

# BAR REPORTER

#### FEATURED ARTICLES

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VALAC: An Update

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Onondaga County Bar Association CNY Philanthropy Center 431 East Fayette Street, Suite 300 Syracuse, NY 13202 315-471-2667

## Our Mission:

To maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of law, to cultivate social discourse among its members, and to increase its significance in promoting the due administration of Justice.



## In Memoriam

## Eleanor Theodore

Ms. Theodore was the only female graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law Class of 1952. She served as City of Syracuse Assistant Corporation Counsel for 36 years.



#### ONONDAGA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

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The 1,200 member Onondaga County Bar Association was founded in 1875. Among its purposes are: to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of law; to promote suitable reforms and necessary improvements in the law; to facilitate the administration of justice; and, to elevate the standards of integrity, professional competence, and courtesy in the legal profession.



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# Letter from the PRESIDENT



Paula M. Engel, Esq.

#### Dear Colleagues:

I have started learning Spanish, using a recorded set of lessons. After a few hours of "eschuca y repite," I am supremely confident I can now ask anyone where the bathroom is. A 2016 study discussed in a *Scientific American* blog found that when people aged 58-86 were tasked with learning new skills for an average of 15 hours per week, in subjects like Spanish, photography, or music composition, the "participants increased their cognitive abilities to levels similar to those of middle-aged adults, 30 years younger, after just 1.5 months." As a woman in her late 50's, who depends on the retention of the highest level of cognitive skills for her practice of law, this was important news.

But it got me to thinking about the strong scientific support for the proposition that the brain changes, through the creation of new neural pathways, when learning new skills. The brain literally learns new behaviors. New behaviors, prompted by new learning, is what we need to navigate our world in a manner that promotes true equity and inclusion in society. It is no longer enough just to teach about the important civil rights activists of the past century. Yes, we must teach our children about the critical impact of American heroes like Harriet Tubman, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Owens, President Obama, Marjorie Carter, etc. But, people of all generations – and I am especially focusing on those of us who are still practicing law and were admitted to the Bar between 1980 and 2000 (say, under the age of 65 years old), need to open our eyes and learn - in a new way - to see the world as it still exists today, for people of color, especially in this pandemic.

We celebrate Black History Month in February. This year's theme is "Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity," which explores the African diaspora, and the spread of Black families across the United States. The themes are set by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), two to three years in advance. Next year's Black History Month theme is "Black Health and Wellness."

You can't miss seeing the nightly news graphic that tells the tale: people in our community are dying. But it is not just a number. These are our friends' mothers and fathers, husbands, and sisters. The virus is disproportionately killing family members of color, and we're not doing enough to address that disparity. It is clear that people who are Black or Latinx are much more likely to contract the infection, and much more likely to die from it. The Centers for Disease Control have reported that this disparity is largely explained by "social determinants of health," including discrimination (and racism), healthcare access and utilization, occupation, housing and gaps in education and wealth. The CDC specifically calls upon communities to "ensure that people have resources to maintain and manage their physical and mental health, including easy access to information, affordable testing, and medical and mental health care. We need programs and practices that fit the communities where racial and minority groups live, learn, work, play, and worship."

In sharp contrast to that call for community involvement in mitigating health inequities, the national vaccination rollout, as currently implemented, is neither equal nor equitable. It is certainly not equal. The *Baltimore Sun* reported last week that "[m]inorities, who've been hit hardest by the disease, have received shots at disproportionately low rates." Despite the fact that Black people represent 31% of the total population of the State of Maryland, only about 16% of the first doses of the vaccine have gone to that group of residents. For Latinx people, who represent 11% of Maryland's residents, the percentage of vaccines that have been delivered to that group is only 4.6%.

Nor is the current, national vaccination system equitable: health equity requires that resources should be distributed in a customized fashion to ensure that the vaccine gets to the groups that are at greater risk of contracting the disease in and at greater risk for succumbing. Instead, on an island that is inaccessible except by private boat and is the wealthiest zip code in the United States, 50% of the total population (85% White) in Fisher Island, Florida outside of Palm Beach, has been vaccinated, versus the rollout in Opa-locka, Florida (2.1% White), where about 40% of the population lives below the poverty threshold, and only about 2% of the population has received the vaccine.

Inequitable treatment is creating life-threatening peril to people of color, right now, all around us, in our towns and villages and cities all over the United States. Let's change our behavior and take up this issue of health inequity by demanding a more customized and enforced distribution of the vaccine. We can all do our part by patiently waiting for our real turn to get the vaccine. Rather than taking advantage of an early, inside track, let's enjoy our time in our warm houses, continue to stay away from other people, learn a new skill or language, and wait until those who are the most at risk have gotten both their doses.

Gratefully, we see real leadership in equitable health care delivery right here in Onondaga County. A few weeks ago, <a href="County Executive McMahon issued data">County Executive McMahon issued data</a> on the racial and ethnic demographic data of those who have been vaccinated so far. And the Onondaga County Health Department held a <a href="Vaccination clinic">Vaccination clinic</a> on the North side of Syracuse, at the Dr. Weeks Elementary School, specifically targeted toward serving the refugee community.

Here's what we can do, right now, this month, to build new pathways in our brains and in our community. Let's leverage our power to try and make a difference and get in the ear of those influential change makers, in our workplaces, state, county, city entities, big businesses, etc. to more equitably provide healthcare. Consider starting a web-based focus group at your firm, to address how your office can become more equitable and inclusive. Ask your colleagues to join you in taking the United Way's 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge (<a href="https://unitedway-cny.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/">https://unitedway-cny.org/21-day-racial-equity-habit-building-challenge/</a>). Let's look back on this year, in February 2022, and be able to talk about the way we addressed the way our health and economic systems could more equitably serve the people who are most at risk from this and other diseases.

These kinds of changes will do me, you, and all of us, good.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Stricklend, Wu. "Think You're Too Old to Learn New Tricks?", Observations, *Scientific American*, July 17, 2019. Accessed at <a href="https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/think-youre-too-old-to-learn-new-tricks/">https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/think-youre-too-old-to-learn-new-tricks/</a> on February 1, 2021.

ii Emily R. Oby, Matthew D. Golub, Jay A. Hennig, Alan D. Degenhart, Elizabeth C. Tyler-Kabara, Byron M. Yu, Steven M. Chase, Aaron P. Batista. "New neural activity patterns emerge with long-term learning." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2019; 201820296 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1820296116

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/race-ethnicity.html#fn2

v https://www.baltimoresun.com/coronavirus/bs-md-vaccine-rollout-disparity-20210125-d2mwyfe7evfthgeoswe54tsb54-story.html vi https://www.who.int/healthsystems/topics/equity/en/

vii Cordes J, Castro MC. "Spatial Analysis of COVID-19 Clusters and Contextual Factors in New York City." *Spat Spatiotemporal Epidemiol*. 2020;34:100355. DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.sste.2020.100355external icon

viii Price-Haygood EG, Burton J, Fort D, Seoane L. "Hospitalization and Mortality among Black Patients and White Patients with Covid-19." N Engl J Med 2020. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmsa2011686external icon

ix https://www.miamiherald.com/news/coronavirus/article248697820.html

#### ONONDAGA COUNTY PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

#### SYRACUSE COMMUNITY TREATMENT COURT - HON. MARY ANNE DOHERTY

Resource Coordinator – Magdalena Postolovska – 671-2711 – mpostolo@nycourts.gov

Case Managers – Allison Hebblethwaite – 671-2803 – <a href="mailto:ahebblet@nycourts.gov">ahebblet@nycourts.gov</a>

