

NEW YORK
CITY BAR



New York City Bar Association
Great Hall
42 West 44th Street
New York

2024 5th Annual International Law Conference On the Status of Women

Conference Program

Marking Five years of Honoring over
100 Extraordinary Women
& Women-Centric Organizations



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Mar
2024

Celebrating International Women's Day

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality.

Marked annually on March 8th, IWD is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements
- educate and awareness raise for women's equality
- call for positive change advancing women
- lobby for accelerated gender parity
- fundraise for female-focused charities

Everyone everywhere can play a part in helping forge gender equality. From a wide range of IWD campaigns, events, rallies, lobbying and performances - to festivals, parties, fun runs and celebrations - all IWD activity is valid. That's what makes IWD so inclusive worldwide.



Celebrating International Day of Women Judges

After its inception by the UN's General Assembly in April 2021, the International Day of Women Judges is being celebrated for the third time on the 10th of March this year.

International Day of Women Judges celebrates March 10th to recognize the contributions of women judges worldwide and is part of global effort to ensuring gender equality and to address gender-related judicial integrity issues. It aims to incorporate women's representation issues into judicial systems. The day reaffirms that the active participation of women at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality and democracy.

The International Day of Women Judges empowers girls and young women who aspire to become judges and leaders of the community.



Agenda

New York City Bar Association's Fifth Annual International Law Conference on the Status of Women

Where:

42 West 44th St, 2nd Floor,
New York, NY 10036
Tel: 212-382-6600

Friday
March 8 | 2024

- 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM WELCOME RECEPTION
- 12:00 PM – 1:45 PM LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTES
- 1:45 PM – 2:30 PM AWARDS CEREMONY
- 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM INFORMAL NETWORKING
- CLOSE



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New York City Bar Association's Fifth Annual International Law Conference on the Status of Women

New York City Bar Sponsoring Committee

United Nations Committee

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International Law Committee
Rule of Law Task Force
Middle Eastern and North African Affairs Committee
New York City Bar Justice Center
Securities Litigation Committee
Task Force on the Independence of Lawyers and Judges
Task Force on Puerto Rico
Task Force on the Rule of Law



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New York City Bar Association's Fifth Annual International Law Conference on the Status of Women

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New York State Bar Association Committee for Leadership Development
New York State Bar Association Women in the Law Section

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Conference Summary and Objectives

Together with its partners, the New York City Bar Association's United Nations Committee will host the Fifth Annual International Law Conference on the Status of Women on Friday, March 8, 2024.

The Conference commemorates *International Women's Day* and the *International Day of Women Judges* and will be held in conjunction with the United Nations' 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This Conference focuses on the current status of women and highlights the role of judges, lawyers, human rights experts and policy advocates working to improve the status of women and girls by enforcing their legal rights through accountability and improving their economic opportunities to support themselves and their families.

The Conference also focuses on the United Nations' initiatives to: improve the status of women; address global human and reproductive rights concerns and abuses, particularly bodily autonomy limitations, physical torture, sexual violence, kidnapping and incarceration of women and girls; discuss innovative approaches to improving the lives of women through the rule of law and government policy; celebrate efforts to elevate women judges and lawyers in fostering greater diversity within the judiciary; as well as addressing the disparate, adverse impact of technology and climate change on women and girls.

Finally, the Conference celebrates the role of legal societies, such as bar associations and other legal professional organizations and international NGOs in aiding women.

About the New York City Bar Association

The New York City Bar Association, founded in 1870, is an association of lawyers and law students. Since 1896, the organization has been headquartered in a landmark building on 44th Street, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues in Manhattan. Today the City Bar has more than 23,000 members. The New York City Bar Association has over 150 committees and hosts hundreds of events per year. Such events have included notable guest speakers including:

- *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a speech in the City Bar's Meeting Hall on "The Civil Rights Struggle in the United States Today"*
- *Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor were interviewed by Charlie Rose in the inaugural event of the Barbara Paul Robinson Series*
- *Sally Yates, former U.S. Deputy Attorney General, gave a keynote address at the White-Collar Crime Institute*
- *United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered a speech on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of the United Nations*
- *Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan delivered the annual Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Distinguished Lecture on Women and the Law*
- *Chen Guangcheng, Chinese legal activist and Distinguished Visitor at NYU Law School's U.S.-Asia Law Institute*
- *Harold Hongju Koh, former Legal Adviser to the U.S. Department of State*
- *Hon. Louise Arbour was elected to Honorary Membership "in recognition of her courageous commitment to justice as Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, and for her unwavering leadership as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights."*
- *Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor delivered the annual Arps Lecture at the City Bar, speaking on the topics of judicial independence and civic education; and*
- *Under Secretary General Pramila Patten, United Nations, spoke in 2020 – 2023, at the International Conference on the Status of Women and received a dedication of the Conference to her work on preventing sexual violence against women and girls.*

Opening Remarks



Susan J. Kohlmann, Esq.

Partner, Jenner & Block

President, New York City Bar Association

Susan Kohlmann has tackled some of the most significant issues the content, media, and entertainment industry has faced. Representing entertainment and media industry giants, including film studios and television networks, new technology companies, and others in media and entertainment, she deftly navigates clients at the convergence of content and technology.

Susan litigates cases to clarify the reach and application of federal law to new technologies and their content distribution platforms and resolves critical issues threatening her clients' ability to exploit their creative works and key brands. With a keen appreciation for the tension between protecting content and the desire to distribute it widely, Susan helps clients consider possibilities, manage risk, and ensure maximum protection in taking their businesses forward. Susan guides clients in recognizing which issues are worth a fight. Then she forges a litigation strategy, leaving no stone unturned to achieve success.

A litigation trailblazer, Susan secured a \$100 million trademark infringement dispute win for ViacomCBS over an MTV reality show title. Susan represented Diageo in connection with its famous Bulleit whiskey brand, successfully enjoining the continued sale of Redemption whiskey following a three-week jury trial in which the jury confirmed that Diageo's Bulleit brand was famous and that Deutsch & Sons' Redemption bottle diluted its distinctiveness.

Susan has also protected at trial and on appeal John Steinbeck's estate's right to control the use of the author's iconic works. Susan is currently serving a two-year term as President of the New York City Bar.



International Women's Day Keynote



Maria Cruz Melendez

Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates

Maria Cruz Melendez is a partner in Skadden's New York White Collar Defense and Investigations Group where she represents corporations and individuals in connection with domestic and cross-border investigations and proceedings brought by government and regulatory entities. Maria also advises corporations on prevention, oversight and compliance programs designed to address sexual harassment in the workplace; issues concerning civil rights; diversity, equity and inclusion; and related matters. In recognition of her work, Maria was named to Crain's New York Business' 2023 list of Notable Women in Law. She was also recognized as one of Lawdragon's 500 Leading Global Litigators in 2023 and has been honored repeatedly as one of its 500 Leading Litigators in America. Maria's work also involves multiple pro bono matters, including a successful appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court concerning a Section 1983 civil rights action seeking access to biological evidence for DNA testing.

For over a decade, Maria served as a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, most recently serving as Deputy Chief of the EDNY's Civil Rights Section and, prior to that, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section. She investigated, prosecuted and supervised several major cases over the course of her 10-year tenure at the EDNY, including a long-running investigation that culminated in the six-week jury trial and conviction on all charges of singer R. Kelly for racketeering and other crimes related to criminal abuse of women and children. She also investigated, prosecuted and supervised cases involving sex trafficking, forced labor, child exploitation, domestic terrorism and other violent crimes, as well as public corruption, abuse of power, and financial crimes. While at the EDNY, Maria also obtained the conviction of the mastermind of a 1979 bus ambush in Puerto Rico that resulted in the murder and serious injury of multiple U.S. Navy servicemen and women. In addition, Maria also investigated and prosecuted multiple organized crime cases, securing the conviction of high-ranking members and associates of La Cosa Nostra, including the Lucchese and Bonanno crime families, and successfully opposing a request for a sentence reduction for former underboss Salvatore "Sammy the Bull" Gravano, who testified against former Gambino family crime boss John Gotti. Maria also represented the government on numerous appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, including a complex issue of first impression, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, concerning statutory interpretation of a sentencing enhancement in a child exploitation case. During her time at the EDNY, Maria received numerous awards and commendations, including the award for Investigation of the Year from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and the EDNY's Elizabeth J. Kramer Memorial Award, which honors a prosecutor demonstrating extraordinary judgment, empathy, ethics and heart.

Maria devotes a significant portion of her time to DEI initiatives and is an active member of Skadden's Diversity and Hiring Committees. She also spearheaded and served as co-chair of the EDNY's Diversity Committee and was a member of its Hiring Committee.

International Day of Women Judges Keynote



The Honorable Esther Salas
United States District Court Judge

Judge Salas earned her B.A. from Rutgers University and her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. After graduating from law school, Judge Salas clerked for the Honorable Eugene J. Codey, Judge of the Superior Court, Essex County Vicinage. In October 1995, Judge Salas entered private practice with the law firm of Garces and Grabler, P.C., where she focused on criminal defense and appellate litigation. In September 1997, Judge Salas joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey. As an Assistant Federal Public Defender, Judge Salas represented indigent criminal clients in front of both the New Jersey District Court and the Third Circuit.

On November 3, 2006, Judge Salas was sworn in as a Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey—the first attorney of Hispanic descent to hold that position. On June 14, 2011, the Senate unanimously confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Judge Salas as a United States District Judge. Judge Salas was sworn in by the Honorable Jose L. Linares, making her the first Latina District Judge in the District of New Jersey. As a District Judge, Judge Salas has presided over complex civil and criminal cases, including a number of issues of first impression for the District of New Jersey. Additionally, Judge Salas, along with Senior District Judge Katharine S. Hayden, co-founded the District of New Jersey Pretrial Opportunity Program, which provides pre-trial judicial intervention for criminal defendants suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Judge Salas has been recognized for her work on and off the bench. She has received numerous awards, including the Whipple Memorial Award from the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (2008), the Women’s Initiative and Leaders in Law Platinum Award from the New Jersey Women Lawyer’s Association (2015), and Woman of Substance Award from Seton Hall University’s Women’s Law Forum (2015).

Judge Salas is a loving wife to her husband of 26 years, Mark Anderl, and the proud mother of her late son, Daniel Mark Anderl, who offered his life as an act of love when a disgruntled lawyer targeted Judge Salas because of her position as a federal judge. Since Daniel’s senseless and tragic murder, Judge Salas has made it her mission to ensure greater protections for judges. Daniel’s sacrifice, and Judge Salas’s advocacy, led to the swift passage of “Daniel’s Law” in New Jersey. To ensure that Daniel’s death would not be in vain, Judge Salas advocated for federal legislation to ensure greater protections for federal judges. As a result of such advocacy, President Biden signed the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act into law on December 23, 2022.



2024 Epiq Women Awards for Justice and Advocacy Recipients

Presented by Victoria Waciura

1. Dani Pinter, Senior Legal Counsel, National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)
2. Elizabeth Barad, Senior Adviser, Climate Change and Human Trafficking, American Bar Association, International Law Section, Women's Interest Network (WIN) Committee
3. Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor, Rutgers University
4. Ewa Hofmanska, Women's Human Rights Activist, Project Sunflowers
5. Helene van Melle, Deputy Director Europe, Tent Partnership for Refugees
6. Inna Liniova, Ukrainian Human Rights Attorney, Former Executive Director Ukraine Bar Association
7. Jeanne Celestine Lakin, Founder, A Voice in the Darkness
8. Jennifer DeCarli, Deputy Commissioner, Family Justice Centers and Survivor Supports for Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-based Violence (ENDGBV)
9. Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Chief Executive Officer, Sanctuary for Families
10. Justyna Wydrzynska, Human Rights Activist, Abortion Dream Team Collective and Abortion without Borders
11. Kaavya Asoka, Spokesperson, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
12. Katrien Coppens, Executive Director, Mukwege Foundation
13. Lisa Pearlstein, Former Director of Legal Clinic for the Homeless, New York City Bar Association
14. Margareth Goldenberg, CEO, Movimiento Mulher 360
15. Maria Victoria Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Founder and CEO, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
16. Marta Lempart, Women's Human Rights Activist, Polish Women's Strike
17. Mona Sinha, Global Executive Director, Equality Now
18. Natalia Haletska, PhD, Esq., Ukrainian Human Rights Attorney, Ukrainian Bar Association
19. Natalia Pancewicz, Women's Human Rights Activist, Polish Women's Strike
20. Rayhan Asat, Human Rights Attorney for the Uyghurs and Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council
21. Somaia Sharif Zada, Women's Rights Advocate and Legal Adviser, Afghanistan Attorney Participant in Judges for Career Opportunities for Refugees (J-COR)
22. Twyla Carter, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Society
23. Wanda Sanchez Day, Chair Puerto Rico Task Force, New York City Bar Association
24. Yasmeen Hamza, Chief Executive Officer, Womankind
25. Yen-Yi Anderson, Founder and Managing Principal, Anderson & Associates

2024 Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Awards Recipients

Presented by Robyn Griffin

1. Amy Barasch, Executive Director, Her Justice
2. Asia Shindelman, Holocaust Survivor & Genocide Survivor Advocate
3. Hon. Barbara Jones, International Investigations Lawyer, Bracewell
4. Betty Lyons, President & Executive Director, American Indian Law Alliance
5. Brande Stellings, Principal, Vestry Laight LLC; Founding Board Member, Beyond#MeToo Working Group
6. Cemre Ulker, Representative to the UN Department of Global Communications, Journalist and Writers Foundation
7. Deborah Enix-Ross, Immediate Past President, American Bar Association
8. Deborah Rosenbloom, Chief Program Officer, Jewish Women International
9. Dorchen A. Leidholdt, Director, Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's Legal Services
10. Elsa Stamatopoulou, Board Member, International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs
11. Erica Smock, J.D., Assistant Dean and Dean for the Office of Public Interest/ Public Service Law and Careers, Columbia Law School
12. Hon. Esther Salas, United States District Court for New Jersey
13. Hillary Sale, Associate Dean, Georgetown Law Center
14. Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq., Immediate Past President of the New Jersey State Bar Association
15. Kathleen Landy, Founder, The Feminist Institute
16. Hon. Linda Murnane, Associate Justice of High Court for the Republic of the Marshall Islands
17. Mandy Sanghera, Global Campaigner, Trafficking in America Taskforce
18. Maria Cruz Melendez, Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and Affiliates
19. Dr. Michelle Sanders, Global Humanitarian & Licensed Psychologist; Co-founder, FAFI; Former BOD BHHF USA
20. Rebecca E. Boon, Esq., Partner, BLB&G; Founding Board Member, Beyond#MeToo Working Group
21. Rena Paul, Co-founder of Alcalaw LLP; Founding Board Member, Beyond#MeToo Working Group
22. Rushan Abbas, Founder and Executive Director, Campaign for Uyghurs
23. Hon. Sharon A. Bourne-Clarke, Justice, New York State Supreme Court Justice
24. Shireen Jardo Alhinto, Genocide Survivor and Advocate, Yezidi Genocide Justice Campaign
25. Tirana Hassan, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch
26. Hon. Wavny Toussaint, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term of New York State Supreme Court, 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts and Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County



**NEW YORK
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2024 Appreciation Award

New York City Bar Association's
Fifth Annual International Law Conference
on the Status of Women

2024 Appreciation Award

Presented by
UN Committee Co-Chairs
Ervin Nina, Sophia Murashkovsky Romma,
and Catherine E. Van Kampen

To
Martha Harris
Senior Director of Programs and Committee Engagement
NYCBA

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Dani Pinter

Senior Legal Counsel

National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)

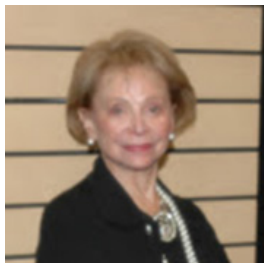
Dani Pinter, Esq. serves as Senior Legal Counsel for NCOSE and its Law Center. In this role, Dani serves as a voice for human dignity in precedent-setting legal cases on behalf of victims of sexual abuse and exploitation. She also drafts and consults on state and federal legislation to support victims of sexual exploitation and hold exploiters accountable. Dani speaks regularly on a variety of exploitation topics, with a special focus on protecting youth in a digital age and legal remedies for survivors of exploitation and abuse.

