



THE 144<sup>TH</sup>  
*Annual Dinner*  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2019  
*Marriott Syracuse Downtown*



# Program

## WELCOME

Danielle Mikalajunas Fogel, Esq.  
*Dinner Chair, OCBA Vice President*

## INVOCATION

Rev. Fred Mannara  
*Most Holy Rosary Parish*

## REMARKS FROM OCBA PRESIDENT

Aaron J. Ryder, Esq.

## GREETINGS FROM NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Henry M. "Hank" Greenberg, Esq.  
*President, NYSBA*

## INTRODUCTION OF RUGER AWARD RECIPIENT

Edward Z. Menkin, Esq.

## REMARKS FROM RUGER AWARD RECIPIENT

Honorable John J. Brunetti

## INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED LAWYER

John P. Sindoni, Esq.

## REMARKS FROM DISTINGUISHED LAWYER

Edward J. Moses, Esq.

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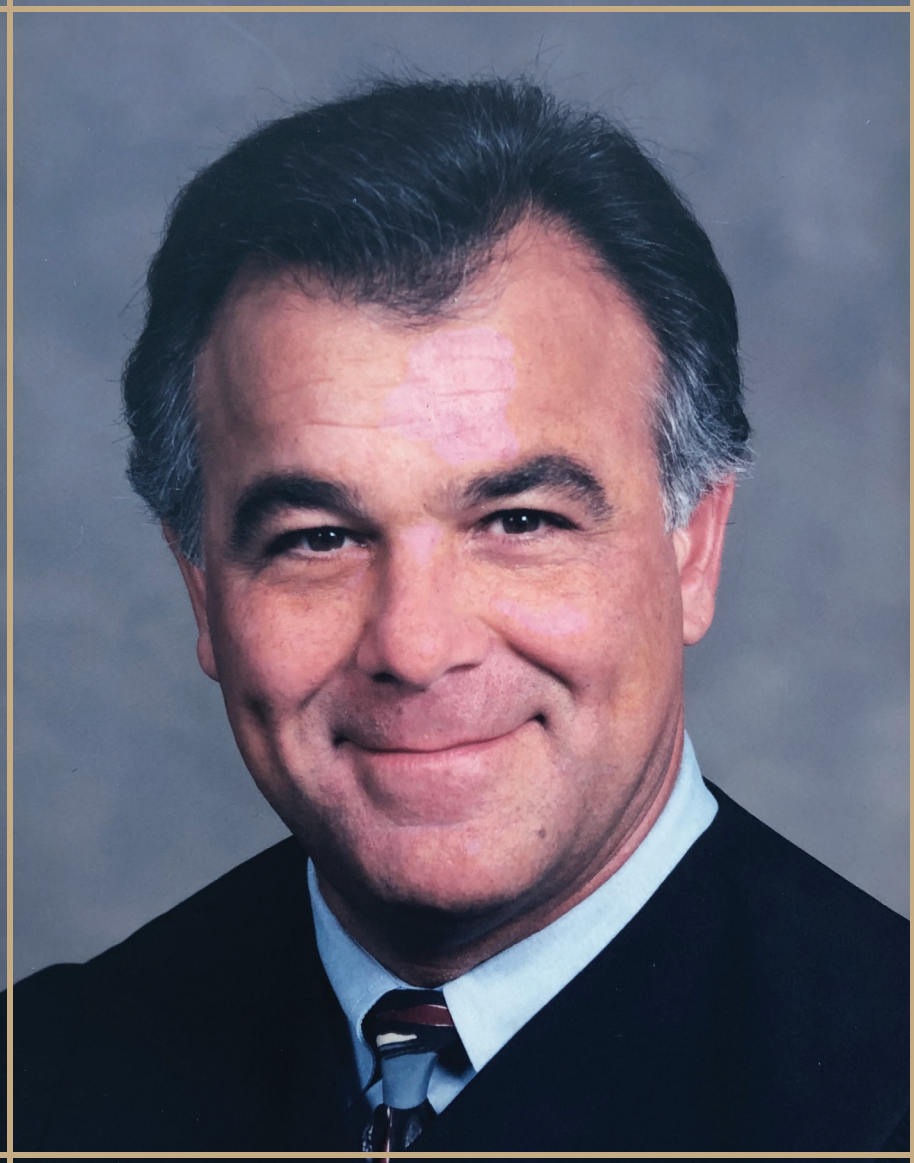
# Previous Honorees

