

Robert A. Barrer, Esq.

Barclay Damon, LLP



Robert is the firm's Chief Ethics Officer and Risk Management Partner and is responsible for all ethics, conflicts, loss prevention and continuing legal education activities at the firm. In this senior leadership position, Robert counsels firm attorneys and provides analysis and advice on ethical questions involving conflicts of interest, privileges and legal issues implicating the Rules of Professional Conduct. He also supervises the firm's continuing legal education programs and lectures on a wide variety of ethics and practice management topics. In addition, Robert is responsible for designing and implementing programs and policies to improve the provision of high quality legal services for firm clients.

Robert has over 33 years of trial and appellate experience in the state and federal courts. He also serves as a mediator for court-directed and private mediation clients. Over the course of his career, Robert represented large and small corporations, governmental and agency clients as well as individuals in a wide variety of matters.

In recognition of his trial experience, Robert was elected as a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. As part of his commitment to serve the legal profession and his high ethical standards, Robert served by appointment of the Chief Judge of the Appellate Division as a member of, and then Chair of the Fifth District Grievance Committee, the body charged with adjudicating misconduct complaints against attorneys. In 2010, Robert received the Pro Bono Service Award from the N.D.N.Y. Federal Court Bar Association for his extensive and successful service as a mediator in the District Court's Alternate Dispute Resolution program.

Robert is a frequent lecturer to clients and attorneys on legal ethics, professional responsibility and federal practice issues. He is a two-time winner of the Burton Award for excellence in legal writing, presented at the Library of Congress, in recognition of his articles: "Careless Keystrokes & Bad Decisions: New York Law on Inadvertent Disclosure" and "Unintended Consequences: Avoiding and Addressing the Inadvertent Disclosure of Documents."

Brian J. Butler, Esq.

Bond, Schoeneck & King Attorneys



Brian represents clients in complex business and commercial litigation in federal and state courts as well as in arbitration.

He also represents clients in the banking, communications, construction, insurance and securities industries and also regularly represents governmental and educational institutions. Brian handles a variety of matters for clients including contract disputes, securities fraud litigation, intellectual property claims, employment discrimination claims, litigation relating to non-compete agreements and unfair competition, claims under ERISA, insurance coverage disputes and construction disputes. He represents clients in a variety of contexts in bankruptcy adversary proceedings. Brian also frequently conducts arbitrations before FINRA, the American Arbitration Association and JAMS.

Brian also chairs the firm's litigation department, which includes 48 attorneys located throughout the firm's nine offices in New York State and its Naples, Florida office. The department's deep bench of litigation attorneys prepares each case for a successful resolution regardless of whether it is tried to a verdict before a jury or judge, won on a dispositive motion, arbitrated or mediated.

Prior to joining the firm, Brian clerked for the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

Hon. Thérèse Wiley Dancks

United States Magistrate Judge for the
Northern District of New York



Thérèse Wiley Dancks is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of New York. At the time of her appointment in February of 2012, she was a founding partner in the law firm of Gale & Dancks, LLC, where her practice centered on civil litigation and trial work. She was associated with the law firm of Mackenzie Hughes, LLP from 1991 to 1997. Judge Dancks graduated magna cum laude from LeMoyne College in 1985 and earned her J.D. degree cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law in 1991 .

Judge Dancks is a past president of the Central New York Women's Bar Association and established the organization's award winning Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Clinic during her term. She is a past director of the Onondaga County Bar Association and has been a board member of several charitable and community organizations. She served as Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Hiscock Legal Aid Society and the Secretary of the Board of Directors of St. Elizabeth College of Nursing. She has co-authored articles for the Syracuse Law Review and she frequently lectures for educational institutions, professional organizations and bar associations .

Paul G. Ferrara, Esq.

Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC



Mr. Ferrara joined Costello, Cooney & Fearon in 1987 and has been a partner with the firm since 1995. He concentrates in the area of civil trial law with an emphasis on professional liability, errors and omissions and directors and officers liability. In addition to acting in the defense of insureds, he also counsels and represents insurers in various insurance coverage disputes and declaratory judgment actions. He is chief operating officer for the firm and a member of the firm's three-person executive committee.

Mr. Ferrara has lectured and has written extensively on various issues involving professional liability. Among the copyrighted articles he has published are Legal Malpractice, Practical Legal Ethics, Defense of Legal Malpractice Actions, How to Avoid Legal Malpractice Claims, How to Respond to a Grievance, Preventing Errors and Omissions and Ethics in Attorney Advertising. He is also the author of Legal Malpractice in New York - an outline for practitioners and claims professionals. His lectures have included presentations before various organizations across New York State and Massachusetts, including the New York State Bar Association. Mr. Ferrara is a select national counsel for the CNA Lawyers Liability Group. In this capacity, he frequently conducts loss prevention seminars for CNA and its insureds throughout New York State.