Jeanne Keegan – 671-2804 – jkeegan@nycourts.gov

Eric Rodriguez – 671-4256 – ebrodrig@nycourts.gov

Daniel Roach – 671-6092 – djroach@nycourts.gov

Rachel Pitkin – 671-6093 – rpitkin@nycourts.gov

Probation Officer – Jessica Ellithorpe – <u>jessicaellithorpe@ongov.net</u>

Court Office Assistant – Mary Carson – 671-2790 – mcarson@nycourts.gov

CARE COURT (OPIOID PART) - HON. JAMES H. CECILE

Resource Coordinator – Brigid Stone – 671-2805 – <u>bstone@nycourts.gov</u>

Case Manager – Tim Zacholl – <u>tzacholl@acrhealth.org</u>

SYRACUSE RECOVERY COURT (MENTAL HEALTH COURT) - HON. ROSS P. ANDREWS

Resource Coordinator – James Townes – 671-2802 – jtownes@nycourts.gov

Case Managers – Allison Hebblethwaite – 671-2803 – ahebblet@nycourts.gov

Daniel Roach – 671-6092 – djroach@nycourts.gov

SYRACUSE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT - HON. VANESSA BOGAN

Resource Coordinator – James Townes – 671-2802 – <u>jtownes@nycourts.gov</u>

Case Manager – Monica Shaw – mshaw2@nycourts.gov

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION PART – HON. FELICIA PITTS-DAVIS** 

Resource Coordinator – Terri Gooley – 671-2090 – tgooley@nycourts.gov

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PART – HON. DERRICK THOMAS** 

Resource Coordinator – Daniel Schick – 671-4665 – dschick@nycourts.gov

## The OCBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee Seeks Nomination for Annual Award

Nominate a person(s) or an organization you observe that exemplifies the mission of the OCBA Diversity & Inclusion Committee's mission (provided below) for its annual recognition, which will be awarded later this spring.



A Nomination Form is included on the following page. Nominations must be submitted to OCBA Executive Director Jeff Unaitis by March 9<sup>th</sup> by email, <u>junaitis@onbar.org</u>. Forms are also available on the OCBA website at <u>www.Onbar.org</u>.

The mission of the Onondaga County Bar Association ("OCBA") Diversity and Inclusion Committee ("The Committee") is to lead and guide the OCBA to create and foster a legal community wherein the same opportunities for growth, development and advancement are open to all; members are equally valued for their individual unique talents, skills, and contributions to the community; individual differences are celebrated and embraced; diverse discourse is valued and encouraged; and equal and full participation enhances and enriches the quality of legal services and administration of justice.

## Onondaga County Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Award NOMINATION FORM

When completing this nomination form, please include concrete examples of how the nominee has demonstrated the ideals embodied in the award criteria. Attach relevant supporting materials, but please do not include other media articles or awards.

Nominated Diversit	y Leader		
Nominee:			 
Organization:			 
Title:			 
Address:			
Phone:			 
Email:			
Optional Information	on concerning the diversit	ty of the nominee:	
Sponsoring Individu	ual/Organization		
Nominator:			
Organization:			 
Title:			 
Address:			
Phone:			 
Email:			 

- 1. List ways the nominee actively promotes diversity. Please include the timeframe of these activities.
- 2. Overall, please describe how the nominee has been instrumental in achieving goals set forth in the Onondaga County Bar Association Diversity and Inclusion Mission Statement.
- 3. What has been the impact of the nominee's efforts? Please include numbers of affected individuals (e.g., mentored, hired, promoted, etc.); programs or policies implemented; and any other relevant measurements of successful diversity efforts. The evidence can be both quantitative and qualitative.
- 4. Please provide the contact information for three (3) individuals who would be willing to be interviewed to enable the committee to learn more about the nominee's diversity efforts. References should be able to speak to direct exposure to the nominee's work and ideally reflect the diversity of the nominee's experience.

Nominations must be submitted by March 9, 2021 Please submit via email to <a href="mailto:junaitis@onbar.org">junaitis@onbar.org</a>

#### **OCBA Launches Mentoring Program**

By Anthony J. Gigliotti, Esq.

A newly formed Professional Development Committee (PDC) recently launched a mentoring program, based upon a model pioneered several years ago by the neighboring Oneida County Bar Association. A robust number of volunteers, representing a diversity of lawyering experience, have signed on as charter members of the PDC. If you are a seasoned attorney, in practice or retired, you may wish to volunteer your time, as a mentor, to the following program.

Mentorships are available to any lawyer who is a member of the Onondaga County Bar Association (OCBA) and has either recently been admitted to practice, or, engaged in conduct subject to investigation by disciplinary authorities. The process begins by submission of a written application for mentoring to the OCBA Executive Director, Jeff Unaitis.

The PDC then meets with mentoring applicants, determines their needs and recommends potential mentors. The PDC chairperson then meets with mentors and mentees to establish objectives and to schedule at least five additional meeting dates over a 12-month period. In the case of novice attorneys, the mentors will share those experiences which helped to develop sound professional habits and a heightened sense of collegiality. On December 16, 2020, the PDP met by ZOOM to review the first application for mentorship submitted by a recently admitted attorney.

Mentorships are also available to assist attorneys seeking to rectify conduct resulting in disciplinary proceedings. Why extend mentorships to such lawyers? No lawyer completes 15 years of education, passes a bar exam, and secures admission with intent to engage in career-ending conduct. Some lawyers simply lack basic business skills and, over time, develop a love-hate relationship with the practice. Others detour into a life of substance abuse, mental disorders, or gambling addictions. Mentors can assist those lawyers who demonstrate a will to recover their good standing in the legal community. Progress reports are submitted to the Appellate Division or the 5<sup>th</sup> District Attorney Grievance Committee, usually resulting in a mitigation of sanctions if mentorship objectives are being met.

If interested in being a mentor or in being mentored, please contact: OCBA Executive Director Jeff Unaitis at (315) 471-2667, or email to <a href="mailto:junaitis@onbar.org">junaitis@onbar.org</a>; or PDC Chairperson Anthony Gigliotti at (315) 727-6780, or email to <a href="mailto:anthnygig@gmail.com">anthnygig@gmail.com</a>.



Mr. Gigliotti is the former Attorney Grievance Committee Principal Counsel. For 24 years he was an adjunct professor at the Syracuse University College of Law and was the Founding Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County. He is also a longtime OCBA member.



## Member Spotlight

#### Staci Dennis Taylor

Staci Dennis Taylor is a member of the Onondaga County Bar Association Board of Directors and is the co-chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. She is also a member of the Fifth Judicial District Women and the Courts Committee Task Force, which aims to implement at the local level recommendations from the committee's 2020 Gender Survey. She's also an Assistant District Attorney with the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office.

Staci grew up in Syracuse and is a 2003 graduate of Corcoran High School. Staci attended Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Le Moyne College, graduating magna cum laude in May of 2010 with a bachelor's degree in English. While completing her undergraduate studies, Staci was inspired about the practice of law while working as a legal secretary. She enrolled in Syracuse University College of Law, where she was President of the Black Law Students Association, a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, and active in a number of student organizations, such as LALSA and the Women's Law Students Association.



Staci Dennis Taylor

Upon graduating from the College of Law in 2014, Staci worked as a Family Court Mediator with New Justice Conflict Resolution Services, Inc., where she mediated custody and visitation disputes. In 2016, Staci joined the Onondaga County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney. She is a member of the Special Victims Bureau and prosecutes cases involving domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault.