Dani specializes in civil litigation; particularly on issues related to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) and the Communications Decency Act (CDA) Section 230. In this regard, together with her team and co-counsel, Dani successfully argued that internet pornography giant MindGeek, parent company of Pornhub, should not qualify for immunity under CDA Section 230, and that the minor sex trafficking survivors in her case had sufficiently pled their claims under the TVPRA. The resultant Order and Opinion from the Northern District of Alabama was a breakthrough case, setting precedent for victims to bring cases against websites that knowingly profit from their abuse. Dani also represents survivors in cases against XVideos and XHamster, Pornhub's major competitors, as well as against the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Dani appeared in the Netflix Documentary [Moneyshot: The Pornhub Story](#) where she advocated for her clients and all those exploited on the Pornhub platform.

Most recently, Dani has proudly represented two of the survivors of Andrew and Tristan Tate and is currently defending them against harassment via civil litigation in a case brought by the Tate Brothers in Florida.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Elizabeth Barad

Senior Adviser, Climate Change and Human Trafficking

American Bar Association, International Law Section, Women's Interest Network (WIN) Committee

Elizabeth Barad, the former Chair of the Rwanda Legal Task Force and the African Affairs Committee at the New York City Bar Association, led and presented at four workshops in Rwanda. She also prepared and advised on gender-sensitivity checklists for the Rwanda National Police, the Public Prosecutor and Judges, and wrote a Train-the-Trainer methodology manual for gender counselors.

As a consultant to the Rwandan Women Parliamentarians, the World Bank and the Ugandan Association of Women Lawyers (FIDA), she advised on the relevant Rwandan gender laws and drafted provisions of the Gender-Based Violence Bill. For the World Bank she prepared a training on International Law and Gender. Elizabeth wrote a judicial bench book for Ugandan judges, which included local and International gender cases and advocated for safe abortions.

Elizabeth's publications highlight the accomplishments of African and Haitian women leaders. Her teaching credits include lectures at the University of Connecticut, the International Law Institute in Uganda, the Kungshon School in Lhasa, Tibet, the New York University School of Professional Studies and The New School.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Ethel Brooks

Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
and Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and
Sexuality Studies and Sociology
Rutgers University

Ethel Brooks is Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University. Brooks is a Tate-Train Transnational Fellow at the University of the Arts London, where, in 2011-2012, she was the US-UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair.

Brooks was appointed under President Obama to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, where she served from 2015-2020. She is Chair of the Board of the European Roma Rights Centre and member of the Bavaripe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, the RomaMoma Think Tank, and the US Delegation to the IHRA and its Roma Genocide Working Group.

In 2022, Brooks was a curator for One Day We Shall Celebrate Again, the RomaMoma/OffBiennale contribution to Documenta 15. She contributed art and performance to Documenta 15 and to the 2022 and 2019 Venice Biennales. From 2022-2023, Brooks served as an editorial consultant for the Los Angeles Times Podcast, Foretold.

Since 2007, she is co-Director of the annual Feminist Critical Analysis course in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Brooks is the author of the award-winning *Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work*. Her current book project focuses on encampment, claim-staking, and Romani futures.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Ewa Hofmanska

Women's Human Rights Activist
Project Sunflowers

Ewa has a PhD in law with national and international practical experience, including the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, The Netherlands. In 2002 she completed a research fellowship at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. She is a prominent researcher and a legal advisor, with a successful track record in various projects, especially those with a high level of civic engagement. Passionate, determined and skilled in advocacy, committed to supporting the achievement of justice and reparation for victims of armed conflict.

Since the outbreak of the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, together with a group of prominent lawyers, Dr. Hofmańska has initiated an action to support communities affected by the atrocities of the war. Among other forms of assistance, she initiated the collection of information about evidence of international crimes committed in Ukraine in order to make it available to competent national and international law enforcement authorities, including the ICC, and, in the future, to institutions preparing reparation programs for survivors of the war in Ukraine. This activity takes place as part of the Project Sunflowers and implemented by the Foundation Sunflowers, of which she is a co-founder and its President.

Over time, the Project Sunflowers began to implement complementary projects, such as psychological support for those affected by the war, establishing a network of volunteers (covered 19 countries that are hosting refugees from war-torn Ukraine) supporting the implementation of the Project's objectives, activities aimed at popularizing the rules of responsibility for international crimes, humanitarian law, migration law, human rights, the rights of victims of armed conflict. Particularly noteworthy is the support for women who are victims of atrocities, carried out in cooperation with specialized institutions in this field. Dr. Hofmańska devotes all her time to coordinating the Project.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Helene van Melle

Deputy Director Europe
Tent Partnership for Refugees

Hélène van Melle is Deputy Director for Europe at the Tent Partnership for Refugees since August 2018 and is based in the Netherlands. Hélène is engaging European businesses to help them develop and implement tangible commitments that include refugees in the economy of their new communities, for example by hiring, upskilling and mentoring refugees. She has engaged more than 100 multinational companies in Europe to step up to support refugees and set up a mentorship program for refugee women across 10 European countries, connecting professionals at companies to mentor refugee women in their countries, to help them access the labor market and/or advance their career. In 2022, Tent Europe launched the Sunflower Project, an initiative to accelerate the economic inclusion of Ukrainian women in Europe, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Prior to joining Tent, she worked 20+ years at Accenture, in various consulting and global HR roles. She is passionate about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She believes that companies play an important role in connecting refugees to work and helping them integrate in their new communities.

Hélène has a master's in business economics. She is a Board Member of various organizations in the Netherlands, including United Way the Netherlands.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Inna Liniova

Executive Director (Former)
Ukraine Bar Association

Inna Liniova is the International Operations Advisor, in the past – Executive Director of the Ukrainian Bar Association. Inna is a Ukrainian lawyer specializing in international law. In the past, she worked for international technical assistance projects of the USAID, Council of Europe and European Union supporting the reform of the justice sector and of the judiciary in Ukraine, as well as development of the legal profession in Rwanda.

Inna also headed a division of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine in charge of coordination of execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights and reporting to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Jeanne Celestine Lakin

Founder

A Voice in the Darkness

Jeanne Celestine Lakin, a compelling testament to human resilience, is an award-winning author, inspirational national speaker who provides insight and guidance to those feeling lost in life. Her goal is to help individuals break through their darkness and find their true purpose.

Recently featured in George W. Bush's book, "Out of Many, One: Portraits of America's Immigrants," Jeanne's journey from a child survivor of the Rwandan genocide to a celebrated human rights advocate has captivated and inspired thousands across the nation.

At just nine years old, Jeanne was thrust into the horrors of the Rwandan genocide, fleeing violent militias with her siblings and forced to survive in the wilderness. Despite the brutality and the tragic loss of her family, she discovered a wellspring of strength within herself that ultimately led her to a path of resilience, education, and advocacy.

By the age of 14, Jeanne was studying English in an American school, grappling with the traumatic experiences from her past while striving to create a better future. In her adulthood, she not only earned a master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy and a bachelor's degree in International Relations but also became a specialist in international adoption and higher education.

Today, Jeanne has been appointed Chairwoman for the ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), acting as a formidable force against global human trafficking. Her contributions have influenced high-level United Nations events, furthering the cause of justice on an international stage.

Passionate about helping disadvantaged children, Jeanne established the innovative NGO, One Million Orphans, providing sustainable educational support to some of the most vulnerable children across the globe. In addition, she serves as the Manager of Disability Services for Lone Star College, advocating for inclusivity and accessibility in education.

Through her book and public speaking engagements, Jeanne offers comfort, understanding, and direction to the millions of people who are searching for a way out of their struggles. She inspires them to take action and create a better life for themselves.

Jeanne's memoir, "A Voice in the Darkness: Memoir of a Rwandan Genocide," is not just an account of her survival—it's a beacon of hope, perseverance, and the transformative power of resilience. This award-winning memoir has gained significant recognition, inspiring countless individuals as a distinguished member of the Washington Speakers Bureau.

Now residing in the Greater Houston area with her husband, Paul, and their son, Samuel, Jeanne continues to be a beacon of resilience and hope, illuminating the transformative power of the immigrant experience in America.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Jennifer DeCarli

Deputy Commissioner
Family Justice Centers and Survivor Supports
Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based
Violence (ENDGBV)

Jennifer DeCarli is the Deputy Commissioner for Family Justice Centers and Survivor Supports at the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV). In this role, she oversees the operations of the City's five Family Justice Centers, as well as survivor engagement programs, and the office's housing initiatives work.

She has over 25 years' experience working with survivors of domestic and gender-based violence and has dedicated her professional career to supporting survivors and helping them access and navigate the systems and supports they feel will lead them to safety. She holds a master's degree in social work from NYU and a law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law.

She has held several leadership positions during her career including: Director of the Safe Horizon Brooklyn Family Court Program and their Staten Island Family and Criminal Court Program; Executive Director of the Brooklyn Family Justice Center for ENDGBV and Director of Legal Services at Her Justice. Prior to her work in New York City, she represented domestic violence survivors in Family Court in upstate New York and worked for the Empire Justice Center providing technical assistance and capacity building to communities and legal service agencies specializing in assisting domestic violence survivors.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Hon. Judy Harris Kluger

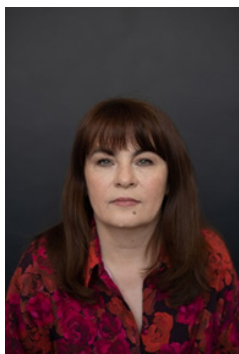
Chief Executive Officer, Sanctuary for Families

Since assuming the role of Chief Executive Officer at Sanctuary for Families in 2014, Judge Kluger has secured substantial new sources of private and public funding, growing the agency budget from approximately \$15 million to \$32 million today. Under her leadership, Sanctuary's Legal Center launched new programs to address the unique needs of college sexual assault survivors, incarcerated gender violence survivors, and Orthodox Jewish survivors. Sanctuary has also expanded its innovative Economic Empowerment Program, launched the first worker coop initiative, realigned the organization's clinical practice to a family-focused, evidence-based therapeutic model, and shifted all services to virtual platforms to increase client accessibility. Most recently, Judge Kluger worked with staff and the Board to develop a three-year strategic plan focused on impact, excellence, and equity.

Prior to joining Sanctuary, Judge Kluger served 25 years as a judge in New York State, ultimately as the Chief of Policy and Planning, a position through which she oversaw New York State's 300 problem-solving courts. She currently serves on the Manhattan District Attorney's Special Victims Division Advisory Committee, the Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) Advisory Council, the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, and the advisory board of New York Nonprofit Media. Judge Kluger is also a member of the Chief Judge's Justice Task Force and the Independent Commission on NYC Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform.

Recognized with numerous awards, Judge Kluger has received the New York State Bar Association's 2013 Award for Excellence in Public Service, the New York Women's Bar Association's 2019 President's Special Award, and the Fund for Modern Courts' 2020 Career Public Service Award. In 2022 and 2023, she was featured in City & State's Nonprofit Power 100.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Justyna Wydrzyńska

Human Rights Activist
Abortion Dream Team Collective and Abortion
without Borders

Justyna Wydrzyńska is a chemist and a graduate of the University of Warsaw. Privately, a mother of three self-raised children, a quiet everyday heroine. Co-founder of “Kobiet w Sieci” - an online forum Maszwybor.net, where you can get support during medical abortion.

Co-founder of the Abortion Dream Team and member of the Abortion Without Borders network. Activism for women’s rights to choose whether to have an abortion is an important element of her social activities. In her activities, Mrs. Justyna strives to ensure full equality and self-determination of women over their bodies. One of its key goals is to ensure that every person, regardless of their views or faith, can obtain full information about the possibility of abortion. The normalization of abortion and its de-stigmatization in society are key elements of the process that Justyna Wydrzyńska started and supports to this day. Her activism for women’s rights also involves working to change social norms and beliefs.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Kaavya Asoka

Executive Director,
NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and
Security (NGOWG)

Kaavya Asoka is the Executive Director of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG). The NGOWG is an independent civil society coalition of 18 international NGOs that advocates for women's rights and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security. For more than 20 years, the NGOWG has been working to bring the voices of women human rights defenders into policy discussions held at UN Headquarters in New York and has played a vital global role in raising awareness of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and advocating for the rights of women whose lives have been affected by conflict.

A life-long human rights advocate and feminist, Ms. Asoka has degrees in English literature, anthropology, and journalism. In January 2022, she briefed the UN Security Council on reprisals against women human rights defenders and peacebuilders in conflict zones. Under Ms. Asoka's leadership, the NGOWG has supported 46 briefings by women civil society from 14 conflict-affected countries at the UN Security Council between October 2018–December 2023.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Katrien Coppens

Executive Director
Mukwege Foundation

Katrien joined the Mukwege Foundation in 2019, and is responsible for strategic leadership and operational management of the Red Line Initiative and SEMA the global network of victims and survivors to end war time sexual violence and developing a strategic network of donor and partners.

She has extensive experience in humanitarian aid and advocacy gained during more than two decades of work for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the Democratic Republic Congo, India, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Iraq, Colombia and Haiti. She also served as Delegate Director for MSF Holland, and as interim-head of the department of International Humanitarian Law of the Netherlands Red Cross.