1968	Sidney B. Coulter	2001	Mary Lou Crowley
1969	William F. FitzPatrick	2001	Ruger Award Hon. John F. Lawton
1970	George R. Fearon	2002	James F. Dwyer
1971	Arthur W. Agan	2003	M. Catherine Richardson
1972	Saul H. Alderman	2004	Dennis R. Baldwin
1973	Walter T. Gieselmann	2005	Bernard T. King
1974	Paul R. Shanahan	2006	Frank H. Armani
1975	Howard H. Cannon	2007	Hon. George H. Lowe
1976	Louis Young	2008	Karen DeCrow
1977	Joseph H. Murphy	2009	Sidney Devorsetz
1978	George S. Sullivan	2009	Ruger Award Hon. Rosemary S. Pooler
1979	Thomas H. Dyer	2010	William L. Bergan
1980	Henry S. Fraser	2011	Raymond J. deSilva, Jr.
1981	George W. Lee	2012	Edward Z. Menkin
1982	Gordon H. Mahley, Sr.	2012	Ruger Award Hon. Frederick J. Scullin, Jr.
1983	Hilbert I. Greene	2013	John A. Cirando
1984	Raymond W. Hackbarth	2014	Emil M. Rossi
1985	N. Earle Evans	2015	John P. Sindoni
1986	Nathan H. Blitman	2015	Ruger Award Hon. Langston C. McKinney
1987	Tracy H. Ferguson	2016	Susan R. Horn
1988	Hon. William R. Roy	2016	Ruger Award Hon. Norman A. Mordue
1989	Robert D. McAuliffe	2017	Laurence G. Bousquet
1990	Philip J. Britt	2018	Thomas E. Myers
1991	Laurence Sovik	2018	Ruger Award Hon. John V. Centra
1992	Ruger Award Hon. Stewart F. Hancock Jr.		
1993	John J. Dee		
1994	Alan J. Goldberg		
1995	Ruger Award Hon. Neal P. McCurn Hon. Howard G. Munson		
1996	Laverne F. O'Dell		
1996	Ruger Award Hon. Richard D. Simons		
1997	Taylor H. Obold		
1998	Vincent A. O'Neil		
1999	Simeon J. Farrell		



# Honorable

## HONORED WITH



When Judge John Brunetti learned of his Ruger Award recognition he rushed over to the Onondaga County Courthouse.

There, on the third-floor, he peered at the framed images of his fellow honorees. Seldom bestowed, the prestigious award has been given fewer than a dozen times since its establishment in 1975.

Brunetti looked from the faces of the first recipient, the Hon. Stewart F. Hancock, Jr., to the most recent, his former District Attorney's Office colleague the Hon. John V. Centra, and those in between -- two of whom have also presided over the Oneida Indian Nation Court as Brunetti now does in his "retirement" -- and thought to himself, "This is a very big deal."

He perhaps reflected upon the nearly 10,000 cases he either argued or presided over during his 48-year legal career as a prosecutor, litigator, and jurist and wondered how many nods he'd received. Dispensing justice is not easy. A common ground was met, Brunetti said, when at the conclusion of a proceeding he'd catch the eye of counsel, a party, or a family member thereof and receive a silent head nod of approval.

Brunetti is known for two things, his legal mind and his court demeanor.

Former jurors, attorneys who've appeared before him, folks he's sentenced to incarceration all note his fair bearing on the bench.

Longtime friend and colleague Sen. John DeFrancisco characterizes Brunetti as being a "regular person."

"He doesn't lord over people because he has a robe on. He truly is compassionate with people and listens," DeFrancisco said.

A severely disabled defendant who pled guilty to running a drug-and-gun enterprise and was sentenced to years behind bars recently wrote Brunetti to thank him for not denying medical parole. Since her release she's been taking online courses and wished to report her strong GPA to the judge.