In 2019, Staci was recognized as one of CNY's "40 Under 40" for her commitment to advocating for vulnerable and underserved members of our community. Staci serves on a number of boards, including the SU College of Law Student Alumni Association and the Onondaga County Bar Association. She is a proud member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and active in a number of community-focused organizations. Staci has continued to make Syracuse her home, and lives on the Southside with her husband and four children.

#### Tell us about your journey to becoming a lawyer.

My mother graduated from SU College of Law in 2001. While I was always proud of her, a quick flip through her casebooks convinced me law was not for me, and I wanted to go a different route. I was actually pre-med my first year of undergrad. I started at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and ended up transferring to Le Moyne College my sophomore year after becoming pregnant with my oldest son, EJ. I was 19 years old. I was determined to finish school, though, so I changed my major from Biology to English. In all honesty, I did that because I knew I had a knack for reading and writing, and I would be able to juggle new motherhood and my studies without my GPA taking a hit. I graduated from Le Moyne in 2010, magna cum laude. After graduation, I worked as a legal secretary at Green & Seifter, PLLC

(now Bousquet Holstein) in the litigation department. I enjoyed the work, and began to explore the idea of being a lawyer myself. I applied and was accepted to several NY schools, but accepted Syracuse so that I could stay home, close to my support system.

## Do you hail from a long line of attorneys or judges? How'd your upbringing guide you toward a legal career?

I absolutely do not hail from a long line of attorneys or judges. My mother was the first person in our family to graduate college. I was the second. Education was extremely important in my house growing up. My mother had me when she 16 years old, and her mother had her when she was 16 years old. I suppose I broke the cycle by being 19 when I had EJ (that's a joke). But my mom always told me that no one can ever take my education from me, and she is right.

## What excites you when you AREN'T being a lawyer? How's being a Mom while also juggling a successful career in the DA's office? Any tips you'd like to share?

I don't have any tips, other than to be flexible and take life one day a time. I had my daughter in August of 2020, and she is my fourth child. After EJ, I had twin boys my 3L year of law school. That made studying for the bar a very interesting experience. Talk about being flexible. When I'm not working, I love to read fiction, play board games, and write short stories.

You are a person who is INVOLVED and that's awesome. Why is it important for you to volunteer with the Bar Association? Where does that impetus come from? Why should others entertain becoming a volunteer – if not with the bar association, in another forum?

I come from an interracial family, and I have always believed in the power and benefits of diversity. Having different experiences and perspectives at the table--any table--makes for better decision-making, fairer outcomes, and justice for all. I keep that in mind when choosing where to spend my free time. I have chosen organizations that are committed to making our community, our country, and the world a better place. I am a new member of the Bar Association, and honestly--it was Paula Engel's invitation that got me there. I can tell that she, and others, are committed to diversifying the legal profession, and I want to be a part of that. That is also why I'm a member of the SU College of Law Alumni Association Board.

#### THE PRACTICE PAGE

#### DAYS WHEN SERVING PROCESS IS FORBIDDEN

Hon. Mark C. Dillon\*

General Business Law 11 instructs that service of civil process of any kind is prohibited on Sundays. Service made on Sunday in violation of the statute is void (Foster v. Piasecki, 259 AD2d 804, 805). The statute has existed since 1965 (L.1965, c. 1031, sec. 45), consistent with local "blue laws" that were in effect at the time. The statute's obvious purpose is to provide rest for both process servers and defendants on the Lord's Day. The statute is not an unconstitutional establishment of religion, nor does it violate the equal protection clauses of the federal and state constitutions (Fine v Commissioner of Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 168 AD2d 285).

A companion statute is GBL 13, which provides that service cannot be made on Saturdays upon any person who keeps Saturday as a holy time. A violation of that statute is a misdemeanor. The statute is protective of religiously observant Jews. Service made in violation of the statute is void (JP Morgan Chase Bank, Nat'l Ass'n. v Lilker, 153 AD3d 1243, 1244). However, mere service upon a Jewish defendant is not void unless two specific

requirements are met. First, the recipient of the process must actually use and observe Saturday as a no-work holy time. Second, the process server's choice of serving on Saturday must be motivated by malice (GBL 13; Signature Bank N.A. v Koschitzki, 57 Misc.3d 495 [Sup. Ct., Kings Co.]). The religiouslyprohibited service includes not only personal service, but other methods of service as well. If process is made on Saturday upon a person of suitable age and discretion under CPLR 308(2), the statute may be violated if the timing was malicious (accord Garner v Doggie Love LLC, 2011 WL 197729 [Sup. Ct. NY Co.). Similarly, if service is effected by the "nail and mail" method under CPLR 308(4), and affixation occurs on Saturday, the statute is violated (JP Morgan Chase Bank, Nat'l Ass'n. v Lilker, 153 AD3d at 1245). Any service that is invalidated under GBL 11 or 13 represents a failure to obtain personal jurisdiction over the defendant, meaning that the plaintiff is not entitled to recommence a second action beyond the statute of limitations within the sixmonth grace extension of CPLR 205(a).

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Cases involving alleged violations of GBL 13 involve whether the defendant is truly observant, and even more frequently, whether the service was timed with religious malice. Malice necessarily speaks to the process server's state of mind. It may be established by reasonable inferences drawn from the facts, such as Saturday service upon an outwardly Orthodox or Hasidic person. It exists when the process server actually knew that the person being served was observant (Hirsch v. Ben Zvi, 184 Misc.2d 946, 948). In Hirsch, where service was effected on a Saturday that also happened to be Sukkot, the religious observance of plaintiff's counsel was imputed to the process server in finding malice and invalidating the process (Id., at 948). Service of process will withstand challenge when the defendant, while Jewish, is not shown to observe Saturday as a holy day (Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. v Powell, 111 Misc.2d 1011 [Sup. Ct., Nassau Co.], or

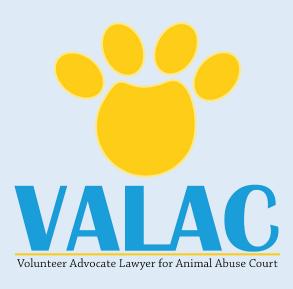
when the element of malice is lacking (Hudson City Savings Bank, FSB v Schoenfeld, 172 AD3d 692, 693; Matter of Kushner, 200 AD2d 1, 2).

The service of mere notices, such as a contractual notice under a lease, does not violate the prohibitions of GBL 11 and 13 (*Glenball, Ltd. v TLY Coney, LLC*, 57 AD3d 843).

GBL 11 and 13 do not prohibit service of process on national holidays, nor service upon observers of religious holidays that fall on weekdays, or in the case of Christians, on Saturdays. Thus, service of process on a non-Sunday Christmas is valid, whereas service on an Easter, which is always on a Sunday, is not. And statutorily, Passover, Yom Kippur and other high Jewish holidays are apparently fair game for service of process when they do not fall on a weekend. The reader might notice the statutory inconsistencies.



Mark C. Dillon is a Justice the Appellate Division, 2nd Department, an Adjunct Professor of New York Practice at Fordham Law School, and an author of CPLR Practice Commentaries in McKinney's.



#### From VALAC Director Nick DeMartino...

As you may be aware, Animal Abuse Court has started up again and has been primarily virtual. The Court sends me updated calendars and has included me in the Teams links. As a result, I have been attending all Court sessions virtually.

