

# Rockland County Bar Association

337 North Main Street, Suite 1; New City, NY 10956; [rocklandbar.org](http://rocklandbar.org)

## NEWSBRIEF

JUNE 2026

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICHARD A. GLICKEL  
President

STEVEN H. BELDOCK  
Vice President

HELENA PHILLIBERT  
Secretary

NICOLE DIGIACOMO  
Treasurer

### DIRECTORS

ROBERT L. FELLOWS  
LAURIE A. DORSAINVIL  
ALICIA B. CEMBER  
STEVEN H. BELDOCK  
GARY L. CASELLA  
Hon. WILLIAM WARREN  
(Ret)

JEFFREY M. ADAMS  
JUDITH BACHMAN  
GEORGE G. COFFINAS  
JAY GOLLAND  
IVON ANAYA  
ANTHONY BRIGANDI

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Veronica Jarek-Prinz

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the President

2026 RCBA Installation Dinner

The Practice Page

Why is Nobody Selling Their Practice?

Commercial Litigation

7 Tips on How to Stop Constant Worrying in Your Life

Celebrating Juneteenth Freedom Day

Celebrating National Caribbean American Heritage Month

Celebrating Pride!

Spotlight Interview on Shira Krance

2026 CLE Calendar

RCBA Cares

RCBA Facebook Page

Ads and Sponsorships

Join RCBA Referral Service

Newsbrief Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

Sponsors

## From the President

*"The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things –"*

Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*

## It's About Time

As conceptualized by authors and more than a few serious physicists, time travel, either backwards or forwards – or both, as in the *Back to the Future*<sup>1</sup> trilogy – has fascinated generations of sci-fi readers and moviegoers. In the late 19th century Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankee<sup>2</sup> landed in fabled Camelot; while the Time Machine transported H.G. Wells' Victorian time traveler to the far, viz., 802,701 A.D., future.<sup>3</sup> The laws of physics would allow time travel – at least going forward.<sup>4</sup> Einstein's special theory of relativity ( $E=mc^2$ ) and the ensuing space-time continuum, interrelate gravity (or mass) and velocity and time. The faster you travel, the slower you experience time. In 2009, the late astrophysicist, Stephen Hawking, held a time travelers' cocktail party, but didn't send out the party invitations until *after* the party had ended. On the chance that someone in the future would discover and respond to his invitation, Hawking remained at the designated time and place for a couple of hours waiting the arrival of guests from the future . . . none showed up to share Hawking's champagne.<sup>5</sup>

## Chimera

I had just finished a brief. Correcting and uploading could wait for morning. Still at the keyboard, I heard someone – or something – trying the locked office door. The time at the bottom of my computer's screen read 12:06 a.m., and the building's entrance and garage doors had been shut and locked for hours. Security, maybe? I went to the office door and peered through the doorlight. An adolescent face stared back at me. I unlocked the door and asked, "How did you get in here?" The boy, who looked to be about 12 or 13, answered, "Dunno."

---

<sup>1</sup> © 1985, 1989 & 1990 Universal Studios LLC and Amblin Entertainment, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Clemens, Samuel, (1835-1910), *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, (1889).

<sup>3</sup> Wells, H.G., (1866-1946), *The Time Machine*, (1895).

<sup>4</sup> Traveling *back* in time, on the other hand, seems highly improbable and would require the existence of *anti-matter*, which doesn't exist, or a theoretical wormhole or, maybe, Doc Brown's 1982 DeLorean.

<sup>5</sup> While Stephen Hawking posited that his playful experiment had proved that travel back in time was incapable of existing, he did leave invitations to his private funeral service "for persons born after 2038" – 20 years *after* Hawking's interment at Westminster Abbey – since "we cannot exclude the possibility of time travel."

"Are you lost?"

"Dunno."

"Are you hurt or ill?" There are a number of medical practices in my office building – though there wouldn't be any doctors around at this time of the evening.