"Thank you for not giving me the 20 years the DA asked of you. Even though you gave me 12 years I learned my lesson after five years. It was the 12 years that you gave me that allowed me to apply for medical parole after seven. I would like to keep you posted on my progress with my schooling if that is OK with you. You are after all the reason I have been given a second chance to do this correctly."

# John J. Brunetti

## RUGER AWARD

At an early age, Brunetti lost his father to a heart attack. He and his brother were raised in northern New Jersey by their mother who kept them on the “straight and narrow” and watched over them “like a hawk.”

His father worked his way into a highly successful career in construction becoming president of the Northern New Jersey Builders Association before his untimely death.

“My father, who never attended high school, ingrained being a lawyer in me and upon his death, when I was 11, my mother continued to beat that drum,” Brunetti said.

A high school wrestler and football player, Brunetti carried his athleticism with him to college as a Franklin and Marshall College “Diplomat” in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where he was a running back, linebacker, kicker, and in his senior year, Most Valuable Player.

Then it was to New York Law School where he graduated cum laude in 1974. His studies coincided with an exciting formative legal career working as a clerk in Jacob Fuchsberg’s firm and then with the New York City Legal Aid Society, Manhattan Branch at the renowned Criminal Courts Building, 100 Centre Street.

“I would take the subway to work and then after work walk three blocks west to school, attend class until 10:30 p.m. and then take the subway home – four nights a week,” he said. “I did this for three years and three summers.”

His first set of assignments concerned helping lawyers in jail held in contempt of court. He next assisted in a preliminary injunction hearing in the case that closed the infamous Willowbrook State School, New York State Ass’n for Retarded Children, Inc. v. Rockefeller, 357 F. Supp. 752. 755 (E.D.N.Y. 1973).

Before the conclusion of law school, Brunetti appeared before two famous judges, the Hon. Harold Rothwax, aka “The Prince of Darkness” known for having the “shortest fuse, fastest gavel, and sharpest tongue,” and then Hon. Bruce McM. Wright or “Turn ‘em Loose Bruce,” renown for low-bail setting and his rebuke of racism in the criminal justice system.

“Judge Wright took me under his wing, and became a mentor,” he said. “I would later join Judge Rothwax as a colleague on the Court of Claims.”

A year later, in 1975, as a teaching fellow, Brunetti earned an LL.M., with a concentration in Criminal Law, from the Southern Methodist University School of Law.

He left Texas to teach at the Vermont Law School, but missed the action of litigation and returned to Dallas to work on a drug case that saw the likes of singers Willie Nelson and Ray Price being potential witnesses.

With his two law degrees, in 1977, Brunetti returned to New York with the love of his life, Rockette Pirro Brunetti. It could be said Mrs. Brunetti first saw her husband in a lineup. She spied him one day as she noticed her

Syracuse University sorority sisters ogling a fraternity composite photo from a Pennsylvania college: “Franklin and Marshall? It sounds like a department store,” recalled Mrs. Brunetti.

And one thing led to another. And love just simply happened. John Brunetti was a football player and Rockette’s dad was SU’s offensive line coach Rocco Pirro, so that helped. And she especially liked that her beau was an Italian whose persistent, corny letters and phone calls kept her heart curious and skipping beats.

“It was just a silly match up that really worked,” Mrs. Brunetti said of her 49+-year marriage. “Go figure.”

The judge never brought his work home with him, his wife said. They are content to sit on their deck, watch the boats mosey up and down the Seneca River and play with their beloved dogs.