Katrien holds a Master in International and Humanitarian Law and a master in Cultural Anthropology.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Lisa Pearlstein

Former Director
New York City Bar Justice Center's Legal Clinic for
the Homeless

Lisa Pearlstein is the former Director of the City Bar Justice Center's Legal Clinic for the Homeless. In that capacity, she spearheaded the #WiFi4Homeless campaign which compelled NYC to install Wi-Fi in over 240 shelters in New York City in 2021.

Ms. Pearlstein also advocated for system-wide public benefit policy and practice changes that positively impacted women and families experiencing homelessness. She continues to engage in State-wide advocacy concerning internet access for all shelter residents.

Prior to her employment at the City Bar Justice Center, Ms. Pearlstein worked for Brooklyn Legal Services Corp. A as the Senior Coordinating Attorney of the Government Benefits Unit and as a Staff Attorney in the Group Housing Representation Unit. Ms. Pearlstein is the recipient of the New York City Bar Association's 2002 Equal Access to Justice Award and Project Fair's 2007 Equal Access to Justice Award.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Margareth Goldenberg

Executive Manager
Movimento Mulher 360

A psychologist and educational psychologist, specialist in human rights & the corporate world, Margareth has worked on social responsibility issues, education, diversity and gender equity in large corporations for 27 years CEO at Goldenberg Social Responsibility and Diversity where she works as a strategic and tactical consultant on diversity, equity and inclusion in several large companies.

She was a strategic consultant in the design of the Movimento Mulher 360 and is currently the executive manager of this non-profit business movement maintained by 110 companies, articulating the theme of female empowerment, diversity and gender equity in the corporate environment. Margaret has also served as:

Strategic management of the Anbima D&I Network, a network formed by 260 associates from the financial segment to promote Diversity & Inclusion in the segment.

Professor of Diversity and Equity at ABERJE (Brazilian Association of Business Communication) and at the Brazilian Institute of Corporate Governance and Advisor to FIESP on issues related to the topic of Gender Equity in the Industrial Industry.

Member of the Advisory Committee of Elas Lideram 2030 – Global Compact Brazil Network and UN Women and the Advisory Board of the LGBTI+ Forum.

She is a speaker and conducts numerous workshops, mentoring and training for managers and company leaders, as well as debates and participation in panels on the topic of Diversity and Gender Equality.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Maria Victoria Mavic Cabrera-Balleza

Founder and CEO

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Maria Victoria “Mavic” Cabrera-Balleza is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP). Her leadership and collaboration with civil society, governments, the United Nations, and regional organizations in peacebuilding and conflict prevention resulted in the establishment of two important global mechanisms: the UN Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) and the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. She was a founding Board member of the WPHF and is the current co-chair of the Board of the Women Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action Compact representing GNWP and the Beijing +25 Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace, and Security.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza initiated the development of the first Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP WPS) and has provided technical support to NAP WPS development and implementation in Armenia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, Nepal, Sierra Leone, and Ukraine among more than 20 countries. She pioneered the Localization of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security in 2010, which is now implemented in over 30 countries. The UN Secretary-General has cited the Localization of the WPS strategy as a key tool for translating policy into practice.

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza is active in a broad range of work on Women, Peace and Security in synergy with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and gender-responsive humanitarian action. This includes research and advocacy on women’s political participation, peace negotiation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, cybersecurity, women and girls’ media portrayal, and the role of teachers and educators in promoting inclusive and sustainable peace.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Marta Lempart

Women's Human Rights Activist
Polish Women's Strike

Marta Lempart is one of the initiators and main leader of the Polish Women's Strike (PWS). PWS is a grassroots, mass social movement that started when she publicly called for "Black Monday" to be held on October 3rd, 2016 - mass protest against a total ban on abortion draft bill being proceeded in Polish parliament, and, along with Natalia Pancewicz, coordinated the protests' organization in 150 cities in Poland. On October 6th, the ban bill was dropped, making PWS the first civic initiative to stop the right wing, authoritarian regime in Poland in their tracks. Since then PWS has become the largest social movement in Poland working for women's rights (including the right to abortion), human rights, democracy, the rule of law and the secularity of the state, present in 600 cities in Poland. An important year for the movement was 2020, when 100 days of protests against the abortion ban were also the largest protests in Poland since the fall of communism.

For nearly 8 years, local groups and local leaders in the PWS network have organized several thousand actions, events and initiatives causing real social change. Surveys conducted in 2021 showed that 89% of people in Poland know about the existence of the PWS and 69% (including voters on the right) support its demands, which means being the largest extra-parliamentary force generating not only social but also political change. All under "Poland for everyone" umbrella slogan, meaning all full reproductive rights, full access to medical care, full rights for LGBT+ people, protection of the needs of people with disabilities and their families, free media, the rule of law and free courts, the separation of the Catholic Church from the state, modern education, accessible mental health care, equal rights on the labor market, prevention of climate catastrophe, uncensored culture, protection of animals, workers' rights guarantees etc. Since the start of PWS, support for legal abortion rose from 37% in 2016 to actual 70%, and the political scene has changed with the main conservative party changing their stance on abortion from supporting the ban to supporting legalization. PWS Foundation, presided by Marta Lempart, is an organization that supports the activities of the PWS social movement by providing funding for grassroots initiatives, psychological, legal and social support for activists, PR and communication of the movement, strategic coordination of the implementation of the movement's demands, as well as the implementation of programs, projects and social campaigns on a national scale.

PWS is the only social movement that so fundamentally and successfully combines the fight for women's and human rights with the fight for democracy, despite the pressure from the activist metropolitan establishment (feminist, human rights and pro-democracy - each separately) to "make up their minds". It was PWS that sustained the wave of protests in defence of the independence of the judiciary in July 2017, when pro-democracy organizations surrendered - leading to the President vetoing two of the three judicial bills. At the same time, PWS, in particular with its protests in 2020, led to abortion no longer being a "replacement topic" for the democratic opposition and pro-democracy organizations, and a key factor as a mobilizing element for women and young voters, whose massive turnout in 2023 elections removed Kaczyński's right wing populist party from power.

She is a lawyer, legislator, former director in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities, co-author of the Sign Language Act and other acts adapting Polish law to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and EU regulations. Certified in task-oriented state budgeting and to perform senior state positions (Ministry of Finance, National School of Public Administration). She has been targeted by Kaczyński's regime in police detentions and investigations, persecutors' charges and court trials amounting to over 110 cases and charges leading up to 10 years in jail; she was also a subject to a massive smear campaign on Polish public TV, resulting in thousands of death and rape threats, need for 24/7 security measures and at least one unsuccessful assassination plot.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Mona Sinha

Global Executive Director
Equality Now

S. Mona Sinha is the Global Executive Director of Equality Now, an organization that campaigns for legal and systemic change around the world to address violence and discrimination against women and girls.

For 25 years, Mona has leveraged her corporate experience to launch, lead or advise over 90 mission-aligned organizations to create a gender-equal world. She is the Board Chair of Women Moving Millions and serves on the Executive Council of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum, as well as the Advisory Board of Gucci CHIME. Creating inclusive communities is at the center of her strategic approach, which she believes is the key to unlocking sustainable organizational growth.

Mona has received wide recognition for her work to advance equality. In 2023, she was listed in Forbes 50 Over 50 for her impact as a leader driving change for a better future. She's the recipient of the 2023 Horton Award for Excellence in Social Enterprise from Columbia Business School and CARE USA's 2021 Impact Award. She was presented the Last Girl Champion Award by Gloria Steinem and Apne Aap in 2017 and the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2015. She's also received awards from Smith College, Children's Hope India, Modern High School (Kolkata), Women's eNews, and Breakthrough.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Nataliya Haletska, PhD

Women's Human Rights Activist
Polish Women's Strike

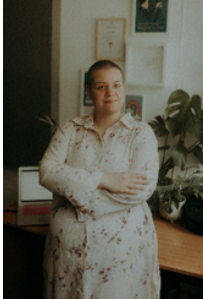
Nataliya holds Master of Laws degree from Ivan Franko Lviv National University, Ukraine, and Master of International Law and Economics degree from the University of Bern, Switzerland, specializing in international trade law. In 2016 Mrs. Haletska has defended her PhD thesis regarding forms of the implementation of international treaties which was later published. While working for one of the largest law firms in Ukraine “Vasil Kisil and Partners” she has been involved as a legal advisor in trade investigations and trade disputes between Ukraine and other WTO Members. Since 2011 Nataliya is providing legal advice to the global technology company SoftServe.

Starting from 2018 Nataliya is teaching international trade law and the EU law at the School of Law of Ukrainian Catholic University located in Lviv, Ukraine. She has a number of publications related to matters of international trade and EU law and has been invited as guest lecturer at the universities in the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom. Since 2023 Nataliya has been promoted to the position of the Head of Master in Law Program at the Ukrainian Catholic University responsible for the implementation of the innovative curriculum in response to the war-related challenges for master students.

Nataliya is an attorney at law and in 2023 has been elected as the Head of Regional Branch of the Ukrainian Bar Association as well as the Member of the UBA Committee on International Trade. In this capacity Nataliya has organized several charitable and educational events. Particularly, in 2022 Nataliya has organized a panel at the WTO Public Forum devoted to the exports of Ukrainian agriculture products during the war.

In 2020 Mrs. Haletska has been elected at a Member of a local self-government body in Ukraine, Lviv Regional Council, and since then has chaired the Commission for the European Integration and International Cooperation. In this capacity Nataliya has initiated an improvement of border infrastructure, particularly installation of sanitary modules at border checkpoints fully accessible for disabled and families with kids. Mrs. Haletska has been appointed as a member of Advisory Board of Lviv Perinatal Centre – one of the largest hospitals in Ukraine dealing with the perinatal Medicare, where Nataliya has implemented a few humanitarian projects. Recently, Nataliya was elected as the Chair of the Supervisory Board of the Agency of Regional Development of Lviv Region, which is responsible for the planning and implementing of development projects in Lviv region. Recently, Nataliya has participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program organized by the US Department of State and the US Embassy in Ukraine.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Natalia Pancewicz

Women's Human Rights Activist
Polish Women's Strike

Natalia Pancewicz, the first initiator and one of the leaders of the Polish Women's Strike. She is the one who came up with the idea for "Black Monday" on October 3, 2016, which, through protests in 150 cities, led to the Polish Parliament's rejection of a draft bill that would totally ban abortion. She co-created the Polish Women's Strike as the biggest protest movement and civic engagement network in Poland and the largest civic network in Poland (over 600 cities). She is also a co-founder of the Polish Women's Strike Foundation, structured as a helpdesk-type entity for civic engagement. She is the creator of the (evolving) operational scheme and was the first, and, for years, the only coordinator of the support network for local women leaders, organizers, collectives and local groups and their activities, covering wide spectrum of civic actors' needs, according to the Polish Women's Strike general mission called „Poland for everyone”. The scheme she created provides: financing (Action Fund financing system), mental health support for activists – her sole idea (PsychoAlert programme), legal and economic support, organizational support and other various types of assistance, including media coverage and social media presence.

She is also the creator of Polish Women's Strike visual and communications strategy – as a founder of Polish Women's Strike FB and Instagram accounts she made them the most popular civic and feminist accounts in Polish social media. Her live commentary on PWS' social media were crucial to the ongoing mobilization during the protests. She experienced police and court persecution and police violence during protests in 2020. She is the head creator of the #VoteForAbortion pro-vote campaign in latest national elections in Poland (2023). She is the vice-president of the PWS' Foundation Managing Board.

Apart from all above, she has a successful career as a popular vocal coach. She is also the author of the – first in Poland, innovative method for voice affirmation/ feminization/ neutralization for transwomen and nonbinary persons (#Transvoice project under PWS' wings). She is the creator and music co-producer of the "Babskie Granie" ("Women's Music") – Polish Women's Strike yearly charity music event focused on fighting domestic violence. She finished music school of second degree. She graduated in social and cultural animation and sociology. During her studies, she was the chairwoman of the Gender Studies Academic Group at the Academy of Special Education in Warsaw and a member of the Students' Council. She is also a Tik Tok influencer @grubalka, focusing on body positivity and self-care.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Rayhan Asat
Nonresident Senior Fellow
Atlantic Council

Rayhan Asat is an internationally recognized human rights lawyer. She currently leads the China portfolio at the Atlantic Council's Strategic Litigation Project. In November 2022, Rayhan was named as one of 50 people changing the world in Vox's inaugural Future Perfect 50, a list of 50 visionary changemakers who are making the world a better place for everyone.

A graduate of Osgoode Hall, Harvard Law School, and Oxford University, Rayhan formerly worked as an anti-corruption attorney at a major U.S. law firm, representing clients on high-profile corruption cases. Rayhan specializes in international human rights law, anti-corruption, and compliance with best business practices. Her legal and policy work centers around enforcing international human rights norms, fighting against corruption, advancing civil liberties, atrocity prevention, curtailing forced labor, and promoting corporate accountability. She previously advised the World Bank and OECD to design Human-Centered Business Integrity Principles and now works with civil society, diplomats, and lawmakers to address various human rights concerns, particularly the atrocities in Xinjiang.

Rayhan has testified before the Canadian House of Commons, The UK House of Commons, the Lithuanian Parliament, the European Parliament and the US Congress at a joint hearing called by the China-Congressional Executive Commission and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission concerning egregious human rights abuses. Western democracies and lawmakers, including the United States, have adopted her policy recommendations in their atrocity prevention and response strategy.

Rayhan has been featured in various media outlets, including The New York Times, The Guardian, BBC, Foreign Policy, CNN, Deutsche Welle, Harvard Law Today, Yale Politic, Canadian Lawyers Magazine, and Al-Jazeera, among others. As an attorney and policy advisor, her writing has also been published in many legal journals, and her opinions have appeared in Foreign Policy, NBC News, The Hill Magazine, and other prominent publications.

While at Harvard, she co-taught a course on emerging markets with a leading business school professor. She is a sought-after speaker before national and international forums and has given seminars at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Cambridge, and many other universities and institutions. She is a featured speaker at the Geneva Summit for Democracy and Human Rights 2021 and the Summit for Democracy at the invitation of President Biden. She received a prestigious Yale World Fellow recognition for her human rights work and leadership. She is a senior fellow at the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights. She sits on the board of several human rights organizations. As part of her mission to mentor and educate aspiring lawyers and activists, Rayhan coached the American University Washington College Law School moot court team for three consecutive years

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Somaia Sharif Zada

Women's Rights Activist and Legal Adviser
Afghanistan Attorney Participant, Judges for
Career Opportunities for Refugees (J-COR)

Somaia Sharif Zada is an Attorney, legal advisor and a women activist from Afghanistan, and had served as a Court Analyst in Third Judicial District Office in Albany Supreme Court and County Courts and doing her Master's Degree (LL.M) at Albany Law School. Somaia served as an Attorney and Voice of Women in Afghanistan in its most critical situation and in its most insecure distant districts. She is also the founder of an underground school in Afghanistan running hiddenly due to the recent education ban in Afghanistan.