Judge McMahon was elected this past November to NYS Supreme Court and Judge Vanessa Bogan has been serving as Acting Judge. She has been doing an impressive job and has taken a keen interest in the animal abuse cases. There is some uncertainty, however, as to whether she will continue to serve in this capacity as one of the newly elected Judges may be assigned.

Tara Kalil and I maintain regular contact regarding old and new cases. We met at her Office last Friday and reviewed all pending and new cases where Appearance Tickets will or have been issued. There are many new cases to assign. Some will be felonies. If you are not interested in accepting cases, please let me know. I will continue to make all Court appearances on anyone's behalf, so even if you are only able to visit the dogs at the shelter and do out of Court work on behalf of our pups, that is most appreciated. I have already spoken to one VALAC about this.

We have four new attorneys who have expressed an interest in joining us. As a result, I'm planning a virtual training / VALAC meeting in the near future. Jennifer Caggiano has advised that her Office has the capability of setting up Skype/Teams conferences, so I will be reaching out to her to schedule a date. Also, OCBA wants all Sections/Committees to meet regularly, so we will do that. I realize that VALAC is not really a section or committee given that we are a working Court Program, but I agree that it is important to get together on a regular basis. We will schedule meetings at least on a quarterly basis. I will work with Jeff and Jennifer on this. More on this as it develops.

As most of you probably do not know, HumaneCNY is now taking most of our VALAC pups. B&R Bunkhouse is taking in primarily strays. The Executive Director is Maureen Davision who is doing a fantastic job and she fully understands our mission. HumaneCNY recently completed a new physical

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expansion to their facility. They are located on Taft Road just beyond Wegmans, on the same side of the street. We welcome Maureen and HumaneCNY as a partner to the VALAC Program.

Over the past several months, we have encountered a number of cases where defendants have refused to surrender ownership or have not been arraigned due to Court closure. As a result, we have worked with the Court, the DA's Office and with SPD to have 11 VALAC dogs fostered. Judge McMahon, Judge Bogan, ADA Anthony Copani and both PO Kalil and Sgt. Cramer have all gone above and beyond in their efforts to help our pups. Anthony has filed 2 Orders to Show Cause with the Court seeking foster relief. It has been a somewhat frustrating process, however, because although we have been successful in moving the dogs to foster

care, the dogs cannot be adopted because there is no surrender of ownership and the Court cannot obviously terminate ownership rights of the defendants without due process to each respective defendant. It has, as a result, also been somewhat frustrating over the past several months trying to explain the Court process to some of our rescue friends as to what we can and cannot accomplish given COVID-19 and the jurisdictional authority, or lack thereof, of the Court. When we are back up and running, we will be offering a CLE to anyone who wants to attend which will explain the Court system and Court process, and also explain what VALAC can and cannot accomplish.

Lastly, I will be part of a Webinar sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild later this month regarding Desmond's Law, which is the law in Connecticut which establishes Court appointed attorneys for abused Dogs. Other speakers will include elected officials from New Jersey and Law School professors. They are very interested in using VALAC as a model. I've also been contacted by the national office of the Animal Defense League about our Program.

That's a lot of information. Remain well and safe, and PLEASE keep in touch!

Nick D

Learn more about how you can become involved with VALAC by contacting Nick at (315) 314-3400 or by email at <a href="mailto:nick@nicholasdemartinolaw.com">nick@nicholasdemartinolaw.com</a>.



# The Honorable Anthony J. Paris Joins Costello, Cooney & Fearon

Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC announces the Honorable Anthony J. Paris, retired Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, has joined the firm as Special Counsel.

Tony will be offering his expertise in the form of Alternative Dispute Resolution services. He brings his efficacy, experience, and attention to detail to his service as a neutral. Tony knows every case is unique and tailors his approach to each situation brought before him. He looks forward to helping parties reach mutually acceptable outcomes, while avoiding the stress, difficulty, and expense he well knows litigation can entail.

Tony has a depth of experience in a broad range of matters and is able to offer his services as a neutral to all parties who seek his guidance. His Alternative Dispute Resolution practice will primarily focus on commercial litigation, including contract and employment disputes, as well as personal injury, malpractice, and professional liability matters.

Prior to joining Costello, Cooney & Fearon, Tony had a distinguished career as a jurist for 28 years. In 1992, he was elected to a 10-year term as Onondaga County Family Court Judge. In 1997, Tony was designated an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court, where he presided over matrimonial actions, as well as other matters throughout the Fifth Judicial District. In 1999, he won election as a New York State Supreme Court Justice and was re-elected in 2013. Tony was also part of the Statewide Mortgage Foreclosure Group and presided over cases in the Commercial Division. While on the Bench, he was appointed to the Judicial Advisory Council and the Access to Justice Subcommittee.

Prior to his years on the Bench, Tony served as an Assistant District Attorney for the County of Onondaga and was engaged in the general practice of law.

As such, in addition to his services as a neutral, Tony will have a general litigation practice, handling such diverse matters as Business Formations and Transactions; Commercial and Residential Real Estate; Foreclosures; Insurance Coverage Disputes; Personal Injury; Professional Liability; DWI, and Traffic Matters; and matters involving Domestic Relations, including Divorce and Family Court Proceedings.

Tony can be reached by calling Costello, Cooney & Fearon at (315) 422-1152 or by stopping by their new offices at the Jefferson Clinton Commons, 211 West Jefferson Street, Syracuse, New York 13202 (please note: all proper COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed).





#### **New Partners at Costello** Cooney & Fearon, PLLC

CCF announces three new partners in Richard J. Andino, Alexandra L. Condon, and Daniel R. Rose. Andino joined the firm in 2012 and has built his practice primarily in the firm's Municipal, Zoning & Land Use, and Labor & Employment Law

practice groups. Condon joined later, in 2015 and serves clients utilizing her skills in Creditors' Rights, Financial Compliance & Bankruptcy, and Real Estate & Land Use. Rose has been with CCF since 2013, his practice areas include Construction & Surety Law, Fire Loss Litigation, Insurance Coverage Disputes, Litigation & Trial Practice, Products Liability, and Professional Liability Defense.

#### Andrew R. Borelli Named Partner at Gale & Hunt, LLC Firm Also Welcomes New Associates Carly Dziekan and Kali Schreiner

Gale & Hunt, LLC announces Andrew R. Borelli, Esq. is a Partner in the firm. Andrew joined the firm in 2015 after serving two years as an Appellate Court Attorney with the Appellate Division, Fourth Department. In addition to significant experience in appellate work, Andrew's practice focuses on all areas of litigation including the defense of physicians, health care providers, health care entities, and other professionals in state and federal lawsuits. Andrew graduated summa cum laude from Le Moyne College and magna cum laude from SUNY Buffalo where he was an editor for the Buffalo Law Review.



In addition, Carly J. Dzekian and Kali R. Scheiner have joined Gale & Hunt, LLC as associates. Carly graduated with a B.S. in Neuroscience from St. Lawrence University where she was captain of both the Varsity Women's Field Hockey and Softball teams. Carly completed a joint degree program at Albany Law School and Albany Medical School where she obtained her J.D., graduating magna cum laude, and an M.S. in Bioethics. Kali graduated summa cum laude from Syracuse University with a B.S. in Biology. Thereafter, she graduated magna cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law. While at the College of Law, Kali served as an editor for the Syracuse Law Review and was a member of the Justinian Honorary Law Society. Carly and Kali will focus their practice on litigation, including premises liability, products liability, and medical and professional malpractice.