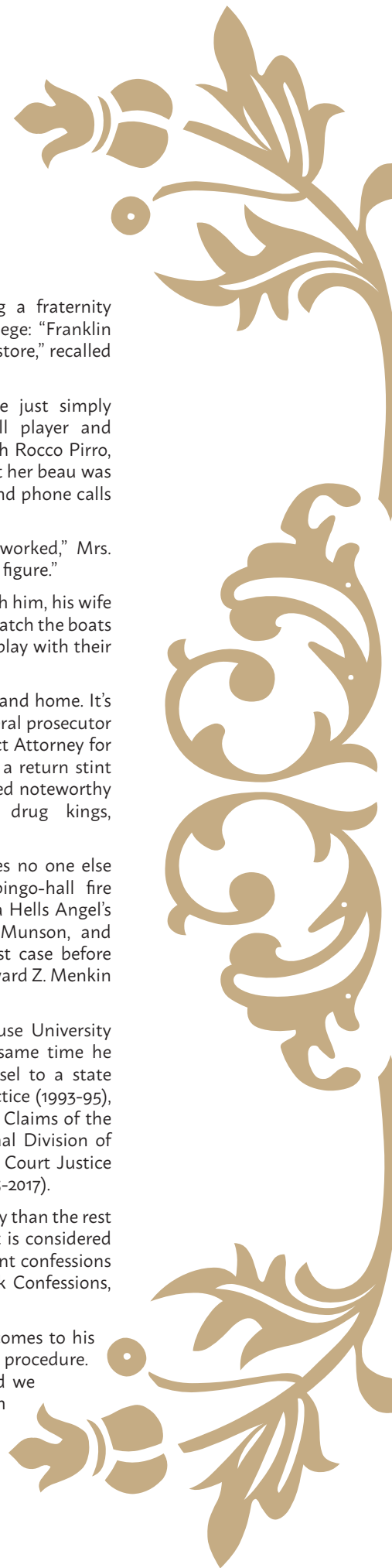
Brunetti respects the divide between work and home. It’s impressive as the cases he covered as a federal prosecutor (1987-88), then as the First Assistant District Attorney for Onondaga County (1988-89), and then on a return stint as Assistant U.S. Attorney (1989-93) included noteworthy intersections with prominent lawyers, drug kings, arsonists, and worse.

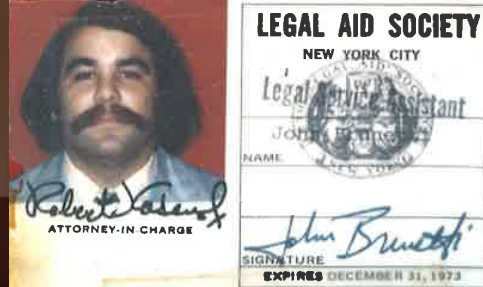
Brunetti was in his element. He took cases no one else wanted. Indian casino prosecutions, a bingo-hall fire prosecution with 66 witnesses, defending a Hells Angel’s RICO case before the Hon. Howard G. Munson, and defending a trash-hauler criminal antitrust case before Judge Neal P. McCurn with Co-counsel Edward Z. Menkin and Jim McGraw.

From 1977 to 2006, Brunetti was a Syracuse University College of Law adjunct professor at the same time he was a federal and state prosecutor, counsel to a state senator (1993-95), a litigator in private practice (1993-95), and then finally as a Judge of the Court of Claims of the State of New York assigned to the Criminal Division of the Supreme Court as an Acting Supreme Court Justice presiding over felony criminal matters (1995-2017).

And, as if he alone had more hours in the day than the rest of us, Brunetti began writing in 1999 what is considered the treatise on the admissibility of defendant confessions and other procedural protocol – New York Confessions, now in its 18th edition.

“Judge Brunetti is an institution when it comes to his knowledge and expertise of criminal law and procedure. He’s always been considered a scholar and we miss his insight from the bench,” said Fifth Judicial District Administrative Judge James P. Murphy.







Bond is proud to congratulate honorees  
**Hon. John J. Brunetti, *Ruger Award Recipient***  
and  
**Edward J. Moses, Esq., *2019 Distinguished Lawyer***  
on their passion and service to our profession.



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## MEET YOUR 2019 DISTINGUISHED LAWYER:

# Edward J. Moses

A legal career marked by a strong client services ethic, loyalty to one firm, and the bar-wide admiration of one's peers warrants the stand-out recognition of being selected as the Onondaga County Bar Association 2019 Distinguished Lawyer.

This accolade is given to Edward J. Moses, Esq., a 50-year partner at Mackenzie Hughes, LLP.