Being a women activist and attorney in a country like Afghanistan is full of risk. She believes the current female generation need to sacrifice their life to grant a better life for the next generation in Afghanistan. In this capacity, she was responsible for advocating for women rights and defending them in trials. Her practice focuses were on complex IDV and family cases, women rights violations and professionals' responsibility. She advocates for every individuals and women victimized by implicit and explicitly discrimination system and culture brutality in a very traditional society. She is famous for tackling social injustices and fighting for human rights in any opportunity she earns. She is an inspirational lawyer that has been fighting for women and minorities rights for years.

Somaia also served as a legal advisor for many years. Prior joining Herat Appeal Court, Somaia Sharif Zada has been engaged to awaken the society by writing books and articles in favor of the women rights and its basics based on Afghanistan and International law. Somaia is the perfect example of hard work and good ethics. This allowed her to excel in a wide range of areas. Without leaving aside her legal practice, she also became deeply involved in social causes. she assisted in different programs that were designed to tackle family violation and honor killing. No one can't deny that her human side is admirable.

Somaia begin her legal career as a Legal Advisor in Herat Appeal Court during her last semester of law school. She received a Bachelor of Sharia Law from Herat University and worked as a Court Analyst in Albany Supreme Court and County Courts under J-COR Program since Aug 2022. She is currently studying her Master's degree (LL.M) at Albany Law School in NY Albany.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Twyla Carter
CEO
Legal Aid Society

Twyla Carter (she/her) serves as the Attorney-in-Chief and Chief Executive Officer of The Legal Aid Society, becoming the first Black woman and first Asian American to lead the organization in its 147-year history. Prior to joining Legal Aid, Carter was the National Director of Legal and Policy at The Bail Project (TBP), a national nonprofit organization that pioneered a national movement to bring free bail assistance and pretrial support to thousands of low-income people every year. At TBP, Carter created the department's strategic mission and directed the legal, policy, and advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels.

Carter has also served as a senior staff attorney in the Criminal Law Reform Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) national office, where she litigated local and state bail inequities and right-to-counsel protections in the federal courts and designed alternative bail and representation policies and procedures for targeted jurisdictions.

Prior to working at the ACLU, Carter was a public defender for ten years. She was the Misdemeanor Practice Director for the King County Department of Public Defense in Seattle, where she oversaw all misdemeanor casework across the four divisions of the department.

As a Staff Attorney at The Defender Association, Carter handled felony and misdemeanor trial caseloads, represented juveniles, and appealed misdemeanor convictions. She won a published decision from the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One, in *State v. Green*, which affirmed the due process rights of parents accused of trespassing in public schools. Against the backdrop of the legislative attacks against the teaching of white supremacy and anti-Black racism in schools, Carter serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors of The Who We Are Project. Founded by Jeffery Robinson, a renowned expert on the role of racism in the criminal legal system, the project aims to correct the social, legal, political, and economic aspects of racism in the United States through educational materials, including through a feature-length documentary entitled *Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America*.

Carter is admitted to practice law in New York, Washington State, and numerous federal courts. She is a nationally recognized expert on bail reform and is a frequent speaker on all aspects of the criminal legal system, including police reform, right-to-counsel issues, and how to incorporate race and culture into criminal, death penalty, and civil cases.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Wanda Sanchez Day, Esq.
Co-chair Puerto Rico Task Force (PRTF)
New York City Bar Association

Wanda Sanchez Day is a civil rights attorney and is admitted to the practice of law in New York State. She serves as Co-Chair of the Puerto Rico Task Force (PRTF) of the New York City Bar Association (City Bar) and as a member of the City Bars' Judiciary Committee.

Ms. Sanchez Day has a background in nonprofit organization management, in federal and state litigation and with seeking international and nation-wide law and policy reforms that empower vulnerable communities. She is currently General Counsel and Senior Policy Counsel with the OLA (Organización Latina Americana) of Eastern Long Island, a Latino advocacy and humanitarian aid non-profit organization that seeks law reforms that protect workers and families on the East End of Long Island.

Prior to joining OLA, Ms. Sanchez Day managed a private legal practice in Queens, NY. She also served as Chief Legal Officer and National Legal Director with UNITED SIKHS, an United Nations affiliated, non-profit, international humanitarian aid and human rights advocacy organization where she advocated for the rights of farmers and protection for human rights and women and children in India, the U.S., Ukraine and worldwide.

Since 2021, she has been a independent New York State Department of Education Impartial Hearing Officer presiding in New York City special education due process hearings. She also worked as a housing staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of New York (LAS), served as Vice President of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA), Civil Practice and Co-Chaired the ALAA/LAS Management Hiring and Affirmative Action Committee. She was also a director on the board of the Puerto Rican Bar Association (PRBA) and a member of the Federal Bar Council, Small Firm and Pro Bono Committees. Since 2022, she serves on the board of the Latino Judges Association Foundation (LJAF).

Ms. Sanchez Day was raised in Queens, NY and in San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico. She attended the University of Puerto Rico, Recinto de Rio Piedras and later graduated Hunter College, CUNY, where she earned a B.A. in Political Science. She graduated in 2003 from Fordham University School of Law where she was a Louis Stein Ethics and Public Interest Scholar and graduated with public service distinction.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Yasmeen Hamza
Chief Executive Officer
Womankind

Yasmeen Hamza is Womankind's CEO. Prior to starting her tenure as CEO in August 2020, she oversaw the entirety of Womankind's Community Programs division, which encompasses all programs and direct services.

Yasmeen earned her Masters of Social Work from New York University and gathered a breadth of experience in working with both survivors of domestic violence on intervention and prevention since 2005. She joined Womankind in 2012 as the Assistant Director of Client Services and was promoted to Director of Client Services in 2014, before becoming CEO.

Epiq Women Award for Justice and Advocacy Recipient



Yen-Yi Anderson, Esq.

Founder and Managing Principal
Anderson & Associates

Ms. Anderson is the founder and managing principal of Anderson and Associates Law, P.C. She has extensive experience in immigration, commercial litigation and real estate, representing clients varying from corporations to individuals, many from a diverse range of industries such as the media, e-commerce and technology sectors. During her extensive experience of practicing law, Ms Anderson has been widely recognized within the legal industry and the immigration bar for her achievements. In 2022 and 2023, Ms Anderson was named by Super Lawyers as the “Top rated immigration attorney in New York, New York.” She was also selected by The New York Law Journal as a “Rising Star,” an award that recognizes top attorneys under the age 40. Ms. Anderson commits herself to the legal community, serving as the co-chair of the Member Engagement Committee of the New York chapter of American Immigration Lawyers Association, and the co-chair of the Solo and Small Firm Practice Committee in Asian American Bar Association of New York. Her pro bono work was also recognized by Lawyers Alliance of New York with the Cornerstone Award in 2023.

During her years of practice, Ms. Anderson has successfully secured temporary and permanent visas for foreign graduates, scholars, scientists, multinational executives, investors, entertainers, religious workers and many other individual clients based on employment petitions, self-sponsored-petitions and family petitions. She helps clients navigate through complex status maintenance issues, consular processing of visas, waivers of the foreign residence requirement and citizenship matters by providing timely and comprehensive advice. She has also developed a thorough understanding of the unique challenges faced by clients. Ms. Anderson provides practical advice so clients may fulfill all the necessary educational, training, and licensing requirements while pursuing a temporary visa like the H-1B. She advises clients with respect to immigrant visa options, including national interest waivers, standard and special handling labor certification applications, petitions for outstanding professors and researchers, and individuals of extraordinary ability. In addition, she advises clients with respect to employer I-9, LCA, and audit compliance requirements.

In addition, Ms. Anderson frequently handles commercial and business matters for closely-held companies of all sizes, including development and construction contracts, business formations, financing, sales and purchases, and commercial leases. She has provided zealous counsel to corporations, employers, owners, general contractors, subcontractors and design professionals in a wide variety of civil matters.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



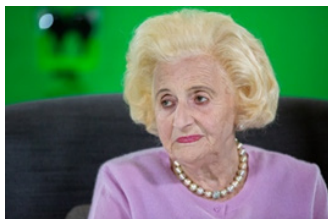
Amy Barasch
Executive Director
Her Justice

Since 2014, Amy Barasch Esq. has served as the Executive Director of Her Justice, a non-profit that stands with women living in poverty in New York City by recruiting and mentoring volunteer lawyers to provide free legal help to address individual and systemic legal barriers. Through the power of pro bono, Her Justice creates a more fair and functional civil justice system for women experiencing poverty in New York City by providing free legal representation and pursuing policies that eliminate systemic barriers – so they can build safer, stronger futures for themselves and their families. Her Justice is celebrating its thirtieth year, and recently published its 2nd original policy report regarding the impact of obtaining work authorization for immigrant victims of gender-based violence. From 2007 to 2012, Ms. Barasch served as the Executive Director of the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

During her tenure, Ms. Barasch was central to the implementation of improvements made to New York's response to intimate partner violence, such as the launch of a statewide database of police-reported domestic incidents; the passage of an anti-strangulation statute; the inclusion of domestic violence as a high-priority issue in all State-level anti-crime initiatives; overseeing the issuance of a domestic violence and the workplace policy in all state agencies; and ensuring responsive and up-to-date training for local governmental employees in the areas of child welfare, public safety, temporary assistance, healthcare, and probation. Prior to joining state government, Ms. Barasch was an inaugural member of the New York City Office to Combat Domestic Violence where she designed and ran an interagency high risk case conferencing program in Brooklyn and the Bronx, which became the basis of the Brooklyn Family Justice Center. The Brooklyn FJC was one of 15 sites to receive federal funding to launch what has become a national model. Ms. Barasch led the design team and ran the Brooklyn FJC until she joined the State.

Prior to joining New York City, Ms. Barasch represented victims of domestic violence in family court in private practice and as the creator and director of a law student externship program in Westchester, New York at the Pace Women's Justice Center. Ms. Barasch joined the firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP as an associate upon graduation from Columbia Law School in 1996, where she served as the associate in charge of pro bono. Ms. Barasch graduated from Brown University in 1986 and worked as a journalist and translator in the US and France prior to attending law school. Ms. Barasch has published and spoken publicly about partner violence, family courts, and gender throughout her career. She currently teaches the class Gender, Violence and the Law at Fordham Law School as an adjunct professor.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Asia Shindelman

Holocaust Survivor & Genocide Survivor Advocate

Born in 1928 in Shiauliai, Lithuania, Asia was twelve years old when Germany occupied her hometown in June 1941. For three years, she lived with her family of five in a small room in the Siauliai ghetto. Some of Asia's worst memories came from her time there when she witnessed roundups of children and was forced to watch a public hanging.

In July 1944, they were deported to Stutthof concentration camp where Asia and her mother were separated from her father and uncle. Asia's grandmother was gassed immediately. In Stutthoff, Asia worked as a slave laborer until January 1945 when prisoners were forced to a death march. She and her mother were liberated in March 1945. Five months later, they reunited with Asia's father. Hoping to find Asia's older brother, whose track they lost in the beginning of the war, they returned to Siauliai only to realize that he was killed in 1941.

In 1991, Asia and her family immigrated to the USA, and now she lives in Wayne, New Jersey. Asia has been a frequent international speaker for Holocaust education, including at the United Nations and the New York City Bar Association, among other institutions.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hon. Barbara Jones

International Investigations Lawyer
Bracewell

Barbara S. Jones has paved new paths within the legal profession throughout her career, starting as a federal prosecutor and later as a federal judge in the Southern District of New York. She currently is a partner at Bracewell LLP, where she provides advice and leadership on internal investigations, compliance programs, monitorships, arbitrations and mediations.

Jones spent more than 20 years of her career working as a prosecutor. She began as a special attorney in the Honors Program of the U.S. Department of Justice, working in the organized crime unit of the Criminal Division. She later served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where she was the first woman ever appointed as chief of a Department of Justice Organized Crime Strike Force. She went on to serve as the Chief Assistant to the late New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

Jones was nominated by President Bill Clinton in 1995 to serve as a district court judge in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. During her 17 years on the bench, she presided over a range of high-profile cases. From 2010 to 2013, at the appointment of the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Jones served on the Multi-District Litigation Panel, which oversees the most complex cases in the federal court system.

Following her career on the bench, she has been appointed by the government and federal courts to conduct monitorships and special master assignments in a number of high-profile matters, including a federal monitorship in connection with the merger of three major telecommunications companies; an appointment to serve as the Special Master to conduct the privilege review of documents seized from the President Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen; an appointment as independent compliance auditor for the Archdiocese of New York; and an appointment as the court-appointed monitor of the Trump Organization.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Betty Lyons

President & Executive Director
American Indian Law Alliance

Gaeñ hia uh, Betty Lyons, President & Executive Director of the American Indian Law Alliance (AILA), is an Indigenous and environmental activist and citizen of the Onondaga Nation. Betty has worked for the Onondaga Nation for over 20 years. Ms. Lyons serves as a member of the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee and has been an active participant at the annual United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) since the first session in 2001 as a delegate of the Onondaga Nation. Betty attended Cazenovia College and is a Bryant Stratton College Graduate of the Paralegal Program. For her work on Indigenous sovereignty, she received an honorary degree from Onondaga Community College.

Under the Leadership of Tonya Gonnella Frichner, Betty worked closely with AILA since 1997 and joined AILA in 2014. During her time at AILA, Betty has worked on numerous issues, including advocating for the Rights of Mother Earth, Treaty support, educating on the Doctrine of Discovery, advocates for Indigenous Nations and peoples at the United Nations, Right to Self Determination and Sovereignty, teaching the Indigenous history of women's rights, honoring the Two Row Wampum Treaty in New York City, polishing the Covenant Chain with the United States as part of the Canandaigua Treaty obligations. Most recently, she has been working with the National Institute for Law and Justice on helping families find closure around Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit (MMIWG2S). She believes that communities keep us safe, and it is up to Indigenous communities and their allies to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous relatives (MMIR). Onondaga Nation's land rights action against the United States was rejected in 2005 by the Supreme Court. However, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States has agreed to hear the case and it will proceed forward. She is working closely with Onondaga Nation General Counsel Joseph J. Heath and she is hopeful about how it will proceed.