#### Barclay Damon Attorneys Achieve 100 Percent Pro Bono Participation

For the fourth consecutive year, Barclay Damon announces every one of the firm's fulltime attorneys provided pro bono legal services to low-income individuals in need of legal assistant and to organizations serving those seeking access to justice.

"Providing communities with excellent pro bono service is at the core of Barclay Damon's culture. To achieve 100 percent pro bono service for four consecutive years at a firm like ours with nearly 300 attorneys is no small feat, especially while COVID-19 is still a cause for concern," Corey Auerbach, pro bono partner, said. "Each of our attorneys is deeply passionate about giving back to the communities that need them most, and we hope to continue achieving 100 percent participation for many years to come."

Through its multi-award winning pro bono program, the firm dedicated more than 2,500 hours valued at nearly \$750,000 to pro bono efforts in 2020, with attorneys actively participating in firm-sponsored family court clinics, litigating civil rights violations, drafting wills for veterans, assisting with clemency applications, and providing online legal aid through initiatives such as the American Bar Association's Free Legal Answers program. The firm's investments in communities across its office platform supported legal matters involving many of today's critical issues, including immigration, housing, women's rights, prisoners' rights, community building, and economic development, among others.

"The COVID-19 pandemic presented the legal universe with numerous challenges, including how to conduct pro bono services for those in need. I'm proud to say that Barclay Damon was able to provide unwavering service and meet its goal of 100 percent participation," Connie Cahill, newly elected managing partner, said. "Achieving 100 percent participation in the midst of a global pandemic speaks to how dedicated our attorneys are to advocating for those whose voices are so often silenced. This past year was especially difficult for low-income communities, and we're glad to give of our time and talent where needed."

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Barclay Damon was honored as an Empire State Counsel Honoree by the NYSBA at its annual Justice for All ceremony for the fourth year in a row. Among other accolades, Barclay Damon has also been ranked the number one firm for pro bono service in Western New York by *Buffalo Law Journal*.

#### Newly Hired at Barclay Damon

Barclay Damon announces Jeff Koegel has joined the Rochester office as an associate in the Branding, Trademarks & Copyrights Area.

Jeff counsels clients from a range of industries on their intellectual property rights, focusing on acquiring and protecting trademark rights domestically and internationally. He performs trademark clearance searches and due diligence; and prepares files, prosecutes, maintains, and renews trademark applications and registrations. Jeff's practice often involves responding to office actions before the US Patent and Trademark Office and enforcing trademark rights through proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. Jeff also drafts agreements related to intellectual property rights and handles applications for registration of copyrightable works with the US Copyright Office.

#### **BOUSQUET HOLSTEIN PLLC ELECTS CASEY A. JOHNSON**



Casey A. Johnson

Casey A. Johnson has been elected as a Member of Bousquet Holstein, PLLC.

Casey joined Bousquet Holstein in 2014, and divides his time providing legal counsel in dual citizenship matters, as counsel to clients in the Brownfield Tax Credit Program, and advising in Title IX matters. He also works with the firm's Bankruptcy Practice Group.

He has extensive experience helping clients navigate the dual citizenship process, including obtaining releases of New York State and New York City certified vital records, obtaining "one and the same person" court orders, and obtaining orders to direct the amendment of vital records. He works with the firm's Brownfield clients, focusing on tax incentives available through the NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program. He is experienced in preparing Brownfield Tax Credit Claims, responding to subsequent desk

audits to help clients get their claims approved, and challenging disallowances when needed. For those involved in sexual harassment or assault proceedings on a college campus, Casey can help navigate the Title IX process.

Prior to joining the firm, Casey was a Staff Attorney for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. He also served as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Andrew T. Baxter, U.S. Magistrate Judge, and as a Law Clerk for the Honorable Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz, U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Casey is a graduate of Cornell University Law School and earned his Bachelor of Arts from Brigham Young University. He currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Interfaith Works and is Immediate Past Chair of the Syracuse Opera Board of Directors. Casey is also a past President and Board Member of the Central New York Bankruptcy Bar Association.

**Take Note:** Effective January 1, 2021, the following attorneys will be associated with the new law firm of Cambareri & Brenneck, PLLC:

Stefano Cambareri, Esq. Melissa K. Swartz, Esq. Scott A. Brenneck, Esq. Joseph J. Centra, Esq.

New Address/Phone/Fax Numbers: Cambareri & Brenneck, PLLC

300 South State Street, 1st Floor

Syracuse, NY 13202 PHONE: (315) 424-8326 FAX: (315) 424-4995

<u>Steve@camabareribrenneck.com</u> • <u>Scott@cambareribrenneck.com</u> <u>Melissa@cambareribrenneck.com</u> • <u>Joe@cambareribrenneck.com</u>

## Syracuse University College of Law

Syracuse University College of Law Adds Vincent H. Cohen '92, L'95 to Board of Advisors

Syracuse University College of Law announces the addition of Vincent H. Cohen '92, L'95, Partner at Dechert LLP, based in Washington, DC, to its Board of Advisors. Cohen is widely recognized for his work in high-stakes litigation and investigations, representing global industry leaders in the technology, finance, and defense sectors. Also a member of the Syracuse University Board of Trustees, he embodies the talent, leadership, and public service found

throughout the College's diverse alumni community.

"Vince Cohen's service to the University, College, his community, and our nation is exemplary. His strong advocacy in matters of leadership, diversity, equality, equity, and ethics will serve us well," says Dean Craig M. Boise. "I look forward to Vince's invaluable counsel as we continue to innovate our curriculum, expand our reach, and prepare our students for a fast-evolving legal profession."

Before joining Dechert's 125-strong White Collar team five years ago, Cohen was Acting US Attorney for the District of Columbia (2015-2016), the largest US attorney's office in the nation. From 2010-2015, he served as the office's Principal Assistant US Attorney. Last year, he was



/incent H. Cohen

elected to Dechert's Global Policy Committee, a 14-member body that oversees the firm's 26 offices worldwide. Since joining Dechert, Cohen has chaired the Black Lawyers Alliance, a firm affinity group, Cohen has received the Presidential Star Award from the National Bar Association for his contributions in the field of law. He also received the Director's Award from the US Secret Service and a Public Service and Humanitarian Award from Walker Memorial Baptist Church for his work in ensuring equal justice for the people of Washington, DC. He has served as general counsel and remains an active member 100 Black Men of America Inc. (Greater Washington). As an educator, Cohen is a trial advocacy instructor at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop and a frequent lecturer at Syracuse, Georgetown, and Harvard law schools.

Cohen is consistently recognized by *Chambers USA* as a leading lawyer in white-collar crime and government investigations for the District of Columbia, and he is listed by *Legal 500 US* for corporate investigations and white-collar criminal defense. He was recently recognized by the *Washington Magazine* as a Top Lawyer in Washington, D.C.

#### Continued from the previous page

"I welcome this opportunity to deepen my commitment to Syracuse University and the College of Law and to add my perspectives, including those I bring from the SU Office of Multicultural Advancement's Advisory Council, to Dean Boise's and the Board's initiatives. In my leadership role at Dechert, and through my clients, I have a front-row seat to how the legal profession and our business sectors are fast evolving, and I look forward to helping Syracuse continue to lead the way in adapting to these changes," says Cohen. "Syracuse is a special place for me and my family. My father was an undergraduate and law school graduate, and my mother is from the city of Syracuse; it is where my parents met. It is an honor to serve my alma mater and to strengthen the bonds with this community."

