

Faculty Bios

David R. Adams, Esq.
Hurwitz & Fine, P.C. 1
300 Liberty Building
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 849-8900
dra@hurwitzfine.com



Mr. Adams has extensive experience defending clients in construction accidents/New York Labor Law, construction defect, environmental toxic exposure, product liability, transportation negligence and other complex and catastrophic injury litigation. Mr. Adams heads the firm's New York Labor Law practice group and is the editor of the firm's monthly electronic newsletter *Labor Law Pointers*, which provides a review and analysis of the most current and significant New York State Labor Law cases. He also has significant experience handling environmental litigation and toxic exposure lawsuits, having handled matters including the initial and current Love Canal litigation.

Mr. Adams heads the firm's 24-Hour Emergency Response Team for construction site accidents and is a member of the firm's 24-Hour Emergency Response Team for trucking accidents.

Mr. Adams is a member and past President of the Western New York Defense Trial Lawyers Association, a member of the New York State Bar Association, (Trial Lawyers, Torts, Insurance and Compensation and the Labor and Employment Law sections), a member of the Bar Association of Erie County and a member of the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association.

He earned his Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law where he was awarded the Connelly Award for outstanding performance in trial technique and was selected to the UB Law School National Mock Trial Team. Mr. Adams is a cum laude graduate of Canisius College.

Noted for his excellent reputation in Construction Litigation by New York Super Lawyers Magazine, Mr. Adams is a frequent speaker and lecturer on New York State Labor Law and risk transfer issues.



Thomas Cunningham, Esq.
Rup Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC
1600 Liberty Building
424 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 854-3400
Cunningham@rupbbaase.com



The mark of a true collaborator is a generosity of thought, talent, and time. As one of Rup Baase Pfalzgraf Cunningham LLC's founding partners and committed trial attorneys—as well as frequent author and guest lecturer—Tom Cunningham lives up to these standards in and out of the office. A founding partner, Tom concentrates on insurance defense litigation, insurance coverage, and business litigation.

He is a graduate of the International Association of Defense Counsel Trial Academy and has successfully argued appeals at all appellate levels, including the New York Court of Appeals and the Second Circuit. Tom has also been a chair for statewide programs for the New York State Bar Association. In addition, Tom is also a frequent author and lecturer on New York State Labor Law, automobile and premises liability, products liability, and insurance coverage topics, and one of our firm's most enthusiastic supporters of our annual Ride for Roswell team.



Kristen B. Degnan, Esq.
Brown & Kelly LLP
800 Main Place Tower
350 Main St
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 854-2620
kdegnan@brownkelly.com



Ms. Degnan is a trial attorney experienced in civil defense litigation in the areas of premises and automobile liability, lead paint, labor law, products liability, No-Fault, and toxic torts. Ms. Degnan is also experienced in handling matrimonial and family law matters, discrimination cases, bankruptcies, estate planning, workers' compensation, criminal law, collection actions, and labor and employment law. Ms. Degnan is able to serve as a matrimonial mediator. She was named a Rising Star Super Lawyer in 2015.

Ms. Degnan presented to various claims personnel on Priority of Coverage at the New York State Bar Association Seminar "2014 Law School for Insurance Professionals" in Syracuse and Buffalo. She is an adjunct instructor of a Master's Level Health Care Law and Ethics class at Hilbert. She is a member of Claims Litigation Management (CLM); Self-Insurer's Association of the Niagara Frontier (SIANF); and the Erie County Bar Association, Negligence and Matrimonial Committee Member. She is a native of Batavia, New York and has resided in the Buffalo area since 2004.

Ms. Degnan is a graduate of Allegheny College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2001) and Albany Law School (J.D. 2004). She was admitted to the State Bar of New York in 2005 and to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States, the United States District Court, Western District of New York, and the Western District of New York Bankruptcy Court.



Laurie A. Giordano-Vahey, Esq.
LeClair Korona Vahey Cole LLP
28 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 327-4101
lgiordano@leclairkorona.com



Laurie Giordano-Vahey is a Rochester native and founding member of Leclair Korona Vahey Cole LLP. She is a litigator, with a passion for justice and the courtroom. She is driven to win for her clients and meet their needs – including counseling them to avoid disputes before they happen.