Additionally, she recently helped negotiate the White House's recognition of the Six Nations Haudenosaunee Confederacy and their cultural ambassadors, the Haudenosaunee Nationals. The White House supported the Haudenosaunee nationals competing in the 2028 Olympics, as sovereign and independent participants marching under the flag of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and traveling on their Haudenosaunee passports. She believes that sovereignty is still the issue for Indigenous nations and peoples. Betty is particularly proud of working to get the Onondaga Nation Health Clinic funded, Tuscarora Health Clinic, and Tonawanda Health Clinic funded.

Betty continues to work for the protection of Indigenous peoples who are fighting to protect their traditions, territories, resources, and care for Mother Earth. In 2024 she is working on facilitating land returns and launching campaign for the return of Onondaga Lake to Onondaga Nation. Out of her concern for Indigenous peoples and Mother Earth, Betty serves on numerous boards like: Connie Hogarth Center, Center for Earth Ethics, The MOST, Skä-noñh- Great Law of Peace Center Academic Collaborative, she is an Advisory Committee Member for the National Institute for Law and Justice, and is Co-Chair of the Center of Earth Ethics Advisory Board.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Brande Stellings

Principal
Vestry Laight LLC

An expert on women’s advancement and inclusion, Brande Stellings combines her experience as a litigator, diversity and inclusion consultant and lifelong advocate for women’s equity to help organizations build workplaces that work for everyone – whether bringing workplace flexibility to an infamously inflexible organization; enhancing the experience for Black employees who previously felt unheard; or coaching C-suite women to corporate board opportunities. From her first college job at a Planned Parenthood clinic, to her board service advocating for the rights of women and girls at the New York Women’s Foundation and at Legal Momentum (The Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund), to her current work to ensure safe and inclusive workplaces, Stellings is committed to expanding opportunities for women.

Stellings is a founding partner of Vestry Laight LLC, a highly regarded boutique firm that advises public and private institutions on high stakes matters involving workplace culture and compliance. For organizations undergoing a transformation – whether voluntarily or not – she brings innovative, culture change practices from across multiple industries to strengthen both business performance and the employee experience.

Stellings helps boards and executives turn crises into opportunities – rebuilding trust with their employees and other stakeholders – usually in the aftermath of a public reckoning around sexual harassment and discrimination. A thought partner and expert to leading organizations in sports, media and technology, Stellings develops pragmatic and empathetic approaches to creating a more positive workplace experience. Public clients include Fox News, the Washington Commanders, USA Weightlifting, WWE and Riot Games.

Prior to founding Vestry Laight, Stellings served as Senior Vice President, Advisory Services at Catalyst, partnering with CEOs, senior executives and board directors in Fortune 500 corporations and leading professional services firms on business-driven strategies to advance women and promote inclusion in the workplace and the boardroom. Earlier in her career, Stellings practiced law at NBC Universal Inc. (where she co-led the GE Women’s Network) and at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. She previously chaired the NYC Bar’s Women in the Legal Profession Committee (2007-2010) as well as the Conference Board’s Leadership Council on Advancing Women (2019-2023), served on the board of DirectWomen (accelerating board opportunities for women lawyers) and is a founding member of Beyond #MeToo: A Working Group on Corporate Governance, Compliance and Risk (2019-present).

She received her JD cum laude from Harvard Law School and graduated magna cum laude from Yale College.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Cemre Ulker

Representative to the UN Department of Global Communications Journalist and Writers Foundation

Cemre Ulker is the Representative of the Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) to the UN Department of Global Communications and also serves as the Program Director. Ms. Ulker leads JWF's global initiatives to promote the culture of peace, human rights, and sustainable development. She is a human rights expert dedicated to the gender-mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals with a particular focus on peaceful, just institutions, and global partnerships. Ms. Ulker also provides workshops and capacity-building programs on innovative and inclusive policy suggestions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, protection of press freedom, human rights defenders, global solidarity movements, and UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace, and Security Agenda to various civil society organizations and educational institutions.

Ms. Ulker is the Program Director of the annual SDGs Conference: In the Margins of the UN General Assembly, and UN Commission on the Status of Women panel discussions, which are flagship events of the JWF creating platforms for civil society organizations to engage with UN Member States, Permanent Missions, and UN Agencies for the successful implementation of the Global Goals.

Cemre Ulker is also the Co-Founder of Set Them Free, a grassroots initiative raising awareness on the violation of women's and children's rights, advocating for the rights of women human rights defenders, and implementing empowerment programs for the enforced refugees. She is highly passionate about facilitating partnerships and mobilizing networks of volunteer lawyers, educators, and health professionals to provide pro-bono services and assistance to enforced women and children migrants. She is also the content creator of Set Them Free's "Women's Empowerment and Combatting All Forms of Violence" YouTube discussion series.

Ms. Ulker is a freelance contributor at the Kronos News covering Turkey's human rights agenda and foreign policy projections. She is also a Faculty Member of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)'s Global Diplomacy Initiative giving lectures on the "Intersectionality of Press Freedom and Human Rights: Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders". Cemre Ulker has a BA in Economics from the University of Maryland and completed her Master's Degree in Human Rights at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Deborah Enix-Ross

Senior Advisor, Global Engagement
Debevoise & Plimpton

Deborah Enix-Ross is Senior Advisor, Global Engagement, for the International Dispute Resolution Group and a member of the firm's Diversity Committee. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Enix-Ross served as a Senior Legal Officer and Head of the External Relations and Information Section of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Arbitration and Mediation Center in Geneva, Switzerland. Before joining WIPO, Ms. Enix-Ross was the Director of International Litigation for the Dispute Analysis and Corporate Recovery Services Group of Price Waterhouse, and, before that, served, for seven years, as the American representative to the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) International Court of Arbitration.

Ms. Enix-Ross is the Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association (ABA). She is a Past Chair of the ABA House of Delegates, the Association's 600-member deliberative body. Ms. Enix-Ross is a former Chair of the ABA Center for Human Rights and its Business and Human Rights Project. She is a former Chair of the ABA Section of International Law, where she was the Goal IX Officer and co-founded the Women's Interest Network (WIN). As the WIN Chair, Ms. Enix-Ross was instrumental in working with the International Bar Association to create their Women's Interest Group (WIG). During her tenure as Chair of the International Law Section, she led an International Legal Exchange (ILEX) delegation to Ghana (where she delivered an address commemorating the country's 50th anniversary of independence), Liberia and Sierra Leone. Ms. Enix-Ross is a Vice President of the World Justice Project, a former Chair of the ABA's Section Officers Conference, and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She is a former Vice Chair of the International Bar Association (IBA) Bar Issues Commission and a past ABA representative to the IBA.

Ms. Enix-Ross was named on the 2022 Forbes 50 Over 50: Impact list. She is recognized for being "a change maker who uses her empathy, insight and savvy to make the world a better, more equitable place."

Ms. Enix-Ross received her J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law in 1981, a Diploma in Comparative Law from the Parker School of Foreign and Comparative Law of Columbia University in 1989 and a Certificate in International Law from the London School of Economics in 1979.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Deborah Rosenbloom
Chief Program Officer
Jewish Women International

Deborah Rosenbloom is chief program officer at JWI and leads its innovative initiatives to address gender-based violence through advocacy, training, resource development and community-building.

Deborah earned a BA *cum laude* in history from Cornell University, and a JD/MPA from Syracuse University. She was admitted to the bars of New York, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Her law career began in the NYS Attorney General's Office where she represented defrauded consumers and drafted a Bill of Rights for Mobile Home Tenants. After practicing appellate law in upstate New York, Deborah moved to Washington, DC and worked as a freelance writer for Matthew Bender and other legal publishing houses.

Deborah found her passion in the nonprofit sector, first as the director of public policy and law and then executive director at the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. There her work included ensuring small community representation in EPA's rulemaking process. Then, 20 years ago she found her true purpose at Jewish Women International - working to prevent gender-based violence and to support survivors and the advocates who serve them.

Under her leadership, JWI spearheaded an amicus brief in *US v Rahimi* (2023) urging SCOTUS to prohibit qualified abusers from accessing firearms; played critical roles in the reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act, both as a steering committee member of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and by organizing interfaith leadership to advocate for passage; and JWI provided guidance to the White House Gender Policy Council as the U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence was being drafted.

Deborah leads JWI's work on economic justice. She built the Women's Financial Empowerment Institute which provides survivor-centered and trauma-informed workshops addressing financial abuse and advocates for laws supporting financial equity for women and families. JWI's prevention work focuses on addressing rape culture on campuses, engaging men as allies and promoting healthy relationships. Through a grant from the U.S. Office on Violence Against Women, JWI provides training and technical assistance to grantees seeking to engage men of faith.

JWI works tirelessly to center survivors, promote women's voices and guarantee that women have a 'seat at the table.' Deborah shares strategies with international partners to ensure that survivors of faith are not neglected by mainstream organizations. In the aftermath of October 7 and the silence of global women's organizations, JWI joined with Israeli counterparts to provide a letter to UN Women urging it to speak out. Then, Deborah represented JWI at the UN to hear the testimony of first responders and other witnesses. JWI continues to lead conversations about how to guarantee that sexual violence in all conflict zones is addressed and recognized without regard to politics.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Dorchen A. Leidholdt, Esq.

Director

Sanctuary for Families Center for Battered Women's
Legal Services

Dorchen A. Leidholdt is the Director of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services (CBWLS) at Sanctuary for Families in New York City. The largest dedicated legal services and advocacy program for gender violence victims in the country, the Center provides legal representation in family law, criminal, public benefits, civil rights, and immigration cases and advocates for policy and legislative changes that further the rights of gender violence survivors. The Center has spearheaded precedent-setting state and federal litigation, including class action lawsuits expanding immigrant victims' rights and preventing child welfare agencies from charging battered mothers with "engaging in domestic violence."

Dorchen co-chairs the Incarcerated Gender Violence Survivors Initiative and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition. She also serves as member of the Board of Directors of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), which she helped found in 1988. An umbrella of grassroots organizations around the world, CATW has strong growing regional networks in Asia, Europe, the Americas, and Africa and promotes policy and legislation that enhances protections for trafficking victims and strengthen penalties against traffickers.

Dorchen has lectured internationally on issues of violence against women and has published numerous articles and book chapters and an anthology on the subject. She teaches Domestic Violence and the Law at Columbia Law School and holds a law degree from New York University School of Law, where she was a Root-Tilden-Snow scholar.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Elsa Stamatopoulou

Board Member

International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs

Elsa Stamatopoulou joined Columbia University in 2011 after a 31-year service at the United Nations (in Vienna, Geneva and New York) with some 22 years dedicated to human rights, in addition to 8 years exclusively devoted to Indigenous Peoples' rights. Indigenous issues and women's rights were part of her portfolios and pro volunteer work since 1983. She became the first Chief of the Secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2003. In 2011, she taught the first-ever course at Columbia on Indigenous Peoples' rights, the first course on cultural rights (2016) and is the first Director of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia. She is also co-founder and was co-chair of Columbia's University Seminar on Indigenous Studies from its inception in 2014 to 2020. Her academic background is in law, international law, criminal justice and political science (Athens Law School, Vienna University, Northeastern University and Graduate Institute of International Studies at the University of Geneva). She has worked on international normative frameworks, institution-building, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other groups, women's rights, cultural rights, development, private sector and inter-governmental cooperation. She has collaborated closely with human rights non-governmental organizations in her native Greece and around the world and has received the Ingrid Washinawatok El Issa O'Peqtaw Metaehmoh-Flying Eagle Woman Peace, Justice and Sovereignty Award; the award of the NGO Committee on the Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples; the Eleanor Roosevelt Award of the Human Rights Center and of Voices 21; the Innovation in Academia Award for Arts & Culture, 2016, by the University of Kent (UK); in 2010, the Museum "Tepee of the World" was given her name in the Republic of Sakha, Siberia, Russia. In 2016, she was featured as one of the UN's 80 Leading Women from 1945-2016. She co-chairs the International Commission on the Chittagong Hill Tracts and is on the Board of the International Work Group on Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and other boards.

Book chapters and articles that she has published deal with women's rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights, historical injustices and human rights responses, cultural rights, language rights, development and international organizations, among other topics.

Publications: Monographs: *Cultural Rights in International Law*, 2007, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers (Brill). Indigenous Peoples in the International Arena: The Global Movement for Self-Determination, to appear 2025, Routledge. Edited books: *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 50 Years and Beyond* (ed. With Y. Danieli and C. Diaz), 1998, Baywood Publishing Co. She oversaw the first edition of the UN publication *State of the World's Indigenous Peoples*, New York, 2009. She has edited five volumes on Indigenous Peoples' rights, the second four published by the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University: *Indigenous Peoples and Borders* (co-editor with Sheryl Lightfoot), 2023, Duke University Press; *Global Indigenous Youth: Through Their Eyes*, (co-editor with D. Angel and V. Carmen-Lopez), 2019; *Walking and Learning with Indigenous Peoples: A Contribution to the 5th Anniversary of the International Summer Program on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Policy* at Columbia University, 2018 (co-editor. With P. Calla); *Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Unreported Struggles: Conflict and Peace* (ed.), 2017, Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights; *Indigenous Peoples' Access to Justice, Including Truth and Reconciliation Processes*, (co-editor with W. Littlechild), 2014.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Erica Smock, J.D.

Assistant Dean and Dean for the Office of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers, Columbia Law School

Erica Smock has been the dean for the Office of Public Interest/Public Service Law and Careers at Columbia Law School since 2017.

Prior to joining Columbia, Dean Smock had a distinguished public interest career focused primarily on women's rights advocacy. Most recently, she served as the senior director for judicial strategy and the Lawyers Network at the Center for Reproductive Rights in New York City, where she led strategic campaigns around the center's domestic litigation, including the successful U.S. Supreme Court abortion case *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* (2016).

After graduating from Columbia in 1995, Dean Smock clerked for the Hon. Anita B. Brody, U.S. District Court, E.D. PA, and Hon. Leonard I. Garth, U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit. After spending one year as an associate at O'Melveny & Myers where she engaged in pro bono work on women's rights and domestic violence, she worked as a staff attorney at Legal Aid Services of Oregon and as regional staff attorney at the Northwest Women's Law Center (now Legal Voice) in Seattle. Dean Smock then became legislative counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights, where she directed the national state legislative program and engaged in advocacy on reproductive rights issues. After working at the PI/PS Office for a number of years, she returned to the Center for Reproductive Rights in 2014 to its newly formed judicial strategy team.

In addition, Dean Smock has spent time as a short-term volunteer attorney focusing on human rights and women's rights in Kenya and South Africa and with the Pascua Yaqui tribe in Arizona. She has served as a consultant to the Laura and John Arnold Foundation on access to justice issues. Currently, she serves as vice chair of the American Bar Association's Rights of Women Committee in the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section and is a member of both the Center for Reproductive Rights Lawyers Network Advisory Committee and the Social Justice Legal Foundation's Advisory Board. Additionally, she serves on the Columbia Law School Anti-Racist Steering Committee (2020-21).