Revered for the way he conducts his law practice, Moses is known for the exemplary professionalism and respect he extends to his fellow colleagues including opposing counsel and how he treats his clients.

His practice concentrates on mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, securities, and corporate governance for clients within the banking, emerging business, engineering, medical, construction and auto dealership sectors.

His close friend and former partner Carter Strickland contends that if he had to have a lawyer represent his business interests he'd choose Moses.

"First of all, his expertise. He is a great business lawyer, so that would be the first thing," he said. "Second, clients really love him because he's got such a joyful approach. There is always a pleasant atmosphere when Ed's involved."

Hired by Mackenzie immediately following his 1968 Syracuse University College of Law graduation, Moses accepted employment knowing he'd have to ship off when the U.S. Coast Guard called, which happened within two weeks of his first day on the job. He officially began at Mackenzie in 1969 upon his return from active duty.

Boot camp at Cape May, New Jersey was an equalizer. There, young men from every background came together in the heat of summer 1968 to begin training.

"What I saw was many boys who were troubled turned into men over a 10-week period," Moses said. "It was transformative."

Moses acknowledges the Coast Guard for allowing him to continue his education, and take the bar exam, "but when they called, you came, and I went ... I am a firm believer in military or volunteer service."

As soon as he returned to Syracuse and got back to work at Mackenzie, Moses married Elana "Lanie" Gang, who had received a bachelor's degree from Cornell University and master's degree from Syracuse University and began her career in education.

And within a few years' time not one or two, but *five* sons entered the picture: Edward John, Jr., Mathew, Justin, Bret and Doug. Now, Lanie and Ed have 15 grandchildren.

When OCBA President Aaron Ryder called Moses to tell him of his Distinguished Lawyer recognition, Moses and his wife were celebrating with their clan of sons and their spouses on a family trip through Scotland.

A reserved soul, Moses kept the news to himself not wishing to break the spell of togetherness with a light shone on him. He said he "had no clue" such a commendation would come his way, figuring "it's a mistake."

That's not how Richard Engel, on behalf of the entire Mackenzie Hughes partnership, felt about it in a letter to the OCBA Distinguished Lawyer Nominating Committee, chaired by OCBA Past-President Gioia Gensini.

Engel summarized Moses's career by enumerating the "hundreds" of businesses his colleague helped start, grow, buy or sell. The firm, Engel said, was grateful to Moses for his steadfast commitment to his role on its Executive Committee and as Managing Partner, and for the many times he was recognized as a "Super Lawyer" and among the "Best Lawyers in America." Engel especially noted Moses' deserved distinction as the 2016 and 2018 "Syracuse Lawyer of the Year" in Corporate Law.

"He has been a mentor to me and many others at Mackenzie Hughes, particularly our young attorneys who Ed has continuously strived to show by example the long-term benefits of practicing law as a zealous, devoted, ethical and cordial advocate for clients," Engel wrote.

The OCBA Distinguished Lawyer designation is earned by satisfying criteria combining ethics beyond reproach and exceptional lawyering skills with activities devoted to the betterment of the profession.

In Moses' case, his generous contribution of time and energy to firm obligations, to three bar associations, and to his beloved alma maters (Christian Brothers Academy, Georgetown University, and Syracuse University) in multiple turns as a Board Trustee, Board Director, and Board Chair demonstrate his commitment to the foundational strength of where a sound education can take a person.

Moses is the recipient of the Christian Brothers



Academy St. John the Baptist De La Salle Alumnus-Trustee-Benefactor Award, the Christian Brothers Academy Purple and Gold Award, the Marcellus Athletic Booster Club Hall of Fame Award and the Bishop's Medallion awarded by Catholic Charities at its 2002 annual House of Providence Dinner.

And then there is his devotion to coaching and support of high school and collegiate athletics and the power these have to foster teamwork and mutual respect.

Moses was an active kid who grew up on the border between Syracuse's Sedgewick and Eastwood neighborhoods. When not at football, baseball or basketball practice after school he worked at his father's wholesale grocery business in Armory Square.