Among other citations, Cohen was named as one of *Savoy Magazine*'s Most Influential Black Lawyers in America; one of the 500 Leading Lawyers in America by Lawdragon. The Minority Corporate Counsel Association (MCCA) named Cohen a Rainmaker, describing him as "an exceptional diverse attorney whose business acumen and dedication to proactive client development set him apart as a leader in the legal profession." In 2020, he was named one of *Profiles in Diversity Journal's* first-ever Black Leaders Worth Watching and in 2018 the publication honored him with the 2018 Diversity Leader Award for his commitment to diversity.

In addition to his service on the University Board of Trustees, Cohen, a former member of the Syracuse University men's basketball team, serves on the Board's Athletics and Finance committees and the Office of Multicultural Advancement's Advisory Council. He is a former member of the Syracuse University Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and received an inaugural Syracuse Law Honors Award from the College in 2015. In 2008, he accepted the Chancellor's Citation for Distinguished Alumni Achievement in Law.

To honor his late father—Vincent Cohen Sr. '57, L'60—Cohen has endowed an Our Time Has Come Scholarship for Syracuse Black and Latino students through the Office of Multicultural Advancement. The elder Cohen was an All-American and Syracuse Men's Basketball All-Century Team basketball player who became a successful corporate attorney in Washington, DC, and who received the George Arents Pioneer Medal in 1986, the University's highest alumni honor.



1956-57 Syracuse Orange Men's Basketball Team, #41 Vincent Cohen, Sr.

#### Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP Seeks Civil Defense Attorney

Small, busy suburban Syracuse civil defense law firm – satellite office of larger Buffalo firm, seeking attorney with 8-plus years of experience for all forms of civil defense litigation; motions, depositions, appeals, etc. Submit your letter of introduction and a resume to: Lauren Miller at <a href="LMMiller@ksInlaw.com">LMMiller@ksInlaw.com</a>



#### Smith Sovik Seeking To Hire Highly Motivated Litigation Attorney

Successful boutique litigation firm with state-wide practice is seeking to immediately hire a highly motivated civil trial attorney with 1-7 years' experience for its Syracuse, New York offices.

Smith Sovik Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C. is a premier civil litigation firm with more than 30 trial and appellate lawyers who try cases in state and federal courts everywhere in New York State. As part of our continued growth, we are implementing a new recruiting program aimed at aggressively recruiting highly-motivated attorneys who will succeed in the fast-paced and collegial atmosphere of our firm. We have a highly-competitive benefits package and unique incentive-based bonus structure.

Qualified candidates must be prepared to handle cases from inception through trial, including drafting discovery pleadings and motions, and taking and defending depositions. The trial attorneys at Smith Sovik pride themselves on their winning record and seek only to recruit those candidates who share a passion for success. Strong record of academic achievement, proven writing skills and a talent for advocacy in the courtroom are minimum requirements. Attorneys must be licensed to practice in New York State. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. If you are interested in applying to the firm, please submit a confidential letter of application, current resume and writing sample to <a href="mailto:lstapleton@smithsovik.com">lstapleton@smithsovik.com</a>



#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



IN THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT
OF THE CHIEF BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
FOR THE

**ORDER** 

#### NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Pursuant to the authority conferred by 28 U.S.C. §154(b) and in accordance with this court's Administrative Order #27, United States Bankruptcy Judge Diane Davis is hereby appointed Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York, effective February 16, 2021.

Current Chief Bankruptcy Judge Margaret Cangilos-Ruiz shall continue to serve in her role as Chief through the end of her current term which will expire on February 15, 2021.

SO ORDERED.

Glenn T. Suddaby

Chief United States District Judge

Dated: December 4, 2020

## Litigation Attorney Position Available at Sheats & Bailey, PLLC The Construction Law Firm



We are seeking an experienced Commercial Litigation Attorney for our Upstate New York office, with eight or more years' experience in the State and Federal Court systems. Our practice focuses on commercial law with emphasis on the development, construction and design industries. Other practice areas include corporate and human resources law, labor law and real estate.

The ideal candidate will be able to work closely with the senior principals of the firm, effectively manage his or her own caseload and confidently proceed to litigation when any of our cases go to trial or arbitration.

Our firm works with clients across the United States and has a strong base of clients from Canada. In addition, we have a satellite office in New York City.

We offer a 401k plan with profit sharing, medical and dental benefits and referral and bonus incentives.

Position available immediately. Salary range: \$89,000 to \$104,000 and will be commensurate with experience. No calls please.

Email your resume with cover letter to: <u>bsantini@theconstructionlaw.com</u> or mail to PO Box 586, Liverpool, NY 13088.

We have procedures are in place to protect our employees during this time.

## **APPEALS**

Civil, Criminal, Administrative Referrals Welcome (315) 474-1285

John A.

CIRANDO

Attorney at Law

250 S. Clinton Street Suite 350 Syracuse, New York 13202

We APPEAL To You



## OFFICE OF PERSONNEL & LABOR RELATIONS

CITY OF SYRACUSE, MAYOR BEN WALSH

#### **JOB POSTING**

Donna D. Briscoe Assistant Director

#### PLEASE POST ANNOUNCEMENT

Qualified candidates are invited to apply for the following job vacancy. Resume should be submitted to Kristen Smith, Corporation Counsel at <a href="mailto:law@syrgov.net">law@syrgov.net</a>.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LAW**

#### **Assistant Corporation Counsel**

The City of Syracuse Office of Corporation Counsel is seeking an attorney to handle a variety of general counsel matters for the City of Syracuse. Responsibilities will include legal research, drafting of legal memos and contracts, legal analysis of the release of public records under the Freedom of Information Law, and general advice to various City operating departments. The Assistant Corporation Counsel will work under the supervision of a senior attorney for most matters, but will be expected to independently handle a variety of projects in multiple areas of law.

The successful candidate must have superior analytical, writing and oral communication skills, and the ability to quickly master new and evolving areas of the law. The ideal candidate will have a passion for public service.

The Office of Corporation Counsel offers a supportive, collegial environment without the pressures of billable hours and client marketing. Attorneys are given wide autonomy to manage legal projects, but have a team of colleagues to offer support and guidance.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

Must be admitted to the New York bar. Recent law school graduates will be considered.

**Must be a resident of the city of Syracuse,** or must be prepared to relocate to the city of Syracuse.

Office of Personnel & Labor Relations

233 E. Washington St City Hall, Room 312 Syracuse, N.Y. 13202

Office 315 448-8780 Fax 315 448-8761

www.syrgov.net

The Affirmative Action Policy of the City of Syracuse is to provide equal employment opportunity for all individuals regardless of race, color, sex, religion, creed, age (18 and over), marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status, gender identity or gender expression, sexual or affectional preference or orientation, or any other classified group within the protected class. The City also complies with 31 CFR part 51. If you have a disability for which you wish special accommodation to be made, contact the Department of Personnel at City Hall, Rm 312 at 315-448-8780.

#### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

GROWTH, DIVERSITY, OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

#### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT | Social Services Attorney

Ulster County Department of Social Services is seeking a **Social Services Attorney** to join our team. This is a professional position involving the responsibility for providing legal counsel and support for the Ulster County Department of Social Services (DSS). An employee in this class is responsible for providing legal advice and representation, as assigned, in administrative hearings, in matters before the Family Court, Supreme Court, and Appellate Courts, as well as related client proceedings and situations affecting the operation of DSS. The work is performed under the general direction of the Supervising Social Services Attorney of DSS, with wide latitude for the exercise of independent judgment and applying legal knowledge to specific problems and taking appropriate action.