Dean Smock graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree with honors in political science.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hon. Esther Salas
US District Court for New Jersey

Judge Salas earned her B.A. from Rutgers University and her J.D. from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. After graduating from law school, Judge Salas clerked for the Honorable Eugene J. Codey, Judge of the Superior Court, Essex County Vicinage. In October 1995, Judge Salas entered private practice with the law firm of Garces and Grabler, P.C., where she focused on criminal defense and appellate litigation. In September 1997, Judge Salas joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey. As an Assistant Federal Public Defender, Judge Salas represented indigent criminal clients in front of both the New Jersey District Court and the Third Circuit.

On November 3, 2006, Judge Salas was sworn in as a Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey—the first attorney of Hispanic descent to hold that position. On June 14, 2011, the Senate unanimously confirmed President Obama’s nomination of Judge Salas as a United States District Judge. Judge Salas was sworn in by the Honorable Jose L. Linares, making her the first Latina District Judge in the District of New Jersey. As a District Judge, Judge Salas has presided over complex civil and criminal cases, including a number of issues of first impression for the District of New Jersey. Additionally, Judge Salas, along with Senior District Judge Katharine S. Hayden, co-founded the District of New Jersey Pretrial Opportunity Program, which provides pre-trial judicial intervention for criminal defendants suffering from drug and alcohol addiction.

Judge Salas has been recognized for her work on and off the bench. She has received numerous awards, including the Whipple Memorial Award from the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey (2008), the Women’s Initiative and Leaders in Law Platinum Award from the New Jersey Women Lawyer’s Association (2015), and Woman of Substance Award from Seton Hall University’s Women’s Law Forum (2015).

Judge Salas is a loving wife to her husband of 26 years, Mark Anderl, and the proud mother of her late son, Daniel Mark Anderl, who offered his life as an act of love when a disgruntled lawyer targeted Judge Salas because of her position as a federal judge. Since Daniel’s senseless and tragic murder, Judge Salas has made it her mission to ensure greater protections for judges. Daniel’s sacrifice, and Judge Salas’s advocacy, led to the swift passage of “Daniel’s Law” in New Jersey. To ensure that Daniel’s death would not be in vain, Judge Salas advocated for federal legislation to ensure greater protections for federal judges. As a result of such advocacy, President Biden signed the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act into law on December 23, 2022.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hillary Sale
Associate Dean
Georgetown Law Center

Hillary A. Sale is a recognized expert in leadership and corporate governance. She is a board director for the Cboe U.S. Securities Exchanges, Cboe Futures Exchange, and Cboe SEF. She was a member of the FINRA Board of Governors from 2016-2022, and she chaired the Regulatory Policy Committee and served on the Executive, Nominating and Governance, Compensation, and Regulatory Operations Committees. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of Foundation Press, an educational publisher of scholarly books, and the Chair of the DirectWomen Board Institute, and was a member of its board of directors, serving on the Executive, Nominating and Governance, and Selection Committees.

Hillary is also an award-winning scholar and teacher, and the Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Leadership and Corporate Governance and a Professor of Management at Georgetown University and was the Associate Dean for Strategy from 2020-2023. As an industry-focused academic, she writes and speaks about leadership and corporate governance. In the spring of 2017, she was the Sullivan & Cromwell Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, teaching Women's Leadership and Corporate Boards and Governance.

She is an accomplished business partner who speaks to and works with industry groups and academic audiences and runs leadership programs in companies and firms. Hillary consults regularly with CEOs and C-suite executives on leadership, governance, strategy, inclusion and diversity, and company culture. She also develops custom executive education programs and works with leaders in programs at Harvard Law, where she Chairs the Women's Leadership Initiative, and at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business and the Law Center.

Hillary graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School and holds a master's degree in Economics from Boston University, where she also completed her B.A., summa cum laude. Before joining the Georgetown faculty, she was the Walter D. Coles Professor of Law and a Professor of Management at Washington University in St. Louis. Hillary also worked in the government investigations and corporate and securities class actions areas at WilmerHale, LLP and in Massachusetts politics.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq.
Immediate Past President
New Jersey State Bar Association

Jeralyn L. Lawrence, Esq. is the Managing Member and Founder of Lawrence Law. Jeralyn is the Immediate Past President of the New Jersey State Bar Association and a Past President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, NJ Chapter. Jeralyn is also certified by the Academy as a Family Law Arbitrator. Jeralyn is among 3% of attorneys practicing in the state of New Jersey Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Matrimonial Law Attorney. Jeralyn has been appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Disciplinary Oversight Committee, their Wellness Committee as well as the Supreme Court Committee on Family Practice.

Jeralyn handles matters ranging from the simple to the complex, involving significant income and assets, including representation of celebrities, professional athletes and other high-profile individuals. She has argued before the NJ Supreme Court twice for the NJSBA, once in a case involving abuse and neglect of children and the other dealing with modification of alimony based on cohabitation. Jeralyn has also argued before the NJ Supreme Court on behalf of the AAML/NJ on a palimony case. Jeralyn has been featured in the media a multitude of times and presents CLEs and seminars at a national and international level.

Jeralyn was a finalist in the New Jersey Law Journal's Attorney of the Year in 2015 and 2023. The New Jersey Law Journal has named her NJ Legal Trailblazer and she received their Mentor of the Year Award, as well as their Professional Excellence award. Jeralyn has received the 2023 Saul Tischler Award from the Family Law Section of the NJSBA for her lifetime achievement in family law. She received the NJSBA's Annual Legislative Recognition award multiple times and received multiple awards for her amicus curiae work. Jeralyn was selected as a 2023 Trial Bar Award Honoree by the Trial Attorneys of NJ. Jeralyn is also a graduate of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Jeralyn received recognition in the NJBIZ 2022 Power Law 50 and as one of NJ's Best 50 Women in Business and with their Leaders in Law honor. Jeralyn was selected to the ROI-NJ Power List: Law in 2022 and 2023 and ROI-NJ Influencers: Women in Business in 2023. Jeralyn was honored at the Citrin Cooperman's 2022 Woman at the Wheel annual meeting. Jeralyn was selected by the Women's Political Caucus for their Carol Murphy Award. She has received the NJ Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law. She was selected as a Kean University Distinguished Alumna. Jeralyn was honored as an Outstanding Woman in Somerset County by the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women.

Jeralyn has been recognized on the NJ Super Lawyers list from 2006-2023. Jeralyn has been in the Top 50 Women NJ Super Lawyers list since 2008 and the Top 100 New Jersey Super Lawyers list since 2009. Jeralyn has been recognized by Best Lawyers for many years receiving their Lawyer of the Year award from 2024, 2021, 2020, 2018, and 2016.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Kathleen Landy
Founder
The Feminist Institute

Kathleen Landy founded The Feminist Institute in 2016 to make visible the invisible. As a scholarship student at Villanova University, Landy wrote her senior thesis on feminist artists on the west coast through a close read of the correspondence between the instigators of the feminist art movement. She couldn't access all of the necessary information for her research because it was housed in archives at various universities, and she didn't have the funds to travel.

Feminist documentation, whether fine art, media, literature, or politics, does not live in a central digital repository. With the advent of new technology, Landy recognized the need to address educational inequities and make feminist primary source materials available online. When one's work, voice, and story aren't preserved and made accessible, they are forgotten, silenced, and made invisible.

Before founding TFI, Landy championed the work of women artists and cultural contributors, featuring many in the Liebman Magnan Gallery, which she co-owned and directed. Since launching The Feminist Institute, she has guest edited an edition of *The Brooklyn Rail*, spoken at the Feminists at Davos panel at The World Economic Forum, and spearheaded the 360-degree camera engagement of feminist artist studios with Google Arts and Culture.

The Feminist Institute capitalizes on the mass dissemination that online search and technology offer us to advance the march of feminism and democratize access through digitization and preservation of born-digital materials.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hon. Linda Murnane

Associate Justice on the High Court for the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Linda Strite Murnane currently serves as an Associate Justice on the High Court for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. She holds a B.A. from the Christopher Newport College of the College of William and Mary (Dean's Honors) and a J.D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. She is a past chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) National Conference of Specialized Court Judges and the ABA Judicial Division.

Colonel Murnane served 29.5 years on active duty with the United States Air Force. She enlisted in 1974 as an airman basic, the lowest enlisted grade. She earned her B.A. and J.D. degrees both while serving on active duty. She served as a public affairs specialist (journalist/photojournalist) while enlisted. After earning her commission as a second lieutenant, she served as a supply officer at Nellis AFB, NV, and Keesler AFB, MS, then as a public affairs officer (community relations specialist) and protocol officer before being selected to complete her law degree under the Air Force's Funded Legal Education Program. She transferred to the Judge Advocate General Corps in 1981 in the grade of captain upon completion of her J.D. and passage of the Ohio Bar. She served as a prosecutor, defense counsel, claims officer, legal assistance officer, chief military justice, deputy staff judge advocate and staff judge advocate before her appointment as a military trial judge and chief circuit military judge for the United States Air Force. She served 10 consecutive years as a military judge including chief circuit military judge (CCMJ) for Europe and for the Eastern Circuit, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C. While in the position of CCMJ for Europe, she presided at the first trials for U.S. airmen in both Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom while serving on active duty, trying cases in Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. She also served on the first military assistance team sent to Rwanda following the genocide.

Following her retirement from active duty in 2004, she served two years as Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights, five years as the senior legal officer and chief court management services at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and three years as the chief court management services at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. She was the Senior International Attorney for the U.S. Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) from 2008-2009, and participated in global human rights and rule of law training with DIILS in Argentina, Latvia, Liberia, Zambia, Rwanda, and Papua New Guinea, and oversaw training programs by other faculty members globally in her role at DIILS. Colonel Murnane serves as Chair of the U.S. Chapter of the Pan American Commission of Judges on Social Justice. In that role, she was invited to speak at the Vatican in 2019 and again in 2023.

She is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel, having completed 29.5 years on active duty, and earned the Legion of Merit among her other military decorations while on active duty. She received the Ohio State Bar Association's Nettie Cronise Lutes Award in 2003 for opening doors to women and girls in the field of law, the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement in 2008 and ABA International Law Section's Mayre Rasmussen Award for opening opportunities in international law for women in 2016. She was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in November 2021 and the Greene County, Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame in 2022. She is married to Kevin Murnane, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, and mother of two daughters, Christina Veillon and Rachel Manuel. She has three grandchildren, Cody and Abrial Leger and Aidan Ray Manuel.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Mandy Sanghera
Global Campaigner
Trafficking in America Taskforce

Mandy Sanghera is an award-winning philanthropist and global campaigner often referred to as a global catalyst. As well as being an international human rights activist, motivational and TEDx speaker from the UK, Mandy has traveled all over the world, empowering and motivating others. With over three decades of experience, Mandy is an expert in various development-related fields. She has been driving innovation, building strategic partnerships, promoting advocacy, and programming in the areas of human rights, gender equality, accountability, migration and social justice globally.

Mandy has helped hundreds of individuals and now reaches thousands through social media and her generous amount of worldwide TV appearances and public speaking engagements. She has spoken at the US House of Representatives three times and is a regular at the World Economic Forum. She uses such platforms to raise awareness of global issues affecting women, children, and refugees. She has recently supported refugees from Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, and Iraq. Mandy has been involved in evacuating 398 Afghan refugees from Afghanistan with a team of women activists. Mandy has supported victims of human trafficking and has been involved in supporting the UK government with complex modern slavery cases. Mandy has been one of the leads on vulnerable adults and forced marriages. She was involved in writing the guidelines on disability and honor-based violence for the Forced Marriages Unit. Inspired by the outcomes of the Beijing Conference in 1995, Mandy is a feminist and has been advocating for gender equality and girls'/women's empowerment throughout her career. She has worked on programs to strengthen women's political participation in local governance and economic empowerment globally.

Mandy has worked on gender mainstreaming and action to end violence against women and children globally, promoting cross-regional programmatic collaboration. She advises government officials, local authorities, and providers on disability equality, participation, inclusion, and rights issues, as well as harmful practices and gender equality. Mandy has been involved in research and campaigning programs. She has led several projects with leading charities addressing cultural barriers, stereotypes, misconceptions, barriers, safeguarding, abuse, mentoring, participation, and rights as a global change maker.

Advocating for human rights and gender equality, she works with grassroots projects that help women and girls achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations, and have an equal voice in communities worldwide. Mandy has been a global voice tackling unconscious bias in tech and AI. Mandy has spoken at some of the world's biggest tech summits, such as GITEX, CogX, Women of Silicon Valley Roundabout, and Teens In AI Data+AI summit, and she is speaking in Italy at We Make Future MEETICT Bahrain.

Mandy has been involved in empowering the next generation to get involved in AI. She has had representatives from over 140 countries at her hackathons regarding AI for social good. She comes up with challenges and ideas. Mandy has supported organizations and individuals to explore NFTs. Last year, she used art from refugees in Afghanistan to raise funds for them. Mandy is a global ambassador for ethics Tech.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Maria Cruz Melendez

Partner

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and
Affiliates

Maria Cruz Melendez is a partner in Skadden’s New York White Collar Defense and Investigations Group where she represents corporations and individuals in connection with domestic and cross-border investigations and proceedings brought by government and regulatory entities. Maria also advises corporations on prevention, over-sight and compliance programs designed to address sexual harassment in the workplace; issues concerning civil rights; diversity, equity and inclusion; and related matters. In recognition of her work, Maria was named to *Crain’s New York Business’* 2023 list of Notable Women in Law. She was also recognized as one of Lawdragon’s 500 Leading Global Litigators in 2023 and has been honored repeatedly as one of its 500 Leading Litigators in America. Maria’s work also involves multiple *pro bono* matters, including a successful appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court concerning a Section 1983 civil rights action seeking access to biological evidence for DNA testing.

For over a decade, Maria served as a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York, most recently serving as Deputy Chief of the EDNY’s Civil Rights Section and, prior to that, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Section. She investigated, prosecuted and supervised several major cases over the course of her 10-year tenure at the EDNY, including a long-running investigation that culminated in the six-week jury trial and conviction on all charges of singer R. Kelly for racketeering and other crimes related to criminal abuse of women and children. She also investigated, prosecuted and supervised cases involving sex trafficking, forced labor, child exploitation, domestic terrorism and other violent crimes, as well as public corruption, abuse of power, and financial crimes.

