

## **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**BRIAN J. BUTLER** is chair of Bond, Schoeneck & King's management committee, leading the firm's more than 300 attorneys across 16 offices. In his legal practice, he represents clients in complex business and commercial litigation in federal and state courts as well as in arbitration. He also represents clients in the banking, communications, construction, insurance, and securities industries and regularly represents governmental and educational institutions. Mr. Butler handles a variety of matters for clients including contract disputes, securities fraud litigation, intellectual property claims, employment discrimination claims, litigation relating to non-compete agreements and unfair competition, claims under ERISA, insurance coverage disputes and construction disputes. He represents clients in a variety of contexts in bankruptcy adversary proceedings. He also frequently conducts arbitrations before FINRA, the American Arbitration Association and JAMS.

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

**LINDA CLARK** is co-leader of Barclay Damon's Health Care Controversies Team. A nationally recognized litigator and health care lawyer with over 30 years of experience, she serves as lead counsel as well as national, regional, and local counsel in regulatory and compliance matters and the prosecution and defense of claims brought in state and federal courts on behalf of large groups of businesses and institutional clients in various settings and venues.

Ms. Clark is a trusted advisor to health care providers, pharmaceutical companies, and pharmacies nationwide in resolving high-stakes disputes and government investigations and regulatory proceedings. She represents health care professionals and entities in all types of civil, criminal, and administrative proceedings, hearings, and appeals before various federal and state regulatory agencies, including the NYS Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG), the NYS Attorney General's Office (OAG), the NYS Department of Health (DOH), and their federal counterparts, including the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), among others.

In addition to her role at Barclay Damon, for over 20 years, she served as court-appointed defense liaison counsel for three jurisdictions in New York State in asbestos litigation, working with hundreds of defense firms and the judiciary in the administration of these cases. She currently serves as a court appointee to several high-profile administrative committees for the New York State and federal court systems. She also serves as a judicial hearing officer, hearing cases involving alleged judicial misconduct by the judiciary.

**MARY L. D'AGOSTINO** is a partner in the Hancock Estabrook's litigation practice. She focuses her practice on commercial litigation, federal and state appellate advocacy, and other civil disputes. Previously, she served as a Law Clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judges Christian F. Hummel and David E. Peebles, as an Appellate Court Attorney with the Appellate Division, Fourth Department and as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Syracuse.

Ms. D'Agostino is a graduate of Le Moyne College and received her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University. She is admitted in New York State.

**MITCHELL J. KATZ** was a partner with Barclay Damon LLP and a member and practice group leader of its Commercial Litigation Practice Group. Judge Katz is a 1983 graduate of Binghamton University and earned his J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1986 (*cum laude*). He was admitted to practice in the New York State Courts and in the Northern District of New York in 1987. Judge Katz was a shareholder and director of Menter, Rudin & Trivelpiece, P.C. from 1992 to 2018, and an associate and partner in Hiscock & Barclay from 1986 until 1992.

Judge Katz has been a member of the Onondaga County Bar Association, Federal Court Bar Association for the Northern District of New York (past president), New York State Bar Association (past Chair of the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section), and New York State Chief Judge's Advisory Council on the Commercial Division.

He previously served on the Boards of Temple Adath Yeshurun, Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY and Syracuse Habitat for Humanity (past President).

**JUSTICE JOSEPH E. LAMENDOLA** was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, Fifth Judicial District in 2019. He also served as an Acting Village Court Justice for the village of Canton from 2000 to 2005.

Justice Lamendola received his B.A. in Political Science from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh in 1978. Thereafter, he completed an LL.B. (1982) from Cardiff University and an LL.M. in Admiralty Law (1983) from Tulane University School of Law.

Upon graduation from law school, he received an officer's commission and served as a Staff Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force from 1984 to 1988. After completing his active-duty commission, he transferred to the New York Air National Guard, where he continued to serve first with the 174th Attack Wing, Syracuse, New York and thereafter with Headquarters NYANG, Latham, New York for twenty-six years. At his retirement in 2009, Judge Lamendola held the rank of full colonel.

He began his civilian legal career with the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office in 1988, where he served as a senior assistant district attorney. Justice Lamendola was appointed the Corporation Counsel for the City of Syracuse and served from 1995 until 1999.

He also maintained his own law practice, with an emphasis in the areas of family law, business litigation, estate planning, education law, and military law. In addition, he served as general counsel to the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association (2009 to 2019). He represented public education unions and public-school administrators in contract negotiations, grievances, and unfair labor practices before the New York State Public Employment Relations Board.

Justice Lamendola also served as an external director with the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Syracuse University College of Law, where he provided legal counsel to veterans in need of assistance filing VA claims. Justice Lamendola volunteered as an arbitrator for the Attorney- Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program for the Fifth Judicial District. He also served on the Appellate Division, Fourth Department Grievance Committee (chairman) and the United States Service Academy Nominating Committee. Additionally, he was a board member of the Onondaga County Bar Foundation and the Onondaga County Bar Association.

Currently, he is the Co-Chair of the Gender Bias/Gender Fairness Committee for the Fifth Judicial District. He is also a member of the St. Lawrence County Bar Association, Onondaga County Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, and the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers.

**ANNE M. NARDACCI** is a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At the time of her appointment in 2022, she was a Partner at the law firm Boies Schiller Flexner LLP. She specialized in complex commercial litigation and was an expert in antitrust matters.