Candidate must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Graduation from a law school recognized by the University of the State of New York.
- Special Requirement: In order for an application to be accepted, applicant must indicate proof of admission to the Bar in New York State.

Candidates should possess knowledge of County Law, Social Services Law and other laws of the State of New York which have bearing upon the action of counties; knowledge of State and Federal regulations and administrative directives regarding social services issues; working knowledge of insurance, real estate and business practices and procedures; working knowledge of the array of support services available; ability to express legal arguments clearly written, orally and before the bar; ability to maintain records and prepare narrative and statistical reports of a written and verbal nature; ability to establish and maintain successful relationships with people; ethical conduct in the practice of the law; honesty, courtesy and tact.

**Special Requirement** for appointment to Ulster County positions: In accordance with Ulster County Legislative Local Law Number 14 of 2007 or by other State and Federal Statutes, candidates for employment to all Ulster County positions must obtain clearance for appointment from the Department of Criminal Justice System or other mandated Federal and State regulatory authority based upon fingerprinting and a criminal history background check. This position will require a criminal background check and a candidate will be required to complete and sign a Criminal Background Investigation Release Form. Upon a conditional employment offer, a candidate will be required to be fingerprinted accordingly.

### ULSTER COUNTY IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND ALL CIVIL SERVICE LAW, RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, color, religion, gender, creed, national origin, physical or mental disability, marital status, veteran status, disabled veteran status, or status as a member of any other protected group or activity.

All Civil Service Laws, Rules and Regulations Apply.

Full Time (35 hours a week) with Benefits

Ulster County offers excellent benefits including membership in the NYS and Local Employees Retirement System and paid sick, vacation, personal and holiday leave.

Please forward a resume and writing sample to: Wendy S. Ricks, Esq., Supervising Attorney 1041 Development Court Kingston, NY 12401

Phone: (845) 334-5290 Email: wric@co.ulster.ny.us

## Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY), Inc. JOB POSTING

February 4, 2021

#### STAFF ATTORNEY –Family Court Binghamton, N.Y.

The Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY), Inc. is committed to a diverse, well balanced and inclusive workforce. We strongly encourage applicants from all backgrounds and walks of life to apply for our positions.

#### Equal Opportunity Employer/Affirmative Action Employer.

The Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. is a non-profit public interest law firm. We provide free legal information, advice and representation to people who are unable to afford a lawyer. The program area includes (13) counties: Broome, Chenango, Cayuga, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego and Otsego. In addition, our Farmworker Law Project services the entire New York State out of our New Paltz Office.

#### Visit us at www.lasmny.org.

The Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York, Inc. (LASMNY), is actively seeking a fulltime Staff Attorney to represent clients in Broome County Family Court. The position is based in our Binghamton office.

#### **Essential Job Functions**

The attorney will provide direct and comprehensive legal services to eligible clients including advice, negotiation, motion practice, and litigation. The staff attorney will represent clients in family law matters, including custody/visitation, paternity, support violations, family offenses, and abuse/neglect matters.

#### Job Qualifications

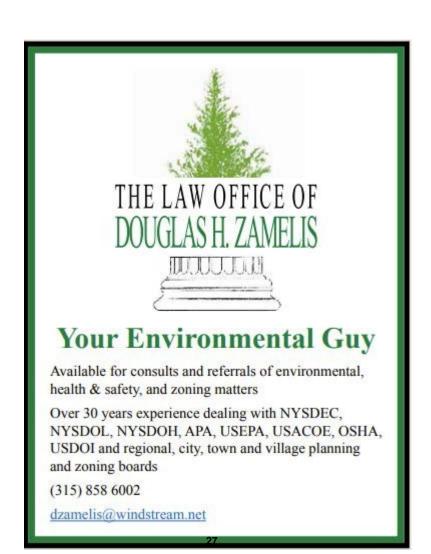
Law degree from an accredited law school. New York State Bar admission is required. Prior experience with representation in Family Court as well as trial experience is strongly preferred. The candidate must be highly organized and have strong written and oral advocacy skills as well as strong legal research skills. Candidate will be required to comply with all Legal Services Corporation regulations and grant-based reporting requirements.

Commitment to professional growth, problem solving and interpersonal skills, enthusiasm for direct client services and commitment to social justice is required. Other qualifying factors include: the nature and extent of prior legal experience, particularly in the area of family law; knowledge and understanding of the legal problems and needs of the poor, prior experience in the client community or in other programs to aid the poor, ability to communicate with persons in the client community; and cultural similarity with the client community.

**LASMNY** offers a generous benefit package, effective as of date of hire. Medical, vision, dental, life, supplemental life, voluntary, FSA, HSA, 403(b), SEP/IRA, mileage reimbursement, training, registration fees, NYS/County Bar dues, PTO, Parental Leave, Bereavement Leave, Jury Duty, Bar Exam Leave, EAP, Loan Repayment and (13) Holidays.

#### Salary depends on experience.

**Application Process -** We encourage interested qualified applicants to apply for this position by providing a cover letter, resume, writing sample and contact information for (3) professional references at <a href="mailto:jobs@LASMNY.org">jobs@LASMNY.org</a>.



#### **Ethics Hotline**

New York lawyers faced with ethical questions regarding their own prospective conduct can reach the Ethics Hotline by calling volunteers Victor Hershdorfer at **315-913-4087** or Tony Gigliotti **315-727-6780**.

The Ethics Hotline is operated and staffed by members of the Onondaga County Bar Association's Committee on Professional Ethics (the "Committee"), chaired by John Sindoni and P.G. Ferrara. These volunteers respond to inquiries made by lawyers admitted in New York who face ethical questions regarding their own prospective conduct. The purpose of the Hotline is to provide informal guidance to callers in accordance with the New York Rules of Professional Conduct (the "New York Rules"). Any information provided in response to a Hotline inquiry is merely the opinion of the Committee member answering the call. It is not the opinion of the Committee as a whole. The information provided in response to a Hotline inquiry does not constitute legal advice. If the matter involves complex issues, or implicates a substantive area of law, you may wish to retain professional ethics counsel.

#### Callers should be aware of the following guidelines before calling the Ethics Hotline:

- 1. The Hotline only provides guidance to lawyers admitted to practice in New York about the New York Rules.
- The Hotline only provides guidance concerning the caller's own prospective conduct. We do not answer questions about past conduct or the conduct of other lawyers.
- 3. The Hotline does not provide legal advice or answer questions of law.
- 4. The Hotline does not provide answers to hypothetical questions nor inquiries which have also been submitted to another bar association's ethics committee.
- 5. The Hotline does not answer questions about the unlicensed practice of law (UPL). UPL is governed by statutory law, not the New York Rules and is, therefore, outside the Committee's jurisdiction.
- 6. The Hotline provides general guidance. Due to the limited information we can obtain during a brief and informal telephone conversation, we cannot provide a definitive answer to Hotline questions.
- 7. The Hotline does not answer questions where the issue itself is the matter of a pending legal proceeding or is before a grievance committee.
- 8. Although it is the Committee's policy to maintain confidentiality of all Hotline inquiries, callers should be aware that the information is not protected by the attorney-client privilege or RPC 1.6.
- 9. The Ethics Hotline does not respond to complaints or inquiries regarding unethical conduct of other lawyers. Any such complaints or inquiries should be addressed to the Grievance or Disciplinary Committee for the county in which the lawyer practices (see http://www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/grievance/).
- 10. Lawyers who call the Ethics Hotline are required to provide their full name and telephone numbers.