While at the EDNY, Maria also obtained the conviction of the mastermind of a 1979 bus ambush in Puerto Rico that resulted in the murder and serious injury of multiple U.S. Navy servicemen and women. In addition, Maria also investigated and prosecuted multiple organized crime cases, securing the conviction of high-ranking members and associates of La Cosa Nostra, including the Lucchese and Bonanno crime families, and successfully opposing a request for a sentence reduction for former underboss Salvatore “Sammy the Bull” Gravano, who testified against former Gambino family crime boss John Gotti. Maria also represented the government on numerous appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, including a complex issue of first impression, affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, concerning statutory interpretation of a sentencing enhancement in a child exploitation case. During her time at the EDNY, Maria received numerous awards and commendations, including the award for Investigation of the Year from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and the EDNY’s Elizabeth J. Kramer Memorial Award, which honors a prosecutor demonstrating extraordinary judgment, empathy, ethics and heart.

Maria devotes a significant portion of her time to DEI initiatives and is an active member of Skadden’s Diversity and Hiring Committees. She also spearheaded and served as co-chair of the EDNY’s Diversity Committee and was a member of its Hiring Committee.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Dr. Michelle Sanders

Global Humanitarian & Licensed psychologist, specializing in trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Dr. Michelle Sanders is a licensed psychologist in New York City. She received her M.S. Ed., and Psy. D. from Pace University and post-doctoral training in the assessment and treatment of trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (AECOM). She has held faculty positions at Pace University and at Albert Einstein.

Dr. Sanders is the recipient of the Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Scholarship, awarded by the National Institutes of Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. She has been involved in pro bono humanitarian work for the past 30 years in New York City, Bolivia, Bahrain, and Iraq. Most recently, she has concentrated her efforts advocating and supporting Yezidis in the Northern Iraqi region of Kurdistan. Dr. Sanders has been “boots on the ground” in Kurdistan five times over the past six years. She has conducted hundreds of clinical interviews with children and adults who have survived ISIS captivity. She has provided direct trauma treatment to many of those survivors.

Dr. Sanders works collaboratively with the Panaga Center for Education in Duhok, Kurdistan and teaches local mental health clinicians current research related to the brain, the physiological and psychological manifestations of trauma, as well as assessments and non-verbal interventions to treat traumatic symptoms. She is a former Board Member for the Sweden-based Bring Hope Humanitarian Foundation and the Co-Founder and Vice Chair of the Female Advocacy Foundation International (FAFI) which focuses on the educational, physical, and emotional well-being of women and children; FAFI is an official 501(c)-3 Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Rebecca E. Boon, Esq.

Partner, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP
Founding Board Member, Beyond#MeToo:
A Working Group on Corporate Governance,
Compliance and Risk

Rebecca Boon has been litigating securities fraud and shareholder rights actions for fifteen years, recovering billions of dollars for the firm's institutional investor clients. Rebecca has advanced equality in the workplace by co-founding the Beyond #MeToo working group and leading landmark recoveries that have resulted in important social change among industries. Highlights of Rebecca's trial experience include, among others: co-leading the trial team that recovered \$240 million for investors in Signet, the first successful resolution of a securities fraud class action based on allegations of sexual harassment. In this case both the class certification decision and the Judge's decision that the Company's statements about gender equality and sexual harassment could be actionable in a securities class action are landmark decisions that exceed even the significant financial recovery achieved for shareholders; and serving as a senior member of the trial team that prosecuted an unprecedented shareholder derivative litigation against Fox News parent 21st Century Fox, Inc. arising from the systemic sexual and workplace harassment at the embattled network. After nearly 18 months of litigation, the team obtained a landmark settlement in 2018 with two key components: 1) the first ever Board-level watchdog of its kind—the "Fox News Workplace Professionalism and Inclusion Council" of experts—majority independent of the Murdochs, the Company, and Board; and 2) one of the largest financial recoveries—\$90 million—ever obtained in a pure corporate board oversight dispute. Because of her work on the case, Rebecca subsequently narrated a feature documentary by Dow Jones' MarketWatch discussing both the Fox litigation and the ways that investors can harness their power to create meaningful social change through shareholder litigation.

In addition to her litigation responsibilities, Rebecca is a founding member and the chairperson of Beyond #MeToo: A Working Group on Corporate Governance, Compliance, and Risk. Comprised of diversity-inclusion experts, litigators, and academics, B#MT is dedicated to understanding the root causes of workplace harassment, discrimination, and misconduct and making corporate America a better and more inclusive place for all of us to work.

Rebecca co-leads BLB&G's Women's Committee, is active in BLBG's Women's Forum, and is a member of the firm's Diversity Committee. Rebecca regularly lectures at law schools, universities and conferences in the U.S. and abroad on the topics of ESG, social change, sexual harassment, and shareholder litigation.

In recognition of her achievements, she has been named a "Rising Star" by Law360, a "Rising Star of the Plaintiffs Bar" by *The National Law Journal*, and a "Young Lawyer of the Year" by The American Lawyer. Rebecca is recognized as a "Next Generation Partner" by The Legal 500 and described as "a key player in MeToo cases." She has been included in the *Super Lawyers* publication of leading practitioners by Thomson Reuters as a "Rising Star," as well Lawdragon's lists of the "500 Leading Lawyers in America" and the "500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers." Rebecca has also been recognized as a "Future Star" by *Benchmark Litigation* and named multiple times over to the publication's "40 and Under Hot List."

Rebecca is also a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (ABF), a global honorary society of attorneys, judges, law faculty, and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession. This exclusive invitation-only membership is limited to 1% of licensed attorneys.

Rebecca sits on the board of The Feminist Institute, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to collecting, digitizing and sharing feminist history. She is also a member of the Federal Bar Council's Program Committee.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Rena Paul

Founding Board Member

Beyond#MeToo: A Working Group on Corporate Governance, Compliance and Risk

Rena is the co-founder of Alcalaw LLP, a women-owned law and investigations firm specializing in complex and sensitive matters, particularly those involving sexual misconduct.

Rena began her career at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office where she served in the Sex Crimes Unit, then went on to become a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York where she handled matters involving criminal enterprises, child exploitation, gang violence and sex trafficking.

Prior to co-founding Alcalaw, Rena handled private sector cases and investigations involving sexual misconduct and discrimination at a global investigations firm and as a legal practitioner.

Rena trains attorneys nationally on trauma-informed lawyering and attorney well-being. She is an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches Trial Advocacy and Learning From Practice, a seminar on lawyering, ethics and well-being. Rena is a trial commentator on Law & Crime, a Tory Burch fellow and founding member of [Beyond #MeToo: A Working Group on Corporate Governance, Compliance and Risk](#).

Rena received her JD cum laude from Brooklyn Law School and a BA from Emory University.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Rushan Abbas

Founder and Executive Director
Campaign for Uyghurs

Rushan Abbas started her activism work while she was a student, co-organizing and leading in the pro-democracy demonstrations at Xinjiang University in 1985 and 1988. Since her arrival in the United States in 1989, Ms. Abbas has been an ardent campaigner for the human rights of the Uyghur people. She has worked closely with members of Congress since the 1990s. Ms. Abbas was a co-founder of the California-based Uyghur Overseas Student and Scholars Association in 1993, the first such Uyghur association in the United States, and served as that organization's first Vice-President.

In 2017, Rushan Abbas founded the Campaign for Uyghurs to advocate and promote human rights and democratic freedoms for Uyghurs, and mobilize the international community to act to stop the human rights atrocity in East Turkistan. Under her organization, Ms. Abbas introduced and led the "One Voice One Step" movement and successfully organized a demonstration on March 15th, 2018, in 14 countries and 18 cities on the same day to protest China's detention of millions of Uyghurs in concentration camps.

Ms. Abbas became one of the most prominent Uyghur voices in international activism for Uyghurs following her sister's detainment by the Chinese government in September 2018 as retaliation for her activism in the US. She tirelessly advocates for her sister's release and the freedom of millions of Uyghurs. After working for more than 20 years in global business development, international relations, and government affairs throughout the Middle East, Africa, CIS regions, Europe, Asia, Australia, North America, and Latin America, now Rushan Abbas is a full-time activist working to advocate for Uyghur people while they are facing genocide by the Chinese regime.

She regularly delivers remarks at national and international forums, testifies in Congress, and provides briefings and policy advice. In 2019, Ms. Abbas received the Freedom Fighter Award, and her work was recognized at the National Prayer Breakfast in February 2020. Under her leadership, CFU published the 'Genocide in East Turkistan' report in July 2020, leading to the organization receiving the World Democracy Courage Tribute in 2021 and a Nobel Peace Prize nomination in 2022. Ms. Abbas also serves as the Chairperson for the Advisory Board of the Axel Springer Freedom Foundation and as a board member of the Task Force on Human Trafficking within the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hon. Sharon Bourne-Clarke
New York State Supreme Court

Justice Sharon A. Bourne-Clarke is a New York State Supreme Court Justice currently presiding in the Integrated Domestic Violence Court (“IDV”) in Kings County, Brooklyn, New York. The IDV Court is a problem solving Court dedicated to a “one family-one judge” model. The goals of the IDV Court include providing integrated services to families, increased offender accountability, enhanced victim safety, improved court efficiency, and consistent judicial decision making while protecting the rights of each litigant.

Prior to Justice Bourne-Clarke’s appointment to the IDV Court, she served as an Acting Supreme Court Justice, Civil Term Kings County, in one of the busiest motions parts in the borough while also simultaneously presiding over jury trials, handling a full complement of motions and issues on her trial ready calendar. Previously Justice Bourne-Clarke served as a Civil Court Judge in Kings County and Richmond County; as a Family Court Judge in Kings County and as a Criminal Court Judge in Kings County.

Prior to Justice Bourne-Clarke’s elevation to the bench she served as the Deputy General Counsel for the New York State Division of Human Rights. In her role as the Deputy General Counsel, she was responsible for ensuring that all the rights afforded to citizens, residents and visitors in the State of New York under the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution and the New York State Constitution were protected. Justice Bourne-Clarke also served as Counsel at the Office of Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, as an attorney in private practice, as an Assistant Professor and as the founder and CEO of a legal non-profit organization that was created to address the foreclosure crisis in Central Brooklyn.

Justice Bourne-Clarke is a graduate of Brooklyn College, City University of New York Law School and Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. She member of the Caribbean Lawyers Association, The Brooklyn Women’s Bar Association, and the Brooklyn Bar Association. She believes in a work life balance and loves to travel. She enjoys the cultural exchange, the food, and languages from different cultures. Justice Bourne-Clarke has not given up on her goal to be multilingual and is still actively pursuing fluency in the French language. She is married to Devon Clarke, Esq., is the mother of two sons, and is the aunt to four nieces and seven nephews all of whom she adores.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Shireen Jardo Alhinto

Genocide Survivor and Advocate
Yezidi Genocide Justice Campaign

Shireen Jardo Alhinto is a Yezidi woman from Ramboosy, a village south of Sinjar, Northern Iraq. Shireen is from a farming family. In August 2014, her village was overrun by ISIS and Shireen was captured by ISIS fighters who kidnapped and tortured her. ISIS also captured members of her family and her community as part of its ongoing genocide against the Yezidi people.

Shireen escaped from ISIS captivity and now resides in the United States. She is praying for her family members captured by ISIS to return and waiting to be reunited with her siblings currently living in Iraq.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Tirana Hassan
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch

Tirana Hassan is Executive Director at Human Rights Watch, one of the world's leading international human rights organizations, which operates in more than 90 countries and has over 500 staff members.

Tirana is a qualified social worker and lawyer who has spent the past two decades working with individuals and communities pursuing their rights and fighting for justice.

She was a founding member of a refugee legal service during Australia's refugee crisis in 2000 before working across the globe in international humanitarian operations specializing in child protection and civilian protection in complex emergencies. Tirana has worked for Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children, amongst others, across East and West Africa and South and South-East Asia.

Tirana specializes in human rights protection in conflicts and crises. Between 2010-2015, she worked as a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's Emergencies Division, where she carried out dozens of investigations in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. She later served as director of Amnesty International's Crisis Response Program, where she led teams of investigators and an inter-disciplinary team that advanced innovative research methodologies for human rights investigations and evidence collection. She also served on the organization's interim executive team. She has authored reports and op-eds for major publications worldwide.

Tirana graduated with honors degrees in both social work and law in Australia and holds a master's in international human rights law from Oxford University.

Huntington Her Hero Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient



Hon. Wavny Toussaint

Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term of New York State Supreme Court
2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts and Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County

Justice Wavny Toussaint stands as a distinguished figure in the legal community, known for her unwavering commitment to fairness, integrity, and justice. In January 2023, she made history when she was appointed as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court, 2nd, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts. The appointment marked her as the first woman, first person of color and first Trinbagonian-American to hold this prestigious position.

In January 2020, Justice Toussaint began service as an Appellate Term Associate Justice, hearing appeals, from New York City Criminal Court and Civil Court including its Housing and Small Claims Parts; for the counties of Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. Her judicial journey initially began in 2002 with her election to the New York City Civil Court in Kings County; with interspersed assignments to New York City Criminal Court and New York State Family Court. She was designated an Acting Supreme Court Justice in 2010 and elected to the New York State Supreme Court, Kings County, in 2014. Currently, in addition to her role as Presiding Justice she simultaneously manages a case inventory and serves as a trial judge of the Kings County Supreme Court, Civil Term.

Justice Toussaint's academic credentials include a Bachelor of Arts from City College of New York and a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Howard University School of Law. Admitted to practice in New York State, the Southern and Eastern Federal District Courts of New York, and the United States Supreme Court, her legal career spans more than 40 years. It includes roles as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, an associate at a private law firm, and management of her own private law practice. She also served with distinction in the New York State Unified Court System as a Principal Court Attorney/Law Clerk to four judges.

Her involvement extends beyond the courtroom. Justice Toussaint serves on the Board of Directors of the Supreme Court Justices Association of the City of New York, is the Nominations Committee Chair of The Judicial Friends, Inc., and is a past president of the Association of Black Women Attorneys. Her community engagement is equally notable, including her role as a board member of her local church, Reimagine Church of the Nazarene, Inc., and a member of the global General Board of the Church of the Nazarene, Inc. She also is a past board chairperson of both Hope City Empowerment, Inc., a community support and feeding program for seniors, the homeless and working poor, and Protestant Board of Guardians, Inc., a family support, and foster care organization.

