

HONORABLE MAE A. D'AGOSTINO

**United States District Judge
United States District Court for the Northern District of New York**

Judge D'Agostino has been a District Judge in the Northern District of New York since 2011. Prior to that, the judge was a litigator in private practice with concentrations in medical malpractice, products liability, negligence and municipal liability.

Judge D'Agostino is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the International Academy of Trial lawyers, and is an adjunct professor at Albany Law School.

HON. THERESE WILEY DANCKS

**United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the Northern District of New York**

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

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

HON. JAMES P. MURPHY

**Justice, N.Y.S. Supreme Court
County of Onondaga**

In 2004, the Honorable James P. Murphy was elected as a Justice of the New York Supreme Court to serve the Fifth Judicial District which includes Onondaga, Oswego, Oneida, Jefferson, Lewis, and Herkimer Counties. He previously served three terms in the Onondaga County Legislature, where was Chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

For the past 13 years Justice Murphy has been assigned to the General Civil Trial Part. In addition to his Supreme Court duties, Judge Murphy was appointed in 2007 by then Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman to serve as District Coordinating Judge for the Town and Village Courts in the Fifth Judicial District, where he currently oversees approximately 250 local judges. In addition, he serves as Acting Administrative Judge for the entire Fifth Judicial District.

Judge Murphy was an Adjunct Professor in Business Law at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, New York from 2008 – 2012 and regularly provides continuing education and training to his colleagues, Town and Village Judges, lawyers, and law students. He is the Immediate Past President of the Onondaga County Bar Association and has served on its Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee. He also serves as Secretary of the Judicial Section of the New York State Bar Association, having previously held the office of Treasurer.

Judge Murphy is a graduate of Bishop Ludden High School, Saint Lawrence University, and Syracuse University College of Law. He was in private practice for 20 years with an emphasis on civil litigation and municipal law. For over 10 years, he served as a full-time and part-time Assistant District Attorney for Onondaga County.

HON. RICHARD PLATKIN

**N.Y.S. Court of Claims
Acting Justice, N.Y.S. Supreme Court
Presiding Justice, Commercial Division, N.Y.S. Supreme Court, County of
Albany**

JUSTICE RICHARD PLATKIN graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY in 1985 and obtained his law degree in 1993 from Albany Law School (valedictorian). While in law school, he served as an Executive Editor of the Albany Law Review. From 1993-1994 Justice Platkin was an Associate with the law firm of Pennie and Edmonds and then served as a law clerk to Judge Roger J. Miner, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1994-1995. In 1995 Justice Platkin joined the New York State Executive Chamber, serving as an Assistant Counsel to the Governor until 2000, as Deputy Counsel to the Governor from 2000-2002, and then appointed to serve as Counsel to Governor George E. Pataki from 2003-2006. Justice Platkin advised the Governor on a wide range of legal, litigation and legislative matters. In December of 2006 Justice Platkin was appointed to the New York State Court of Claims. Currently Justice Platkin is designated to serve as Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District.

SUZANNE O. GALBATO

Member

Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC

Suzanne Galbato is Co-Deputy Chair of the Litigation Department of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC. Suzanne litigates commercial, False Claims Act, employment discrimination, product liability, antitrust and environmental cases. She handles litigation throughout New York state courts and in federal courts across the country, including multi-district litigation and class actions. She has extensive experience arguing appeals in both state and federal court. Suzanne represents a wide variety of clients, including individuals, healthcare providers, manufacturers, media companies, pharmaceutical companies, financial institutions, defense contractors, insurance companies, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, small business owners, school districts and universities. Her practice also includes representing clients in administrative hearings and resolving disputes through mediation and arbitration.

Prior to joining the firm, Suzanne clerked for the Honorable Rosemary S. Pooler, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Syracuse University College of Law.

ALAN J. GOLDBERG
Partner
Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP
Litigation Practice Group

Alan Goldberg has been a partner in the Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP litigation and appellate practice groups since January 1999. Before joining Whiteman in 1994, he was an associate for three years with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1991, Mr. Goldberg served for two years as law clerk to the Honorable Walter E. Black, Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. He is a graduate of New York University School of Law and Brown University. Mr. Goldberg has experience in all aspects of federal and state litigation, on both plaintiff and defense sides, and has represented clients in federal preemption, contract, sales, product and pharmaceutical liability, personal injury, environmental, employment and civil rights matters.

BRANDON R. KING

PARTNER

Smith, Sovik, Kendrick & Sugnet, P.C.

Background:

Albany Law School of Union College, J.D., 1995

State University of New York at Oswego, B.A., *Cum Laude*, 1992

Admitted to practice before all Courts of the State of New York and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York

Memberships:

Onondaga County Bar Association, Mock Trial Committee Chairman 2005 - present

New York State Bar Association

Defense Research Institute

Brandon is a trial lawyer who spends most of his time defending products liability, motor vehicle negligence, professional malpractice, construction and premises liability claims. Brandon began his career at the Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society where he defended indigent people in various criminal and civil matters, spending most of his time in court.

Prior to joining Smith Sovik in 2006, Brandon was a partner at the Sugarman Law Firm. He regularly defends construction companies, trucking companies, design professionals, product manufacturers, nursing homes, hospitals, medical professionals and individuals in courts throughout the State of New York with an outstanding record of success.

Brandon has successfully tried numerous cases involving all types of matters ranging from automobile, trucking and premises to commercial, construction, medical malpractice and nursing home cases.

Brandon has been named to the Upstate New York *Superlawyers* list every year since 2011 and was named to the Top 50 list for the past two years. *Best Lawyers* recently recognized Brandon in Medical Malpractice Law.

DOREEN A. SIMMONS

Partner

Hancock Estabrook, LLP

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.