Mr. Ferrara graduated cum laude from Northeastern University in 1984 and received his law degree from Syracuse University College of Law in 1987. While in law school, he was a national finalist in the Association of American Trial Lawyers' Trial Advocacy Competition.

Mr. Ferrara is admitted to practice before all New York and Massachusetts Courts as well as the Federal Court for Massachusetts and Connecticut and the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of New York. He is also admitted to the United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals. In October 2008, he was elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2007, he was selected to be a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel. Mr. Ferrara possesses an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, and he has been named to the New York Super Lawyers from 2008 through 2015 in the areas of professional liability defense, insurance defense and ERISA. Mr. Ferrara is a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Malpractice and the Defense Research Institute Committee on Professional Liability. He is also a member of the New York State Bar Association Committee on Professional Discipline and a member of the New York State Attorney Grievance Committee for the 5th Judicial District.

Mary E. Gasparini, Esq.

Attorney Grievance Committee, Fifth Judicial
District

A native of Central New York, Ms. Gasparini is a 1991 graduate of the George C. Taylor College of Law at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She began her legal career at the Legal Aid Society - Criminal Defense Division in New York City. In 1993, Ms. Gasparini returned to Syracuse for a position with the Hiscock Legal Society. From there Ms. Gasparini accepted a position as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Syracuse. In 1996, she moved into private practice where she focused in workers' compensation as well as corporate and business contracts and criminal defense. Ms. Gasparini returned to public service in 2007 when she joined the Attorney Grievance Committee. Ms. Gasparini is a frequent lecturer at the Syracuse University College of Law.

Stephen T. Helmer, Esq.

Mackenzie Hughes LLP



Stephen T. Helmer, Chair of the Firm's Executive Committee and Chair of the Litigation Department, joined Mackenzie Hughes in 1982 and has been a partner since 1989. He has extensive trial experience in State and Federal Courts. Stephen has litigated and argued appeals at every level, including in New York's highest court, the Court of Appeals. He also counsels various clients on education, general business, commercial and management issues. His practice concentrates in civil litigation including commercial disputes, personal injury defense, product liability, medical malpractice, and insurance coverage. In more than one hundred instances, Stephen has been employed by members of the Bar as an arbitrator or as a mediator to resolve complex and difficult matters.

Stephen graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Le Moyne College in 1979 and he received his Juris Doctorate from Albany Law School of Union University in 1982. While a student, Stephen was a member of Alpha Sigma Nu (Jesuit College Honor Society) and Pi Gamma Mu (Social Sciences Honor Society.) He was admitted to the New York State Courts and U.S. District Court, Northern and Western Districts of New York in 1983. In 1996, Stephen was admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals, and in 2003 he was admitted to the United States Supreme Court.

Stephen is a member of the Onondaga County, New York State, and American Bar Associations. He is a member of the prestigious International Association of Defense Counsel and the Defense Research Institute. Stephen has been listed in "Best Lawyers in America" for Commercial Litigation, Personal Injury, Insurance Law and Product Liability Litigation for the past 13 years. Stephen was named Best Lawyers 2016 Product Liability Litigation - Defendants "Lawyer of the Year" for Syracuse. Since 2007 Stephen has been listed as one of the 94 Best Lawyers in Central New York and one of the New York Area's Best Lawyers. Stephen has also been listed as one of New York's "Super Lawyers" for many years, and has been named one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Upstate New York.

In 2010, Stephen was appointed by New York State Bar Association President Stephen Younger to his Task Force on the Future of the Legal Profession.

Stephen is a Trustee of the Le Moyne College Board of Trustees and the Immaculate Conception Church. His past and present board memberships include the Le Moyne College Board of Trustees, the Le Moyne College Board of Regents, the Le Moyne College Board of Governors, the Town of Manlius Republican Party Committee, the YMCA of Greater Syracuse, Eastern Branch, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, Center State CEO, the Rosewood Nursing Home, the Fayetteville-Manlius Little League, the Fayetteville-Manlius

School District Facilities Committee, the Fayetteville-Manlius Community Sports Facility Association, and the Immaculate Conception Facilities Expansion Committee and Parish Council. Stephen is counsel for the Immaculate Conception Church and School in Fayetteville, New York.

Stephen is a member of the Le Moyne College Athletic Hall of Fame for his achievements in NCAA Division II baseball. During his four years on the varsity team, he was named to several state and regional all-star teams and twice played in the College World Series.