Justice Toussaint's career is filled with numerous professional and community awards, each recognizing her profound impact on the legal field and her dedicated service to the community. Most recently, Justice Toussaint has helped to facilitate a 'Black Judges and Black Girls in Conversation' initiative, designed to connect young girls with influential judges to foster mentorship, empowerment, and pathways to success. Her service is a testament to her high standards and dedication to the pursuit of justice. In all she does, she never forgets to give God thanks for her blessings seen and unseen, which equip and empower her with strength and courage to render justice with mercy.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Hon. Delissa A. Ridgway
U.S. Court of International Trade

Judge Delissa A. Ridgway sits on the U.S. Court of International Trade, an Article III court with nationwide jurisdiction over customs and international trade disputes. She previously served as Chair of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the U.S. (1994-1998), a three-member international tribunal which adjudicates claims by U.S. nationals against foreign sovereigns. FCSC accomplishments during her tenure included the Holocaust Survivors Claims Program, the Albanian Claims Program, and the completion of the Iran Claims Program. Before that, she specialized in international commercial arbitration at one of Washington, D.C.'s largest law firms, representing foreign sovereigns and parastatal entities. Judge Ridgway has been an Adjunct Professor on the international law faculty of Cornell Law School and frequently serves as a consultant on international law, training judges and lawyers around the globe, often in conflict and post-conflict areas. Through her work, she has traveled widely, in North America, South America, Scandinavia, Western and Eastern Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia (including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Cambodia), and Australia, as well as in the Middle East/North Africa ("MENA") region and the Gulf (including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen).

Currently serving as one of the American Bar Association's 15 U.N. Representatives and Observers, Judge Ridgway has also represented the ABA as Liaison to the International Institute for Unification of Private Law ("UNIDROIT") and the U.S. Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law ("ACPIL"), as well as the ICC International Court of Arbitration and the London Court of International Arbitration ("LCIA"), among other organizations. She was a founding member of ArbitralWomen, and is an active member of both the International Association of Women Judges ("IAWJ") and the National Association of Women Judges ("NAWJ"), and previously served on the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession. In addition, Judge Ridgway is a longstanding member of the Council of the ABA International Law Section. Currently Senior Advisor to the Section's International Human Rights Committee, she is also a former Co-Chair of both the Section's Women's Interest Network ("WIN") and its Middle East Committee, where she has championed international human rights causes including women's rights and the safety, security, and independence of judges, lawyers, human rights defenders, and journalists worldwide. She now serves as a member of the Asia Advisory Council of the ABA's Rule of Law Initiative ("ROLI"), and previously sat on ROLI's Middle East/North Africa ("MENA") Council.

Further, Judge Ridgway has served as Chair of the ABA's National Conference of Federal Trial Judges (representing all federal trial judges nationwide) and in other senior posts in the ABA, Federal Bar Association ("FBA"), and D.C. Bar. She is a longtime member of the New York City Bar's Council on International Affairs and a founding member of the City Bar's Task Force on the Independence of Lawyers and Judges. In 2019, the ABA International Law Section presented Judge Ridgway with its World Order Under Law Award, which, in turn, was presented to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer in 2020. In 2020, the Section presented the Judge with its Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law. In addition, she was honored as D.C.'s "Woman Lawyer of the Year" in 2001, and was recognized by the FBA as one of four "Distinguished Women in International Law" (with Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright) in 1997, among numerous other awards.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Consolee Nishimwe

Women's Rights Defender & Genocide Survivor
Rights Activist
Author of *Tested to The Limit*

Consolee Nishimwe is an Author, a Motivational Speaker and a survivor of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda when she was fourteen years old. She suffered physical and emotional torture during her three months in hiding and miraculously survived with her mother and younger sister. Today, Consolee is a committed speaker on the genocide, a defender of women rights and an advocate for other genocide survivors. Consolee released her memoir *Tested to the Limit: A Genocide Survivor's Story of Pain, Resilience and Hope*.

In recognition of her courage and accomplishments, Consolee was awarded the 2013 ASALH (The Study of African American Life and History) Living Legacy Award, What better looks like Award, and the recognition award from New York City Council. She was hailed by the Together for Girls Organization in SAFE Magazine Issue #1, as one of 50 Global Heroes who help stop sexual violence against children.

Consolee has been featured on FOX 5 TV New York, The Huffington Post, Al Jazeera America, Voice of America, UN Africa Renewal Magazine, The Atlantic, Time Magazine, Women's Media Center, The Salt Lake Tribune, Observer, several radio programs and University newspapers and other media outlets worldwide.

Consolee has appeared as a panelist, speaker at the United Nations, educational institutions, faith-based communities, conferences and more. She has also addressed the UN General Assembly.

Consolee currently lives in New York.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Catherine van Kampen

Co-chair, UN Committee, NYCBA

Catherine van Kampen is Senior Counsel at Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP whose practice concentrates on class action settlement administration. She has extensive experience in complex litigation and litigation management, having overseen attorney teams in many of the firm's most high-profile cases. Fluent in Dutch, she has served as the lead investigator and led discovery efforts in actions involving international corporations and financial institutions headquartered in Belgium and the Netherlands.

For more than two decades, Catherine has been committed to pro bono service to underserved communities. Through her volunteer work, Catherine has championed social change and justice, particularly for immigrant and refugee women and their children. As a member of the New City Bar Association's United Nations Committee and African Affairs Committee, she annually spearheads organizing the New York City Bar's International Law Conference on the Status of Women, Pro Bono Engagement Fair and EPIQ Women Awards and Huntington Her Hero Awards, featuring prominent, progressive women's advocates from the New York Legal Community. Catherine was awarded the 2018 Ambassador Medal at the New Jersey Governor's Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Public Service for her international humanitarian work with refugees. Catherine was also honored in Princeton, New Jersey, by her high school alma mater, Stuart Country Day School, in its 2018 Distinguished Alumnae Gallery for her humanitarian and pro bono efforts on behalf of Yezidi and Christian women and children afflicted by war in Iraq and Syria. In 2020, Catherine was accepted as a SHESOURCE legal expert advocating for the needs of immigrant and refugee women by the Women's Media Center. In 2021, Catherine was appointed a Global Goals Ambassador for Clean Water and Sanitation by the United Nations Foundation USA.

Catherine is an active member of the American Bar Association, New York Bar Association, New York City Bar Association, New Jersey Bar Association and the National Association of Women Lawyers. She serves on four Boards of international NGOs serving refugees and internally displaced persons and rescuing exploited women and children. In 2020, Catherine was appointed as Co-chair of the New York City Bar Association's United Nations Committee. In 2021, Catherine was appointed to the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Leadership Development. In 2022, Catherine was appointed Chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association's International Law and Organizations and Co-chair of the ABA International Law Section's Women's Interest Network and an ABA Foundation Fellow. In 2023, she was appointed as the Chair of the National Association of Women Lawyers' Podcast Committee. Catherine has co-authored legal articles for the *Journal of Human Trafficking, Enslavement and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* and serves as an editor for the American Society of International Law.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Robyn Griffin

Senior Managing Director, National Settlement Team
The Huntington National Bank

Robyn Griffin is a Senior Managing Director of Huntington Bank's National Settlement Team. She has over 25 years of experience in the financial industry holding officer positions at TD Bank, Citizens Bank, and Merrill Lynch. Robyn holds an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business, New York University and B.A. in economics from Rutgers University. She also has held Series 7 and Series 66 Insurance Licenses. She served as Executive Director of the National Association of Shareholder and Consumer Attorneys (NASCAT) and is an Associate Member of the American Bar Association.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Hannah Ross

Partner, Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP

Hannah Ross has over two decades of experience as a civil and criminal litigator. A former prosecutor, she has been a key member and leader of trial teams that have recovered billions of dollars for investors.

Hannah is widely recognized by industry observers for her professional achievements, including by the leading industry ranking guide Chambers USA, in which she was recognized as a “notable practitioner” in the Nationwide Securities Litigation Plaintiff category. Named a “Litigation Star,” a “Top U.S. Woman Litigator” and one of the “Top 250 Women in Litigation” in the nation by *Benchmark Litigation*, she has earned praise as one of the elite in the field. Hannah has been named to Crain’s “Notable Women in Law,” an honor highlighting women at the pinnacle of their profession whose impact radiates well beyond the clients they serve.

Hannah has been recognized by The National Law Journal as a member of the “Elite Women of the Plaintiffs’ Bar” list three times and as a “Litigation & Plaintiffs’ Lawyer Trailblazer,” named a New York “Super Lawyer” by Thomson Reuter’s Super Lawyers magazine, honored as a “Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar” by legal newswire Law360, and named one of the top female litigators in the country (1 of 9 finalists for its “Best in Litigation” category) by Euromoney/Legal Media Group. She has also been named to an exclusive group of notable practitioners by Legal 500 for her achievements, and included on the lists of the “500 Leading Lawyers in America” and “500 Leading Plaintiff Financial Lawyers” compiled by leading industry publication *Lawdragon*. Hannah is a member of the firm’s Executive Committee. In addition to her direct litigation responsibilities, she is one of the senior partners at the firm responsible for client development and client relations. A significant part of her practice is dedicated to initial case evaluation and counseling the firm’s institutional investor clients on potential claims.

Hannah is also one of the partners who oversees the firm’s Global Securities and Litigation Monitoring Team, which monitors global equities traded in non-U.S. jurisdictions on prospective and pending international securities matters. In that capacity, she advises the firm’s institutional investor clients on their options to recover losses incurred on securities purchased in non-U.S. markets. Hannah is the Chair of the firm’s Diversity Committee and Co-Chair of the firm’s Forum for Institutional Investors and Women’s Forum. She serves on the Corporate Leadership Committee of the New York Women’s Foundation and recently concluded a three-year term on the Council of Institutional Investors’ Market Advisory Council. Hannah has also served as an adjunct faculty member in the trial advocacy program at the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University. Before joining BLB&G, Hannah was a prosecutor in the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office as well as an Assistant District Attorney in the Middlesex County (Massachusetts) District Attorney’s Office.

Distinguished Speakers and Sponsors



Victoria Waciura

Vice President

Epiq Class Action & Claims Solutions

As a vice president at Epiq, Victoria Waciura develops and maintains client relationships, prepares responses to requests for proposal, provides strategic and operational leadership on project solutions, and implements notice and settlement administration programs in complex litigation and regulatory matters.

Her background as a securities class action litigator fits seamlessly with Epiq's strengths in leveraging innovative technologies and extraordinary teams to ensure that each settlement is administered accurately, efficiently, and cost-effectively.

Since joining Epiq in 2012, Victoria has made significant contributions to some of the largest and most complex settlements in history, including:

- In re Payment Card Interchange Fee and Merchant Discount Antitrust Litigation (\$6.24B)
- In re Petrobras Securities Litigation (\$3B)
- In re Takata Airbag Product Liability Litigation (\$1.2B)
- In re Wells Fargo & Co. Securities Litigation (\$1B)
- In re Merck & Co., Inc. Securities, Derivative & "Erisa" Litigation (Vioxx), (\$830M)
- In re Merck & Co., Inc. Vytarin/Zetia Securities Litigation & In re Schering Plough Corporation/ENHANCE Securities Litigation (\$688M)
- Hefler v. Wells Fargo & Company (\$480M)
- In re Teva Securities Litigation (\$420M)

At Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann, Victoria concentrated her practice in the areas of employment, consumer, derivative, and securities class action litigation.

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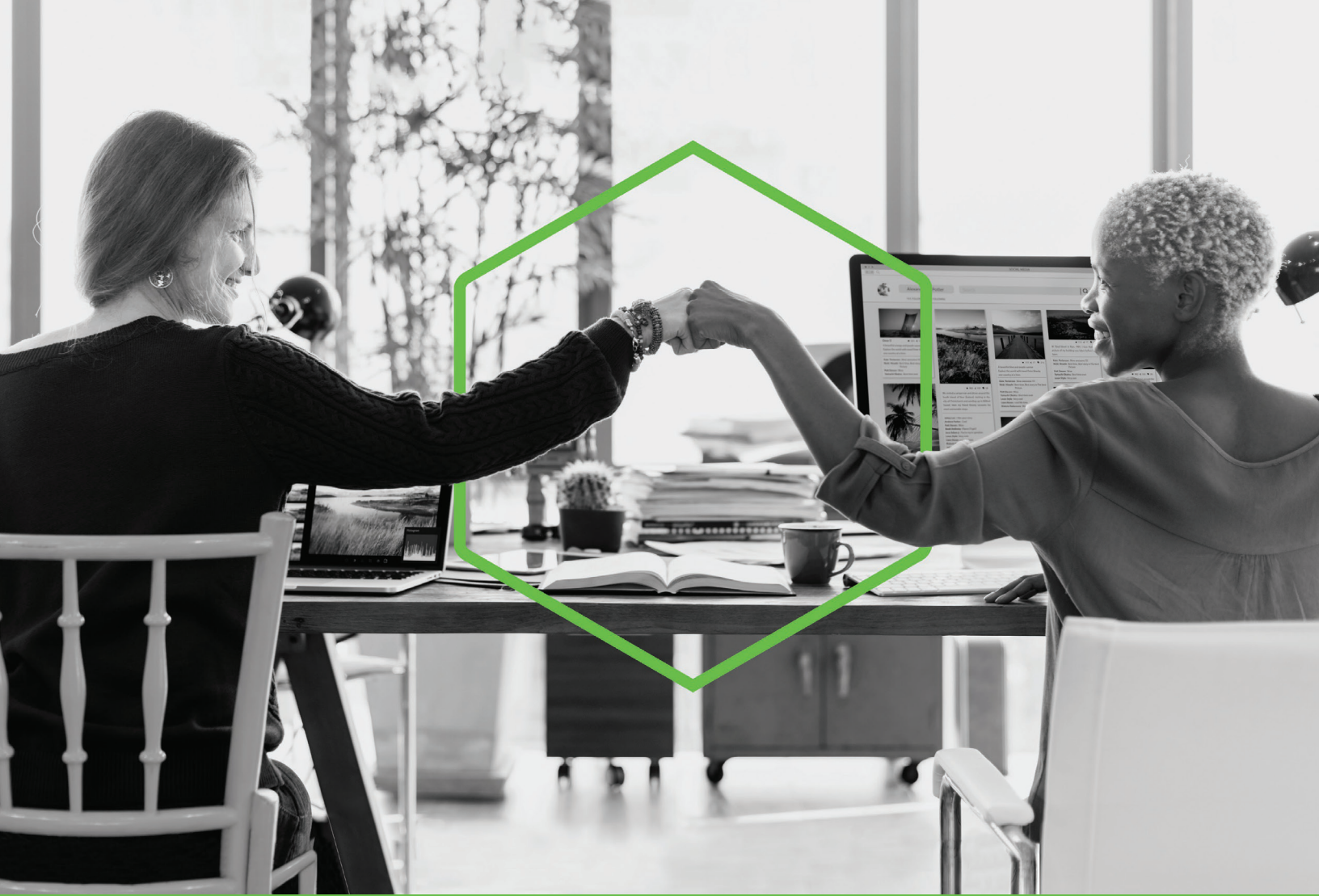
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