

John M. Brickman, Esq.

McLaughlin & Stern LLP



Long Island Program Chair

John M. Brickman, head of litigation in the Firm's Long Island office, practices primarily in the areas of commercial litigation and trust and estates disputes. He has tried more than 100 cases before federal and state courts and arbitration tribunals, and has argued more than 100 appeals. He devotes particular attention to contract, corporate, partnership, employment, trusts and estates, intellectual property, unfair competition, civil racketeering, franchise, real estate, and construction cases, and frequently represents parties in disputes between principals of professional practices and substantial closely-held businesses.

Mr. Brickman combines legal practice with public service. From 2007 until 2011, he was a Commissioner of the New York State Commission on Public Integrity, the agency that enforced state lobbying and public employee ethics laws and regulations. He was a Director of the Nassau Health Care Corporation, which operates the Nassau University Medical Center, from 2005 to 2009. From 2005 to 2008, he served as Chairman of the Correctional Association of New York, an organization founded in 1844 that visits prisons and does research and advocacy in criminal justice issues. He remains a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Brickman serves as a Director of several charitable foundations, including The Levitt Foundation (from 2011 to 2014 he was also its President) and the Long Island Medical Foundation, and was a Director of the Nassau Health Care Foundation. From 1992 to 1994 he served as a Trustee of The Johns Hopkins University and President of The Johns Hopkins Alumni Association. Since 2006, he has been a member of the National Panel of Arbitrators of the American Arbitrators Association, and regularly serves as Arbitrator in AAA cases.

Mr. Brickman is pro bono legal counsel to the Manhasset-Great Neck Community Service Center, and is active in bar association, educational, and community activities. Annually, he chairs a Continuing Legal Education program on lawyers' ethics and civility, presented by the New York State Bar Association. From 1991 to 2006, he was Adjunct Professor of Law at Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, where he taught the course in Pre-Trial Litigation to senior law students. He writes and speaks regularly on public issues, including government and legal ethics and the administration of correctional and criminal justice agencies.

Mr. Brickman received his undergraduate degree from The Johns Hopkins University and

his J.D. degree cum laude in 1969 from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar and Dean's List Scholar and served as Revision Editor of the Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems. From 1971 to 1975, he served as Executive Director of the New York City Board of Correction, the agency of New York City government that oversees the operation of the New York City jail system and issues reports and recommendations for change.

Andrew J. Luskin, Esq.

McLaughlin & Stern LLP



Andrew J. Luskin received his law degree from Hofstra University School of Law, with distinction, in 1985. He was graduated from the State University of New York at Albany cum laude in 1982. He served as Managing Editor of the Hofstra Labor Law Journal, a law review dedicated exclusively to the field of labor and employment law.

Before joining the firm in 1988, Mr. Luskin served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County, New York, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony criminal cases from inception through trial. He now practices general commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts, and works on matters involving contracts, arbitrations, employment-related claims, franchise disputes, intentional torts, landlord and-tenant disputes, and zoning.

Chris McDonough, Esq.

McDonough & McDonough LLP



Chris McDonough, Esq. is an experienced defense attorney for lawyers facing the grievance committees for all New York judicial districts or disciplinary proceedings in all New York judicial departments. Chris has represented hundreds of law students and former lawyers seeking admission or readmission before the Character and Fitness Committees and the Appellate Divisions.

Chris McDonough is admitted to practice in New York (1988) and Colorado (1990). Juris Doctorate awarded 1988, cum laude.

- Assistant Counsel to the Grievance Committee for the Tenth Judicial District from 1989 through 2002.
- Adjunct professor of Legal Ethics.
- Author of numerous articles, texts, law reviews, etc. on the subject of grievances, disciplinary proceedings and professional ethics.
- Regular lecturer for bar associations, law firms, bar groups, law school classes, alumni associations, etc.
- Practice limited to attorney discipline, disciplinary defense, grievance defense, criminal charges, and all aspects of professional ethics and character and fitness matters.



Marian C. Rice, Esq.

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For more than 35 years, Ms. Rice has concentrated her practice on the representation of attorneys and risk management for lawyers. Ms. Rice holds the AV® Peer Review Rating from Martindale- Hubbell, its highest rating for ethics and legal ability, has been designated a Super Lawyer annually since 2008 and was assigned a “superb” AVVO rating. In 2012, Long Island Business News named Ms. Rice as one of the 50 most influential women on Long Island.

Ms. Rice is a Past President of the 5,000 member Nassau County Bar Association, the largest suburban bar association in the country, and is presently Chair of NCBA’s Judiciary Committee. In 2014, Ms. Rice was awarded the NCBA President’s Award for service to the Association and in 2015, she was honored by the St. John’s Law School Alumni Nassau Chapter. In addition to having authored a column for the American Bar Association Law Practice Management Magazine, Ms. Rice is the co-Chair of the New York State Bar Association Law Practice Management Committee and an alternate member of the NYSBA Nominating Committee.

