is a partner in the New York office and is a trial attorney who has handled matters involving premises liability, negligent security, products liability, professional liability, employment and commercial contract litigation. Additionally, Mickey has tried cases involving commercial building owners, general contractors and subcontractors in actions brought pursuant to New York Labor Law Sections 200, 240(1) and 241(6). He has obtained defense verdicts and/or favorable settlements in such matters at the federal level and the state trial courts in New York City and the surrounding suburban counties.

Mickey has also handled actions involving multi- million dollar subrogation claims and major property damage claims. Finally, Mickey has extensive transactional experience in the areas of business formation and commercial and personal real estate transactions.

Earlier in his career, Mickey served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York where he represented the City before the New York Supreme Court and the New York State Workers Compensation Board.

Mickey received his undergraduate degree from New York University, Stern School of Business where he was a Racoosin Scholar and a member of the basketball team. He received his Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School. He is admitted to practice in the Civil and Supreme State Courts of New York as well as the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.

## **Reported Decisions**

*New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal v. Milburn Sales Co.*, 105 A.D.3d 716 (2d Dept. 2013)

*Scott v. 122 East 42nd Street*, 34 Misc. 3d 1233(A) (Queens County, 2012) *Fox v. Watermill*, 19 A.D.3d 364 (2d Dept. 2005)

*Pinnacle v. Panalpina*, 1:10-cv-01198 (Eastern District of New York) – Directed/Defense Verdict at close of Plaintiff's case

*Kondratowicz v. Quadri Planetary Associates* (Kings County – 26638/2003) – Defense Verdict

*Cavallaro v. Schepisi* – (Queens County -5264/06) – Settled at close of Plaintiff's case



# Eric D. Suben, Esq.

Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP

NYC Program Chair



Eric D. Suben is a partner in the New York office of Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsberry LLP, where his practice focuses on insurance coverage and coverage litigation. In this capacity, he advises clients regarding coverage issues and disputes, conducts investigations, and litigates coverage cases through trial and appeal in state and federal courts in New York and, as supervisory counsel, in other states as well.

Mr. Suben began practicing law with the New Orleans firm of Wagner & Bagot, where he developed expertise in analyzing environmental insurance coverage issues. He has practiced in New York since 1996, and has substantial experience in insurance coverage for products liability, toxic tort, environmental, marine, employment, construction, and other risks under various types of policies. Before focusing his practice exclusively on coverage, he garnered experience defending litigation in the areas of toxic tort, defamation, and employment, among others, and prosecuting and defending various types of maritime claims. Prior to joining Traub Lieberman, Mr. Suben was an attorney in the CBS Law Department, where he managed large-scale environmental insurance coverage litigation arising from the company's discontinued operations.

Mr. Suben is a member of the New York State Bar Association and is a member of the Insurance Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association and the American Society of Legal Writers. He is a frequent speaker and writer on legal and insurance coverage issues.

A *cum laude* graduate of both Tulane University School of Law and New York University, Mr. Suben was Senior Notes and Comments Editor of the *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, recipient of its Tulane Maritime Law Center Award for best student comment, and later a contributor and member of the Board of Editors. He also served on the editorial board and as Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *The Federal Lawyer*, the journal of the Federal Bar Association.

In addition to his law practice, Mr. Suben is a prolific author of children's books and "how to" books on writing.





# Michael L. Taub, Esq.

Worby Vecchio Edelman LLP



Better known as the firm's "law man", Michael L. Taub is manager of the firm's appeal and motion unit, and handles complex procedural and substantive issues at Worby Vecchio Edelman, LLP. Michael is also head of the firms' Surrogate's and Infant's Compromise Unit, supervising all compromise petitions in the settlement of infant and estate cases. He simultaneously manages compliance matters for the firm. Michael has successfully handled and resolved numerous matters through mediation and arbitration. Michael's mastery of complicated legal theories and fact patterns has led to great success in convincing reluctant carriers of the real value of his cases during settlement negotiations. He is also involved in administrative and general legal matters on behalf of the entire firm.

**Practice Areas:** Litigation, trial practice, personal injury, products liability, medical malpractice.

**Admitted to Bar:** 1984, New York and U.S. District Court, Southern and Eastern Districts of New York; 1985, U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut.

**Law School:** American University, J.D., 1983.

**Member:**

- Westchester County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association



# Joshua C. Zimring, Esq.

Lester Schawb Katz & Dwyer, LLP



Mr. Zimring's practices focuses on insurance services and coverage. His practice involves litigation of coverage disputes involving commercial general liability, errors and omissions, excess liability, commercial property and business automobile policies.

## **Bar Admissions**

New York

New Jersey

## **Education**

- 1999 J.D. Brooklyn Law School
- 1996 B.B.A. University of Miami (with honors, Dean's list)

## **Practices**

- [Professional Liability](#)
- [Insurance Services and Coverage Litigation](#)