If, after speaking with someone on the Hotline, a New York lawyer wishes to obtain a written Informal Opinion from the Committee, he or she may submit a written request. As with Hotline questions, the Committee's Informal Opinions are limited to interpreting the New York Rules. Please be aware that the Committee cannot provide a concrete timeline for responding to written requests. If your matter is urgent, you may wish to retain professional ethics counsel.

#### **EFFECTIVE 10/15/20**

ALL WILLS from Oot Law Offices, PLLC, (Suzanne E. Oot and Earl L. Oot), as well as wills from (Hon.) Thérèse Wiley Dancks, have been transferred to Scolaro Law PLLC at 6832 E. Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066, 315-400-3214 and <a href="mailto:rscolaro@scolarolaw.com">rscolaro@scolarolaw.com</a>.

#### LYNN LAW FIRM, LLP

The Lynn Law Firm, LLP accepts referrals Of civil appeals and dispositive motions. Over 30 years of appellate experience in all Appellate courts throughout New York State

Contact: Patricia A. Lynn-Ford, Esq. pford@lynnlaw.com

M & T Bank Building – Suite 750

101 S. Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13202 T: 315.474.1267

www.lynnlaw.com



## BAR BOARDS:

#### Local Attorney Seeks Author of Last Will & Testament of Client

Chris Helinski of the McMahon Law Firm is looking for the original will for his client David C. Donnelly, deceased December 29, 2020. Mr. Helinski has a COPY of the will signed December 27, 1974 by Frank Gualtieri, Esq., but is looking for the original document. Do any of these details ring a bell with you? If you have any information, please call Mr. Helinski at (315) 487-3724.

#### Office Space for Rent - Ideal for Solo Practitioner

For Rent. Office space for sole practitioner. One block from courthouse. Other amenities available. Call 315-474-6896.

#### Reasonably Priced Downtown Office Space for Rent

Work from home but maintain Class A office space. Downtown Syracuse law firm located at 1 Park Place has Class A space to rent to lawyers or other professionals. Have your name on the door and access to the space and all amenities. Impress clients for a relatively small monthly rent ranging from \$400-\$600 depending on services and space. E-mail mrsstag416@yahoo.com.

#### Local Attorney Looking for Lawyer who Drafted a Will

Searching for the last will and testament of David B. Garwood, Esq., who passed away on December 29, 2020. The will was drafted in approximately 1992 by attorney Dennis H. Cleary. If you have any information please contact Kathleen Lynn, Esq. at (315) 329-0349 or <a href="mailto:lynn/yahoo.com">lynnlaw45@yahoo.com</a>.

#### Independent Contractor Available to Assist

Former federal law clerk with extensive litigation experience seeks independent contracting assignments (including briefs, motions, appeals, depositions and court appearances). Rates negotiable. Email <a href="mailto:fedclerk375@aol.com">fedclerk375@aol.com</a> or call/text 315-447-3531.

Christianlmages123.com

#### What is the Lawyers' Assistance Program?

The Lawyers' Assistance Program of Onondaga County is a confidential service providing information, referrals, access to professional counseling and peer support.

#### What Kind of Assistance is Available?

You are entitled to a confidential telephone consultation, free counseling sessions with a professional counselor, and participation in peer support groups.

#### What Can I Expect When I Call for an Appointment?

You will talk to an intake coordinator who may refer you to an experienced counselor. Family Services Associates serves as the Program's counseling agency.

#### Is Contact with the Lawyers' Assistance Program Confidential?

YES. You can discuss the issue of confidentiality with the intake coordinator or counselor.

#### Why Was the Program Set Up?

The Program was established to assist lawyers who have problems with alcohol, drugs, stress, anxiety, depression, gambling and other personal problems.

#### Who May Call?

Attorneys, judges and law students in Onondaga County and these other neighboring counties: Oswego, Jefferson, Lewis, Herkimer, Oneida, Cortland, Cayuga and Madison counties.



#### For more information contact:

The New York State Bar Association Lawyer Assistance Program-- (800) 255-0569

Family Services Associates -- (315) 451-2161

**Onondaga County Bar Association** 

Executive Director, Jeff Unaitis-- (315) 579-2581



The mission of the Onondaga County Bar Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Onondaga County Bar Association, is to aid members of the legal profession in Onondaga County who may be ill, incapacitated, indigent or otherwise in need, and to improve and promote:

- The administration of justice;
- Service to the public and the legal community;
- Equal access to the legal system for all;
- Professional ethics and responsibility;
- Legal research and education; and
- Dissemination to the public of information about the legal system and the rule of law.

Established in 1975, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. To fulfill its mission, the Foundation depends on individual donations (which are tax deductible as charitable contributions) and grants from other funding sources. The Foundation welcomes grant applications for projects consistent with this mission statement.

## Workplace Bullying

#### Thursday, February 25, 2021

1 to 2 p.m. Via ZOOM Webinar

Cost: \$20 Members

\$30 Non-Members

\$10 Paralegal

Free to Legal Services

#### **Presenters:**

Sarah E. Ruhlen, Esq. Diane M. Williamson, Esq.

SATTER RUHLEN LAW FIRM, PLLC

**1.0 MCLE** (Professional Practice)



#### **Gain Insight Into:**

- What constitutes Workplace Bullying, relevant laws & protected categories, and a look at the "Severe and Pervasive" standard.
- Peer into the New York State standards and past the "Petty slights or trivial inconveniences" standard.
- Presenters will consider the NYS Public Employers Violence Prevention Programs both policy provisions and practical experience.
- OSHA General Duty Provision and Workplace Violence and Prohibited Conduct. Plus also IIED and Workers' Compensation

Please Register at Onbar.org

# Evictions Update: COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act

#### Friday, February 26, 2021

Noon to 1:30 p.m. Via ZOOM Webinar

#### Cost:

\$30 Members\$45 Non-Members\$15 ParalegalFree to Legal Services



#### 1.5 MCLE Professional Practice

**Presenters:** Sam Young, Esq. • Susan Griffith, Esq. • Laura D. Rolnick, Esq. Robert Rubinstein, Esq. • Casey Dickinson, Esq. • Hon. David S. Gideon

#### **Topics Covered:**

Do you represent landlords or tenants? This program is for you and will review the very recent legislation impacting eviction practice in New York State *right now* during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- COVID-19 Emergency Eviction & Foreclosure Prevention Act
- Tenant Safe Harbor Act
- What's the landscape now after the passage of the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act?

#### Please Register at onbar.org

## Court Trials in the Day of COVID-19: How Courts & Litigants are Proceeding

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Noon to 1 p.m.

Via ZOOM Webinar

Cost: \$20 Members

\$30 Non-Members

\$10 Paralegal

Free to Legal Services

**1.0 MCLE** Professional Practice



**Presenters:** Family & Matrimonial Attorneys

Maria Morse, Esq. and Christine Redfield, Esq.

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#### **Topics Covered:**

With a focus on Family/Divorce Court proceedings, this webinar discusses how New York State Courts are handling litigation given their limited ability to allow litigants into Court amid COVID-19 during actual trials and virtual appearances.

- Practical info re various programs/applications needed to appear virtually
- How documents, evidence and witnesses are introduced
- Litigant conduct during virtual appearances

#### Please Register at onbar.org