Ms. Rice also served as an ABA Presidential appointee to the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyer's Professional Liability from 2009 through 2012 and was Chair of the New York State Bar Association - Committee for Insurance Programs from 2008 to 2013. Ms. Rice is a member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society; the Defense Association of New York and the Defense Research Institute.

In addition to being a New York State Bar Association Presidential appointee to the Task Force on Non-Lawyer Ownership and the Special Committee on Legal Specialization, Ms. Rice has served on the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section. Her prior roles at the Nassau County Bar Association include President 2012-2013, President Elect 2011-2012, First Vice President 2010-2011, Second Vice President 2009-2010, Treasurer 2008-2009, Secretary 2007-2008, Director 2004-2007, Judiciary Committee (Chair 2006-2007) Vice-Chair (2005-2006), Strategic Planning Committee (Chair 2005-2006) (Vice-Chair



2003-2005), Nassau Lawyer/Publications Committee (Editor in Chief 2006-2007) (Co-Managing Editor 2005-2006). She is also a member of Nassau Suffolk Trial Lawyers and the Suffolk County Bar Association.

Ms. Rice has authored materials for numerous publications and newsletters including the New York Law Journal, BNA publications, the New York State Bar Journal and Nassau Lawyer, and has lectured for the Professional Liability Underwriting Society, the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyer's Professional Liability, PLI, the National Legal Malpractice and Risk Management Conference, the Nassau and Suffolk County Bar Associations, the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar and the American Conference Institute, as well as for various law firms, insurers, law schools and trade associations, at seminars covering such diverse topics as Risk Management and Loss Prevention for Attorneys, The Elements of and Defenses to a Legal Malpractice Action, Legal Malpractice Principles and Trial Strategy, The Anatomy of a Disciplinary Proceeding, What Damages are Recoverable and What are the Limitations?, What Makes Lawyers Happy?, Representing the Client with Greater Concerns, Ethical Issues with Email, Cyber-Security and Law Firms, Federal Statutes Affecting Attorneys, Preparing, Defending and Preventing Claims Stemming From Tax Shelter Advice, Social Media and Ethics, Whither Privity?, Defending Attorneys with Psychological Difficulties, Can the Jury Award That? Beyond Out of Pocket Damages in Professional Liability Cases, Avoiding Malpractice and Client Grievances, Protecting Your Practice, Top Ten Traps (resulting in malpractice claims and grievances), Disqualification of Legal Malpractice Experts, Identification and Resolution of Conflicts of Interest, Risk Management for Defense Attorneys, Ethics in the Wake of the New Rules of Professional Conduct; Law Practice Management under the New York Rules of Professional Conduct; Ethics in the Profession, Anatomy of a Legal Malpractice Action, Don't Make Malpractice Your Nightmare, Improving Communication Skills with Clients, Legal Malpractice Issues and Trends, Risks Presented by Law Firm Mergers, Risk Management Techniques for Real Estate Attorneys, Risk Management Techniques for Matrimonial Attorneys, Risk Management Techniques for Trust and Estate Attorneys, Starting Your Own Law Practice, Ethical Issues Confronting Claims Attorneys in Handling and Evaluating Claims and Attorney Liability under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

From 1999 to 2003, Ms. Rice administered the Attorney Loss Prevention Hotline Service for the broker responsible for the NYSBA sponsored professional liability insurer.

Ms. Rice received her Juris Doctorate from St. John's University School of Law, Jamaica, New York in 1979 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fordham College at Fordham University in 1976. She was admitted to practice before the Courts of the State of New York in 1980 and is also admitted before the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, as well as several other jurisdictions on a pro hac vice basis. From 1984 to 2000, Ms. Rice was a Governor-appointed member of the Council for the State University of New York Maritime College at Fort Schuyler.

David M. Wirtz, Esq.

Littler Mendelson P.C.



David M. Wirtz has represented employers exclusively for over 30 years, with an emphasis on:

- Litigation prevention / employment law counseling
- Discrimination litigation
- Class action defense – Fair Labor Standards Act, systemic discrimination
- ERISA litigation defense
- Arbitrations, mediations, and other ADR
- Collective bargaining
- Employment and separation agreements
- Human resources policies and handbooks

David provides 24/7 service and pragmatic advice helping managers, human resources professionals and in-house employment counsel with decisions concerning hiring, firing, promotions, compensation, and leaves. As a trial lawyer, David has successfully defended scores of individual, class and collective actions and achieved multiple defense verdicts in state and federal courts involving alleged discrimination (age, disability, race, national origin, gender, harassment, retaliation), covenants, wage & hour violations, negligent hiring, negligent supervision, negligent retention, breach of contract, and negligent and intentional infliction of emotional distress. He has successfully defended his clients in hundreds of arbitration proceedings.

David is a skilled writer and speaker, and his articles on topics ranging from the history of restrictive covenants to retaliation claims have appeared in numerous legal publications. He has also appeared regularly as an expert commentator on employment-related issues for local television and radio stations, and he frequently lectures to other employment attorneys and in-house counsel. Additionally, David has taught as an adjunct professor at Cardozo Law School since 1992 and as a guest lecturer at the Columbia Business School.

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.