As a partner in the law firm, Laurie focuses her practice in the areas of insurance law, as well as commercial and personal injury litigation. In 2014, Laurie was named Best Lawyers' 2014-2015 Rochester, New York Insurance Law "Lawyer of the Year." In multiple years, Super Lawyers has listed Laurie as a "Top 25" Woman Attorney in Upstate New York. Laurie's clients include large and small businesses, municipal corporations, insurers and individuals. She is proud to have consistently served the legal community in New York in leadership positions, including being a former Chair of the Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Section of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), as well being a Past President of the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA).

In addition, her contributions and experience in the areas of personal injury and insurance law have garnered her many awards and recognitions from local, state and national organizations. Laurie has consistently been included in The Best Lawyers in America Guide and Super Lawyers, Upstate and Corporate Counsel editions. Further, she is frequently asked to lecture to attorneys, judges and insurance professionals in her areas of practice and on trial skills. She recently presented at the NYSBA's Annual Trial Academy on the topic of "Evidence at a Civil Trial" an upcoming institute for attorneys.

Laurie is active in her community, believing that service is a way of life for her and her family. She lives in Pittsford and is happily married to her husband Mark, who currently serves in the military. Laurie also believes in healthy living and fitness for fun. In 2013, Laurie rode her bike 100 miles around Lake Tahoe to honor those who have battled cancer and to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society with the help of her two amazing children. In addition, she is currently a spin instructor for a local gym in Rochester.

Robert A. Glick, Esq.
Brand Glick Brand, P.C.
600 Old Country Road, Suite 440
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 746-3500
rglick@bgbfirm.com



Bar Admissions

New York, 1989; U.S. District Court, Eastern and Southern District of New York, 1989; New Jersey, 1989; U.S. Supreme Court, 2004.

Education

State University of New York at Oswego (B.S., magna cum laude, 1986); Western New England School of Law, (J.D., 1989).

Activities

Former Executive Committee Member, New York State Bar Association's Tort, Insurance and Compensation Law Section; Appointed and serves as a New York State Civil Court Arbitrator.

Awards Received

New York State Bar Association's Tort and Insurance Law Section's Young Lawyer Award.

Publications

Vehicle Transportation Claims Affecting the Business Owner and Insurers, NYSBA, Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Journal, (Spring 2002); Dissecting the Deposition: Practical Considerations for the Effective Litigator, NYSBA, Torts, Insurance & Compensation Law Section Journal (Summer, 2003); Dissecting the Deposition: More Than Just a Set of Questions, NYSBA Journal (July 2003).

Lectures

"Motor Vehicle Accidents-a Look at Liability Issues and Coverage Concerns", NYSBA (1998); "A Review of the Workers' Compensation Claim and Effective Handling", Lorman Education Services (1999); "Winning Your Case at the Deposition", NYSBA



(2000 and 2001); "A Review of New York Transportation Claims", Roadway Express (2001); "A Primer on Automobile Litigation", NYSBA (2000 and 2001); "Winning Your Case at the Deposition", NYSBA (2001); "Managing the Litigation Process", American Claims Exhibition Annual Conference (2002); "Evaluating Damages in Automobile Liability", NYSBA (2003); "An Analysis of Legal Billing", American Claims Exhibition Annual Conference (2003); "Practical Skills-Basic Tort and Insurance Law", NYSBA (2003); "Litigation Update", NYSBA (2004); "Negotiating Strategies", Progressive Insurance Company (2004); "Dissecting the Deposition – Winning the Case Early", NYSBA Annual Meeting (2004); "Successful Strategies for Automobile Litigation", NYSBA (2004); "Federal Civil Practice: A Primer", NYSBA (2005); "Practical Skills – Basic Tort Insurance Law Practice", NYSBA (2006); "Law School for Insurance Claims Professionals", NYSBA (2006); "Update on Trucking Litigation and Claims", NYSBA (2006); "The Examination Before Trial – A Primer on Depositions in Tort and Personal Injury Cases", NYSBA (2007); "Handling a No-Fault Case", NYSBA (2007); "Keeping Current with Automobile Litigation", NYSBA (2008); "Bridging the Gap", NYSBA (2009).

Concentrations

Direct insurance defense cases, including automobile, premises, construction, product liability and coverage disputes. Municipal, criminal and compensation law.

Recent Accomplishments

Robert A. Glick Recognized as a Super Lawyer.