"I don't think so." The boy was thin, a whisper of hair over his upper lip made him appear a little older than he was. Since the building was closed, and he didn't seem to be in any distress, I wondered why he was standing in the doorway alcove?

"I saw my name on your door."

"You mean you saw *my* name on my door."

"No, that's *my* name." Unlikely, but possible I suppose.

"Tell me your name."

"Richard A. Glickel."

"What's your middle name?"

"Alan."

"Spelled?"

"A-L-A-N." Less likely still.

"How old are you?"

"Twelve-and-a-half." I'd guessed right.

"When's your birthday?"

"December Sixth."

"Where do you live?"

"The Bronx. Why are you asking so many questions?"

"It's what lawyers do."

"We're a lawyer?"

"No. I'm a lawyer, you're a kid – and it's after 12 o'clock on a school night. Why aren't you home asleep in your Bronx bed?"

"I thought I was. That is, I think I am . . . sleeping that is."

"I think you are too. I think, also, that you should wear your glasses. You know, I didn't recognize you at first."

"I don't wear glasses."

"But you will."

"I don't want to look like Ira." Ira Rubin was a prototypically nerd-looking classmate. No genius, he was intelligent, and Ira could be *really* funny – like, Woody Allen funny – and they were best friends.

"No, they won't – think . . . Buddy Holly."

"He's dead."

"True. But Buddy's glasses didn't cause the plane to crash. You'll be able to see the blackboard and some girls will even think you're cute."

"Effeminate?"

"Handsome – effeminate's a large word."

"I like to read. I've read all the Bond books."

I looked up from the keyboard. The time at the bottom of my computer's screen read 12:06 a.m.

\* \* \*



### Time's Up

A year rushes by and my one-year term as president of the Rockland County Bar Association is ended effective June 30; which also marks the close of my twelfth and terminal year seated on the Association's Board of Directors. Though less active in RCBA's day-to-day operations, my life membership continues; so does my participation on different committees of the New York State Bar Association, including NYSBA's Committee on Professional Ethics and the Committee on Judicial Discipline.

In parting, unlike the Walrus I'll not "talk of many things." I instead echo my inaugural remarks, *viz.*, to those members who actively participate in RCBA committees and who support the Association's events throughout the year, thank you – and please continue your involvement, your Association needs you. To our new and, perhaps, less experienced lawyers, your involvement and participation is earnestly solicited and welcome. It is, after all, your collective energy and enthusiasm that will power the Association and serve to shape the future of the practice of law in Rockland County for the years ahead.

It's been a privilege and an honor. Thank you.

West Nyack, New York  
June 1, 2026

Peace,

*Rick*

Richard A. Glickel  
RCBA President, 2025-26  
[rglickel@glickelaw.com](mailto:rglickel@glickelaw.com)

# 2026 RCBA Installation Dinner

Honoring  
Hon. Kevin Russo – **Sterns Award**  
Mary Ellen Natale – **Balsamo Award**  
Hon. Aimee Pollak and Hon. David  
Ascher –  
**Committee Chairs of the Year**

Installation RCBA Board and Officers

Thursday, June 25, 2026  
5:00 pm  
Patriot Lounge – Stony Point, NY

[Register via the RCBA website](#)





## THE PRACTICE PAGE

# THE WHO AND WHEN OF SERVING PROCESS

Hon. Mark C. Dillon \*

Two requirements must be met for persons to validly serve process within our state. The first is that the server be an adult, meaning at least 18 years old. The second is that the server not be a party to the action (CPLR 2103[a]). As to that second requirement, the plaintiff's attorney may serve process in the action since an attorney is not a "party" in the caption of the case. But attorneys typically delegate the task to process servers who are well versed in locating defendants for process and dealing with whatever related circumstances might arise.