Ever a Hoya, Moses was a lineman for Georgetown all four years of college, while also playing two years of baseball and lacrosse, respectively. He played club lacrosse while in law school and after until the age of 36 when he noticed Mondays became "tough."

"All of my fingers have been broken at one time or another. And my nose," he chuckles.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything."

His sons marvel at their father's commitment to family, both when they were young and now with bustling families of their own. He worked six days a week, they say, while never missing a family dinner or a single sporting event: "It didn't matter how far away our games were, he would always make the journey," they said.

"Dad would effectively balance work and life by showing up to the sidelines on a 90-degree day in what he called his 'air-conditioned suit' to support us. Then, he would return to the office and make sure he finished the work that he was committed to completing - never missing a deadline."

They recall their dad coming home from work, whistling his way up the stairs to change out of his work "uniform," don a green chamois shirt and penny loafers and bound back out the door to grill burgers for his family, their teammates and neighbors.

His children say their father instilled in them and epitomized the 'work hard, play hard' attitude.

Growing up, they thought he knew everyone on the planet. When they attended SU football games he seemed to know each person they came into contact with from parking at Oakwood Cemetery to tailgating at ESF to the Dome's ticket taker, usher, and beer seller, "Dad knew them all like old friends - greeting them with a warm handshake, a question about how their kids were (always by name), or how their mom is holding up. He just has this amazing ability to know and remember people and treat them with respect."







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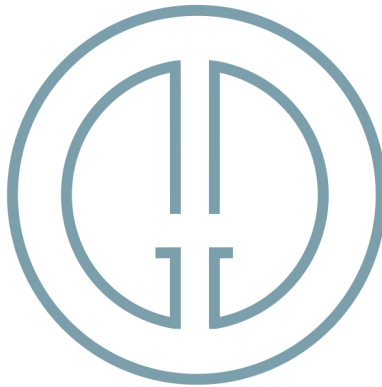
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*Congratulations, Ruger Award Recipient the Hon.  
John J. Brunetti and the 2019 Distinguished Lawyer  
Edward J. Moses, Esq.*

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Honorable John J. Brunetti

2019 Distinguished Lawyer

Edward J. Moses

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# Congratulations!

The Honorable John J. Brunetti  
2019 Ruger Award Recipient

and

Edward J. Moses, Esq.  
2019 Distinguished Lawyer



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*Thank  
you*

*-John Brunetti*

*To those without whom tonight would not have been possible:*

Senator John A. DeFrancisco  
Governor George Pataki  
Governor David Paterson  
Edward Z. Menkin, Esq.  
OCBA Board of Directors and Distinguished Lawyer Committee

*To those who helped make tonight possible:*

Kim Herzog, Confidential Secretary 1995-2017  
Sandra Holihan, Esq., Principal Law Clerk 1995-2001  
Yvette Velasco, Esq., Principal Law Clerk 2001-2017  
Elizabeth Smith Steigerwald, Court Clerk 1996—2006  
Terri Fox, Court Clerk 2007-2008  
Andrea Ecker, Court Clerk, 2008-2017  
Louise Meagher, Court Attendant 1995-2008  
Sharon Marr, Court Attendant 2008-2012

*To those who have given me the opportunity to continue  
my judicial career and legal career:*

Oneida Indian Nation and Ray Halbritter  
Baldwin, Sutphen and Frateschi

*Congratulations,  
Uncle John!*

*You are the best!*

*Love,  
Brittany, Kiera,  
and Conner*





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In recognition of your years of commitment to the fair and equal administration of justice, we are honored to congratulate our 2019 Distinguished Lawyer *Edward J. Moses* and our Ruger Award Honoree *The Hon. John J. Brunetti*



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We add our congratulations to all those celebrating **Judge John Brunetti** and **Ed Moses** this evening!



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Proud to join our colleagues in celebrating the mission of the **Onondaga County Bar Association** in promoting excellence in the law and promoting justice

***Congratulations to the OCBA and tonight's award honorees***



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John R. Appler, J.D.

*Second Row:*

Michael J. Compagni, J.D.

Bruce E. Wood, J.D.

Marc S. Beckman, J.D.

*Back Row:*

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Anastasia M. Semel, J.D.