In October 2008, Robert A. Glick was listed as a Super Lawyer selected in the State of New York. Super Lawyers is a published listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 50 practice areas who have attained a high degree of pure recognition and professional achievement.

Super Lawyers is published as a special supplement in leading newspapers, as well as city and regional magazines across the country. Super Lawyers Magazine, featuring articles about attorneys named to the Super Lawyers list, is distributed to all attorneys in the state or region, the lead corporate counsel of Russell 3000 Companies and the ABA – Approved Law School Libraries.

Polling, research and selection are performed by Law & Politics, a publication of Key Professional Media, Inc. The objective of the Super Lawyers selection process is to create a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of outstanding attorneys that can be used as a resource to assist attorneys and consumers in the search for legal counsel.

Each year a state-wide survey of lawyers is conducted. Lawyers eligible to participate include those who have been in practice for at least five years. Lawyers are asked to nominate the best attorneys they have personally observed in action.

Daniel J. Marren, Esq.

Confidential Law Clerk to New York State
Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Paula L. Feroletto
92 Franklin Street, 2nd Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202
(716) 845-9439
dmarren@nycourts.gov



Daniel J. Marren is the Confidential Law Clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice, Hon. Paula L. Feroletto, District Administrative Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. His responsibilities include legal research and writing, conducting pretrial conferences and coordination of the Judge's calendar of cases. His duties also include a number of administrative functions such as assisting the Judge in scheduling, case assignment, appearance at public functions and responding to complaints from litigants, attorneys and individuals involved in the Court system. He has also taken on special projects for the District such as: the development of mandatory conference parts in mortgage foreclosure proceedings; implementation of mandatory e-filing; streamlining of procedures for Buffalo *In Rem* proceedings; and, conduct of CLE training for 8th Judicial District legal staff. He serves on the New York State Supreme Court (Civil) Advisory Committee on E-Filing and has been a member of the Statewide Foreclosure Working Group since 2012.

Prior to working for the Court, he was a partner at Brown & Kelly, LLP in Buffalo, N.Y. having worked there from 1985 until 2005. His practice was primarily concentrated in the area of personal injury litigation trials and appeals. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure University (B.A., 1982, *cum laude*) and the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law (J.D. 1985). He is admitted to the State Bar of New York and the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the Western District of New York.

Mr. Marren is a member of the Bar Association of Erie County (Board of Directors 2012-2015), the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association (Boards of Directors 2000-2003 and 2009-2012) and the New York State Bar Association. He is Chair of BAEC's Awards Committee and has been a member of the Negligence, Speakers and the Admission to the Bar Committees as well as the TICL Committee of the NYSBA. He volunteered as an attorney advisor for the Bar Association's High School Mock Trial program for many years. He has served as a hearing officer for the Unified Court



System, Buffalo City Court and as an arbitrator for the Western New York Trial Lawyers Association and the Better Business Bureau. He is an adjunct faculty member of the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. Mr. Marren has lectured on numerous occasions for the New York State Bar Association, Bar Association of Erie County, New York State Unified Court System and a variety of private CLE providers on topics such as: E-Filing; Mortgage Foreclosures; CPLR; NYS Trial Court Rules; Ethics; Depositions; Labor Law; and, No Fault.

He has served on a variety of educational, charitable and non-profit boards such as: Neighborhood Housing Services of South Buffalo, Inc. (President 1992-1993); New York State District Advisory Council of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corp; Mount Mercy Academy; Hon. John J. Hillery Memorial Scholarship Foundation; Cazenovia Park Youth Hockey Association; and, Bishop Timon High School Alumni Board.



Michael Menard, Esq.

The Law Offices of Michael Menard
69 Delaware Avenue
Suite 705
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 842-6700
info@menardlaw.com



In 2001, Michael Menard was chosen to serve as a mediator or neutral arbitrator in over 2,000 claims which were pending in the court system. The vast majority of the non-binding mediations were successfully resolved.

In addition to having over 30 years of experience in the litigation and trial of personal injury claims, Mr. Menard has lectured on behalf of the Erie County Bar Association and the Erie Institute of Law and has given in-house presentations on the topic of ADR. He has served as the President of the Western New York Trial Lawyers' Association. He has also been trained and certified as a Federal Court mediator.



Leonard D. Zaccagnino, Esq.

Shaw and Shaw, P.C.
4819 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075
(716) 648-3020
lzaccagnino@shawlawpc.com



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 seriously 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.

