



David G. Brock is a trial lawyer and Senior Counsel to the Buffalo law firm Kavinsky Cook, LLP, which he joined after 38 years as a litigation partner at Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP. He received his BA in English Literature from Union College and his JD from the University at Buffalo Law School.

Over the past forty-five years, Mr. Brock has practiced primarily in the defense of tort and insurance-related litigation. His practice has included a broad spectrum of matters including municipal liability, legal ethics and malpractice, as well as product liability and premises liability litigation. He is New York State counsel to an international heavy truck and road equipment manufacturer as well as a regional waste disposal company. He has defended municipal police and fire departments in significant tort litigation, and counsels attorneys in professional liability, ethics and disciplinary matters. He is a certified Federal Court Mediator for the Western District of New York.

Mr. Brock is admitted to practice in New York State, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York and the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Bar Association of Erie County (where he is a member and past chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics), the American and New York State Bar Associations, and the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association. He is a past Chair of the Appellate Division, Eighth Judicial District Attorney Grievance Committee.

Mr. Brock has taught trial advocacy in programs at UB Law School, Emory University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He has spoken and written nationally on a variety of legal topics involving legal ethics and professional responsibility.

Howard B. Cohen, Esq.

Gross, Shuman, Brizdle & Gilfillan, P.C.



Howard represents his clients in trials including personal injury and wrongful death, claims arising from motor vehicle accidents, construction/workplace and premises accidents; Howard also represents a wide range of business clients involved in business disputes and whom are involved with securities claims.

Howard has been recognized for his outstanding service to his clients. He has been selected as Legal Elite by Buffalo Business First, selected for SuperLawyers of Upstate New York and Best Lawyers of America and has received an AV peer-review rating from Martindale Hubbell, the highest rating available for a lawyer, for both ability and legal ethics.

Howard serves as Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Buffalo Law School, where he instructs Trial Techniques.

Howard believes in service to the community and is very active in service to the community, serving upon the Board of the United Way of Erie County, Compass House and Headway Inc. of Western New York, and has received a number of community service awards. In addition, Howard is involved with the American Association for Justice, the New York State Trial Lawyers Academy, Erie Bar Association (Ethics committee) and the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association.



Elizabeth M. Midgley, Esq.

Elizabeth M. Midgley, Esq. is a partner at Anspach Meeks Ellenberger LLP, a regional law firm with five offices in New York, Ohio, and West Virginia. Ms. Midgley focuses her practice on litigation, including the defense of medical, dental, and legal malpractice, the defense of long term care and assisted living facilities, as well as professional responsibility and ethics.

Ms. Midgley is a 2003 graduate of the State University of New York College at Geneseo and a 2006 graduate of the University at Buffalo School of Law.

Liz is a past President of the Defense Trial Lawyers Association of Western New York, a position she held after having been an elected Director of the association. In June 2015, she was elected as Director of the Bar Association of Erie County. Before holding that position, Liz was selected to co-chair the Bar Association of Erie County Young Lawyers Committee for four consecutive terms. She also has been elected District Representative for the 8th District of the New York State Bar Association's Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section for three terms. Additionally, Liz is the Education Chair for the Charles S. Desmond Inn of Court.

Ms. Midgley has also been appointed by the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Fourth Judicial Department, as a member of the Attorney Grievance Committee of the Eighth Judicial District, a position which she currently holds.

Liz has presented at various CLE and seminars covering topics such as electronic discovery, attorney ethics and professional responsibility, social media, the basics of civil trial, and jury selection and voir dire, and has authored several articles in local publications. She has been selected for the Super Lawyers Upstate New York Rising Stars list for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

Ms. Midgley has been successful in defending, obtaining voluntary discontinuances for, and resolving numerous claims for her clients, and has tried or assisted in numerous trials in a variety of fields.

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Roderick Quebral is a 1985 graduate of UB Law School. He was an Assistant District Attorney in Erie County from 1985-1992, including service in the Comprehensive Assault, Rape and Abuse Bureau, the Special Investigations/Prosecutions Bureau, and as an Assistant Bureau Chief in the Felony Trial Bureau. He joined the staff of the Attorney Grievance Committees of the Appellate Division, Fourth Department in 1992 as an Associate Counsel and is currently a Principal Counsel for the Eighth Judicial District Grievance Committee in Buffalo.

Mr. Quebral is a frequent lecturer on topics related to ethics and professional responsibility for continuing legal education programs sponsored by local bar associations in Western New York. He is a member of the National Organization of Bar Counsel, the New York State Association of Disciplinary Attorneys, and the St. Thomas More (Catholic Lawyers) Guild, for whom he served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer from 1993 through 2008.

Vincent J. Syracuse, Esq.

Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP



Overall Program Chair & NYC Chair

Vincent J. Syracuse joined Tannenbaum Helpert during the summer of 1979 and founded the firm's litigation department and is currently its Co-Chair. As a general litigator for over 40 years, Vince has earned a reputation as a problem-solver, strategizer, tactician and aggressive advocate for his clients. Recognized by Super Lawyers as one of the Top 100 Lawyers in the New York Metro area, he represents a variety of clients in commercial litigation in all New York State and Federal Courts on the pre-trial, trial and appellate levels and in various alternate dispute resolution forums including mediation and arbitration. He is also a mediator in the Commercial Division of the New York County Supreme Court.

Vince has been active for many years in numerous bar association activities and frequently chairs or participates as a faculty member in continuing legal education programs on various commercial litigation subjects, including the New York State Bar Association's extremely successful program on ethics and civility in litigation which he has chaired for over fourteen years. Vince has been a member of the NYSBA's House of Delegates. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the NYSBA's Commercial and Federal Litigation Section since 1994. He was the Section's Chair in 2009-2010, having previously served as Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair and three terms as the Section's Treasurer. The Section honored Vince with its nominations in 2007 and 2012 for the NYSBA's Attorney Professionalism Award recognizing him as a "tireless advocate for ethics and civility in New York." In March 2010, Vince was appointed by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman to the Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System which monitors the annual financial disclosure statements within the judicial branch of the New York State government. Vince is also a member of the NYSBA's Committees on Attorney Professionalism and Continuing Legal Education. He writes the monthly Attorney Professionalism Forum in the NYSBA Journal.

As a member of the Advisory Committee for the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and a former Chair of the Commercial Division Committee, Vince has helped shape the development of the Commercial Division since its inception in New York and Monroe Counties, and subsequent expansion to several counties throughout the State of New York. The Advisory Committee acts as liaison between the bar and the Commercial Division and has created a mechanism that allows practitioners in the Commercial Division to express their views about the structure of the Commercial Division, and comment on various matters of Commercial Division practice, including the definition

of a "commercial case." Vince has been directly involved in the drafting of the Commercial Division rules that have refined the criteria for the assignment and retention of cases in the Commercial Division, and govern practice in the various Commercial Division venues.

Vince has been selected for inclusion in New York Super Lawyers for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 every year that selections were made.

Leonard D. Zaccagnino, Esq.

Shaw & Shaw, P.C.



Leonard D. Zaccagnino is a partner in the Firm. He is a member of the New York State Trial Attorneys Association and Association of Trial Attorneys of America. Mr. Zaccagnino's practice focuses in civil litigation, specializing in personal injury litigation representing people that have been serious injured. A cum laude graduate of Canisius College, and a Distinguished Graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, Mr. Zaccagnino has spoken at various training seminars for other attorneys in the area of personal injury law.