Judge Nardacci began her career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York City. In between her undergraduate studies and law school, she worked on Capitol Hill on the staff of former Congressman Michael R. McNulty.

She previously served on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Antitrust Section. She is currently a member of the New York State Bar Association, and the Capital District Women's Bar Association.

Judge Nardacci is a *cum laude* graduate of Cornell Law School, where she served as an editor of the Cornell Law Review. She received her B.A. in government *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

She is a Capital Region native, and was born in Albany, N.Y., attended East Greenbush schools and graduated from Columbia High School, where she was named a National Merit Scholar.

**CAROLYN NUSSBAUM** is counsel in Nixon Peabody's Complex Commercial Disputes group, a member of the Securities and Governance Litigation and Class Action teams and served as Managing Partner of the Rochester office from 2011–2017. Ms. Nussbaum represents companies and their management and leaders who confront business disputes.

She has been appointed by the Chief Judge to serve on the statewide Commercial Division Advisory Council to advise the judiciary of the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York and also was appointed to the Pandemic Practice Working Group of the Commission to Reimagine the Future of NY Courts. She is a past president of the Monroe County Bar Association and a former Trustee of the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar. Ms. Nussbaum is actively involved in the legal profession as a member of the New York Law Journal's Board of Editors; the New York State Bar Foundation (Fellow); the New York State Bar Association (elected delegate); the Volunteer Legal Services Project (past president); the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (past director); and the Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (past president). She was appointed and serves on the Character and Fitness Committee for the Seventh Judicial District, as well as a member of the Committee on the Local Rules for the Western District of New York.

She is the General Counsel and member of the Executive Committee of the Rochester Area Community Foundation (and past chair of the governance committee); founding and current board member of Cancer Wellness Connections, Inc.; past co-chair of the Levine Center to End Hate, an initiative of the Jewish Community Federation of Rochester Inc. (of which she is a past president and current member of the Board of Governors); member of the Finance Committee of The Jewish Federations of North America (and past board member); former board member and officer of Temple Beth El of Rochester and the Jewish Community Center of Rochester; and a former board member of Jewish Senior Life.

**MARK W. PEDERSEN** was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of New York, on November 6, 2019. Prior to his appointment, he was a career law clerk for the Hon. Charles J. Siragusa, U.S. District Judge; served as a military judge on the U.S. Navy- Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals; and an Assistant District Attorney for the Monroe County District Attorney's Office.

Judge Pedersen received an undergraduate degree in International Relations from Syracuse University, with a semester abroad in Strasbourg, France. He attended SUNY Buffalo Law School and, following graduation, joined the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, serving on board aircraft carrier USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). After 3½ years, he left active service, but remained in the Navy Reserve for the next 26½ years and retired having attained the rank of captain.

He joined the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and prosecuted cases in city, town, and county courts, during his eleven years there. He moved to the Appeals Division and argued appeals in the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, and the New York Court of Appeals.

He clerked for the Honorable Charles J. Siragusa in the Western District of New York and served in that capacity for twenty-two years.

Judge Pedersen is a member of the Monroe County Bar Association and was Dean of the Academy of Law. He has been recognized by his peers with the Leaders in Law and Raymond J. Pauley awards.

He is a New York native. His wife is also an attorney, and they have four adult children. He has been a part-time instructor at Medaille College, a volunteer merit badge counselor with the BSA, a ruling elder in his church, and a volunteer licensed amateur radio operator for various charitable events in the Rochester area. Currently, he serves as a volunteer radio communications officer for the New York State Naval Militia.

**JOHN G. POWERS** is a civil litigator and trial lawyer at Hancock Estabrook, whose clients count on him for his judgment, thoroughness, and tenacity. He routinely appears in federal and state courts, as well as arbitration, on complicated civil matters to advocate for the interests and causes of his clients, which include municipalities, business corporations, universities, and individuals. He began his legal career over 25 years ago as a federal law clerk and he has continued in private practice to be passionate about representing his client's interests and the art and science of the practice of law. He has been honored for his body of work as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Power's practice areas include product liability litigation, civil rights defense, Article 78 defense, construction litigation, intellectual property and trade secret litigation, and complex contractual and intra-corporate disputes of all types. John also provides ongoing counsel to his clients regarding risk management, policy development, and dispute resolution prior to the emergence of litigation.

He is a court-approved mediator for both the Federal District Court for the Northern District of New York and the New York State Unified Court System.

Mr. Powers previously practiced with the Arent Fox law firm, in Washington, D.C., and prior to becoming an attorney, he served on active duty in the military as a United States Army Infantry Officer.

**WILLIAM K. TAYLOR** has served as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in the 7th Judicial District since 2016. Justice Taylor is assigned to handle medical malpractice, negligence, and other civil matters, and serves as the Coordinating Judge for ADR Programs in the District.

Justice Taylor formerly served as a Pittsford Town Justice, an Acting Rochester City Court Judge, the Monroe County Attorney, an Assistant District Attorney, and a law clerk to the Honorable Richard C. Wesley at the New York Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Justice Taylor is an adjunct criminal justice professor at Roberts Wesleyan College, Co-Chair of the Monroe County Bar Association's Litigation Section, and on the Board of Directors for the Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County.

He received his Juris Doctor magna cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude from the State University of New York College at Fredonia.