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Congratulations  
**Judge Brunetti** and **Edward Moses**

For your commitment to our profession  
and to our community.

Paula  
**ENGEL**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Congratulations to

Edward J. Moses, Esq.  
of  
*Mackenzie Hughes, LLP*  
on receiving the  
**2019**  
**Distinguished**  
**Lawyer Award**

Hon. John J. Brunetti  
on receiving the  
**2019**  
**Ruger Award**

*Congratulations!*

2019 RUGER AWARD RECIPIENT:

*Hon. John J. Brunetti*

AND

2019 DISTINGUISHED LAWYER:

*Edward J. Moses*

~DANIELLE MIKALAJUNAS FOGEL, ESQ.

VICE PRESIDENT,

ONONDAGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

144<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DINNER CHAIR



We add our congratulations and best wishes to  
**The Hon. John J. Brunetti**, and our colleague and  
2019 Distinguished Lawyer **Ed Moses**.

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Marion Hancock Fish  
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George H. Lowe  
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M. Catherine Richardson  
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*Past Presidents of OCBA*

# Congratulations!

As previous Distinguished Lawyer and Ruger Award recipients, we're proud to honor **Judge Brunetti** and **Ed Moses** tonight.

**William L. Bergan (2010)**  
**Laurence G. Bousquet (2017)**  
**Hon. John V. Centra (2018)**  
**John A. Cirando (2013)**  
**Sidney Devorsetz (2009)**  
**Hon. George H. Lowe (2007)**  
**Edward Z. Menkin (2012)**  
**Hon. Norman A. Mordue (2016)**  
**Thomas E. Myers (2018)**  
**M. Catherine Richardson (2003)**  
**John P. Sindoni (2015)**



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1878	Daniel Pratt	1965	Neal P. McCurn
1879-1880	George N. Kennedy	1966	N. Harold Dwyer
1881	Irving G. Vann	1967	Louis Young
1882	John C. Hunt	1968	David A. Fraser
1883-1884	Henry Riegel	1969	James Sullivan
1885-1890	Henry Riegel	1970	Saul H. Alderman
1891-1902	William P. Goodelle	1971	Hilbert I. Greene
1903-1909	Theodore E. Hancock	1972	Robert W. Dettor
1910-1911	William Nottingham	1973	Thomas H. Dyer
1912-1913	Jerone L. Cheney	1974	Taylor H. Obold
1914-1915	George W. O'Brien	1975	Raymond W. Hackbarth
1916-1917	David F. Costello	1976	Alan J. Goldberg
1918-1919	Frank B. Hodge	1977	John J. Dee
1920	David A. Pierce	1978	Sidney Devorsetz
1921	Louis L. Waters	1979	Philip J. Britt
1922-1923	William A. Mackenzie	1980	William E. Sugnet
1924-1925	H. Duane Bruce	1981	Raymond J. de Silva, Jr.
1926	Alexander H. Cowie	1982	James F. Dwyer
1927	Neal Brewster	1983	John E. Schaffer
1928	Harold N. Van Bergen	1984	Carl W. Peterson, Jr.
1929	Edmund H. Lewis	1985	Thomas V. Dadey
1930	Frank H. Hiscock	1986	Dennis R. Baldwin
1931	John F. Nash	1987	M. Catherine Richardson
1932	Horace M. Stone	1988	Howard J. Woronov
1933	Willis H. Michell	1989	M. Mark Grobosky
1934	Crandall Melvin, Sr.	1990	George H. Lowe
1935	Lewis C. Ryan	1991	Robert A. Small
1936	L. Earl Higbee	1992	Kevin M. Reilly
1937	Clifford H. Searl	1993	George S. Deptula
1938	Francis D. McCurn	1994	William F. Dowling
1939	Benjamin E. Shove	1995	Marc Waldauer
1940	George R. Fearon	1996	Harlan B. Gingold
1941	Keith F. Driscoll	1997	Joseph L. Lucchesi
1942	Truman H. Preston	1998	David M. Hayes
1943	Caleb Candee Brown, Jr.	1999	Ralph E. Coleman
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