Stephen is often called on by the New York State Bar Association and professional groups to lecture on such topics as "Cross-Examination of Expert Witnesses in Medical Malpractice Cases", "Expert Witnesses", "Direct and Cross Examination", "Municipal Liability", "Trial Practice", "Update on the Law", and "Summations." He authored the "New York Supplement" to Basic Civil Litigation by Herbert Feuerhake and served on the Editorial Advisory Board of New York Motor Vehicle Accidents by Gary B. Pillersdorf, John F. Scarzafave and J. Michael Hayes.

During six of Stephen's years with Mackenzie Hughes, he was an instructor at University College of Syracuse University, where he taught Civil Practice to paralegal students.

Stephen surgically donated bone marrow through The American Red Cross to a family member with Leukemia. In 2005, Stephen and his wife Susan received Catholic Charities President's Medallion for charitable work in the Central New York community. Stephen and his family participated in the annual Fresh Air Fund program by providing in-home summer vacations for inner-city youths. He also enjoys coaching and supporting various youth sports programs such as baseball, basketball, soccer, women's lacrosse and Pop Warner football. Stephen is also an avid reader of political biographies and historical works, as well as a sports and movie trivia fan.

Nicole M. Marlow-Jones, Esq.

Costello Cooney Fearon PLLC

Syracuse Program Chair



Ms. Marlow-Jones joined the firm as an associate in August of 1999. She became a partner in January 2006. Her practice includes liability defense, insurance coverage, appellate law and commercial litigation. A primary area of her practice has been the representation of professionals, predominantly lawyers, in civil actions.

Marlow-Jones received her bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Geneseo in 1994 and her law degree, magna cum laude, from Syracuse University College of Law in 1997. She was selected to the Order of the Coif and the Justinian Honor Society.

Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Marlow-Jones served as an appellate court attorney at the Supreme Court, Fourth Department. During this two-year period, she assisted members of the intermediate appellate court on pending civil and criminal appeals. She also served as a confidential law clerk to the Honorable John P. Balio prior to his retirement.

Ms. Marlow-Jones is admitted to practice before all New York State Courts and the U.S. District Court for the Northern and Western Districts of New York. She is a member of the Onondaga County, New York State and American Bar Associations.

Ms. Marlow-Jones serves on the board of directors of the Central New York Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and has been selected as a delegate for the JDRF Council of Chapters & Affiliates. In her role as advocacy chair, she fosters relationships between local advocates and elected legislators to ensure Congress continues to support the funding of Type 1 Diabetes research. She also serves on the board of directors and judicial screening committee of the Central New York Women's Bar Association.

Representative Experience

- Represented municipal law attorneys in federal court action by a former planning board attorney alleging violation of substantive due process and his civil rights under 42 USC§1983 and obtained summary judgment in their favor.

- Defended claim against client involving construction of 6,000 square foot home and, after a bench trial, obtained a judgment dismissing claims and cross claims against the client.
- Authored appellate brief to the New York State Court of Appeals regarding redemption rights under County Tax Act on questions certified by Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Chapter 11 Trustee's adversary proceeding against firm's client claiming malpractice. Based on the Court's answer to certified questions, the Second Circuit held client did not commit malpractice.
- Successfully represented homeowner's insurer on appeal of judgment declaring insurer was not obligated to satisfy judgment against tortfeasor who was not an "insured" under the policy.

Julian B. Modesti, Esq.

Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece, P.C.



Mr. Modesti is a member of the firm's Litigation, Alternative Dispute Resolution and Environmental Law practice groups. Experienced in both state and federal courts, his commercial litigation practice includes the representation of clients in disputes involving leases, finance agreements, unfair competition, trade secrets and professional malpractice. He also represents attorneys in disciplinary matters. As head of the firm's appellate practice, Mr. Modesti prosecutes or defends appeals in both state and federal courts on a wide variety of civil law issues. He is often retained by other attorneys to serve as an arbitrator or mediator in cases involving commercial disputes, personal injury, property damage, aviation claims and employment conflicts.

Prior to becoming an attorney, Mr. Modesti served as an environmental consultant with McLaren/Hart Environmental Engineering Corporation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He frequently lectures at New York State Bar Association seminars on appeals and legal ethics.

Kristin Nicoll, Esq.

Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP



Kristin Nicoll is Director of Professional Responsibility & Risk Management at Simpson Thacher. Kristin has been with the Firm since 2007. Prior to joining the Firm, Kristin was a corporate associate and worked on a variety of M&A, financing and general corporate matters.

Kristin received her J.D. from Syracuse University and her B.Sc. from Cornell University, School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

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, strategist, 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.