

Hon. Brenda K. Sannes
U.S. District Judge

Brenda K. Sannes is a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At the time of her appointment in 2014 she was the Appellate Chief in the United States Attorney's Office in that district.

Judge Sannes earned her B.A. degree magna cum laude, with distinction in the English Department, from Carleton College in 1980. She earned her J.D. degree magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1983 where she was an articles editor for the law review and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

From 1983 to 1984, Judge Sannes clerked for the Honorable Jerome Farris on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. From 1984 to 1988, she was litigation associate in a law firm in Los Angeles. In 1988, she became an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles. During her time in that office she served as a Deputy Chief in the Narcotics Section and later as the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Coordinator. She moved to Central New York in 1994 and was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of New York from 1995 until her judicial appointment in 2014. She served as the Appellate Chief from 2005 until her appointment to the bench.

The Honorable Deborah H. Karalunas obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University in 1978 and graduated cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law in 1982. At the College of Law, Karalunas was a member of the International Law Review, Moot Court and the Justinian Honor Society. Following law school, Karalunas clerked for United States District Court Judge Howard G. Munson in the Northern District of New York. In 1983, Karalunas joined the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, New York where she later became a partner. In 2002 Karalunas was elected to serve as a Supreme Court Justice in the 5th Judicial District. She presides over a panoply of civil cases including commercial, personal injury, medical malpractice, intellectual property, constitutional and environmental. In 2007 Karalunas was appointed Presiding Justice of Supreme Court, Commercial Division, Onondaga County. Justice Karalunas is an active member of various bar and judicial associations. She teaches New York Civil Practice at Syracuse University College of Law and is a regular guest speaker, lecturer and moot court judge. Karalunas is the Editor of the Judicial Dispatch and the author of a chapter in the treatise *Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts*.

Justice Karalunas lives in Jamesville, New York with her husband, George. They have three children, Sarah (Nick), Evan (Samantha) and Brian, and two grandchildren, Julian and Alina.

John Cherundolo is a nationally-recognized trial lawyer and former Acting New York State Supreme Court Justice. As a trial attorney, John has been responsible for obtaining many of the largest verdicts in Upstate New York, and has been involved in complex cases throughout the Northeast United States. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, an International Law Association that only accepts the top 500 trial lawyers in the United States as members. He is a leader in the law, Trial Lawyer, Educator, Bar Leader, and stands for Competency and Professionalism in every case that the Cherundolo Law Firm handles for it's clients. In his years of practice, Cherundolo has had many settlements and verdicts for clients well in excess of a million dollars and some approaching and/or well into the tens of millions.

John was selected by Governor George Pataki to serve as a New York State Court of Claims Judge, and was Acting Supreme Court Judge in Onondaga County Supreme Court, 5th Judicial District of New York for six years. Prior to joining the bench, John was a founding partner of a Syracuse-based law firm that served victims and their families in personal injury litigation in the areas of medical malpractice, product liability, workplace accidents, automobile and aviation matters.

John, in addition to being an active trial lawyer, sits on numerous state and national associations of trial lawyers, and currently serves as President-Elect of the Prestigious New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers, and as a National Board Representative for the Upstate New York Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is also a member of the coveted International Academy of Trial Lawyers, an honor that goes to the five hundred best lawyers in the United States. In addition, he was a founding member and continues to be a Director of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Thomas E. Myers

Thomas is a retired, New York attorney "Emeritus" and serves as Bond, Schoeneck & King's pro bono coordinator. In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, he was designated an "Empire State Counsel" for his pro bono services by the New York State Bar Association.

Over the years, Thomas acquired special experience in the areas of business dissolutions, insurance errors and omissions, medical malpractice, professional discipline, professional licensing, psychiatry and suicidality in the New York state courts. He successfully prosecuted and defended commercial and personal injury claims for both individual and institutional clients from the health care, higher education and insurance industries in New York courts.

Honors and Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *Martindale-Hubbell*®, AV Preeminent Rated
 - *New York Super Lawyers 2014*®, Business Litigation
- New York State Bar Association, House of Delegates, 2003-2006 and 2010-2014; Vice President for Fifth Judicial District, 2010-2014; Executive Committee, 2010-2014; Finance Committee, 2014-present; *Bar Journal* Board of Editors, 2006-present; Special Committee on Court Structure and Operations, 2004-present
- Onondaga County Bar Association, President, 2005; Director, 2000-2006 and 2010-2014; *Bar Reporter* Editorial Board, 1996-present
- Onondaga County Bar Foundation, Board of Directors, 2006-2011
- New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers
- New York Conference of Bar Leaders Executive Council, 2002-2006

Other Activities

- Syracuse University College of Law, Adjunct Professor of Law, NY Civil Practice, 1990-present

James Bernard

James Bernard is a litigation partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP. His practice focuses on financial services and general commercial litigation, including securities and consumer class actions, audit malpractice and related issues and representing clients before the New York State Attorney General's Office. He also works on commodities and derivatives matters and represents defendants in a variety of white-collar criminal law matters.

James has taught at Brooklyn and Fordham Law Schools, and was a law clerk to the Hon. Loretta A. Preska and Alvin K. Hellerstein in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He is Co-Chair to the Advisory Council of the New York State-Federal Judicial Council, and President of the Federal Bar Foundation.

Doreen A. Simmons is the leader of the Environmental Practice at the Syracuse-based law firm of Hancock Estabrook, LLP. She has more than 30 years of experience representing major and mid-sized industries, individuals, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations, in litigated matters and regulatory proceedings, primarily involving environmental Federal and State laws. Her expertise extends to environmental compliance, acquisitions, permitting and auditing. A graduate of Purdue University and Albany Law School of Union University, she is the Founding President of the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association and received its James R. Duane Award in 2006 for contributions to the Federal practice. In 2013, she was awarded the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Second Circuit. She has been active in the State Bar Environmental and Commercial and Federal Litigation Committee. Ms. Simmons serves as Chair of the New York State Character and Fitness Committee, Fifth Judicial District, and is a member of the Second Circuit Joint Federal and State Judicial Council Committee.