There is no statewide requirement that process servers be licensed. The state requires only that process servers and agencies who serve five or more pieces a year must maintain specified records of each service (GBL 89-cc, 89-dd). However, the City of New York requires licensure for any agency or person serving five or more legal papers in a calendar year (NYC Admin. Code 20-404). The license is issued by the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. The license application requires a \$340.00 fee and the posting of a signed \$10,000 surety bond (NYC Admin. Code 20-406.1 and 407). Attorneys and government employees who serve process within the scope of their employment need not obtain the city license (NYC Admin. Code 20-405).

CPLR 306-b requires that service of process be accomplished within 120 days from when an action is commenced by the filing of the initiatory papers in the supreme or county courts. Under the recently-amended CPLR 1007(a), effective as of April 18, 2026, third party summonses and complaints must be served within 20 days of the filing of the third party actions. Of course, the timeframes for service may be extended by the court for good cause shown or in the interest of justice. Good cause requires the plaintiff to demonstrate reasonable diligence in attempting service (*Bumpus v New York City Transit Authority*, 66 AD3d 26 [2d Dep't. 2009]). The interest of justice exception is broader, where the court examines diligence, the expiration of the statute of limitations, the merits of the action, the length of delay, and the promptness of the plaintiff's request for a time extension (*Id.*). While CPLR 306-b does not set a deadline for parties to seek an extension of time for service, it is a better practice to move for that relief before the 120 time frame expires. Doing so demonstrates to the court the conscientiousness of counsel in seeking to comply with the statute.

Counsel has three practical obligations to fulfill when dealing with process servers. The first is to get copies of the papers to be served into the hands of the process server. This should be accomplished early in the 120-day (or 20 day) process period, as there is no telling how long a process server might need to locate a defendant for service and complete the task.

...Continued



...Continued

The second obligation of counsel is to inquire of the process server the status of service attempts, if a reasonable time elapses without word from the server. The importance of doing so is to assure that the service is accomplished within the statutory timeframe, and to begin acquiring evidence for a possible motion for a time extension if such a motion is looking necessary.

And third, when service is accomplished, the process server is to provide counsel with an affidavit of service setting forth the particulars of the task --- the who, what, where, when, and how of the service (CPLR 306). The affidavit is presumptive evidence of its contents (*Bank of New York Mellon v Simpson*, 241 AD3d 1412 [2d Dep't. 2025]). The affidavit must be filed with the clerk within 20 days of service whenever process is effected by means of the suitable age and discretion method under CPLR 308 (2) or the nail and mail method under CPLR 308(4), with service not deemed complete until 10 days after the filing. The 10 day completion period under CPLR 308(2) and (4) need not fall within the general 120-day (or 20-day third party action) period for the service.

Counsel should closely examine the affidavit of service, to assure that its contents conform with all statutory service requirements and withstand any potential challenge by the defendant. Overseeing service of process is a non-delegable duty of counsel, which subjects counsel to potential legal malpractice if service is not properly performed by the process server (*Kleeman v Rheingold*, 81 NY2d 270 [1993]). Indeed, if an action is dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction over the defendant, the plaintiff is ineligible to commence a new action within the 6-month grace period of CPLR 205(a) for actions generally or CPLR 205-a for residential mortgage foreclosures (*HSBC Bank USA, N.A. v St. Hillaire*, \_\_ AD3d \_\_, 2026 WL 216876 [2d Dep't. Jan. 28, 2026]). Plaintiffs' only potential means of maintaining a viable claim, while service of process is facing a successful challenge, is to cross-move for leave under CPLR 306-b for an extension of time to make a further attempt at service, which the court may or may not grant in the exercise of its discretion (*State of New York Mortgage Agency v Braun*, 182 AD3d 63 [2d Dep't. 2020]).

Service of civil process on any Sunday is void (GBL 11). The only exception to that rule is if an emergency TRO needs to be served on a Sunday to prevent irreparable harm (Judiciary Law 5; *City of New York v Andrews*, 186 Misc.2d 533 [Sup. Ct. Queens Co. 2000] [Lonschein, J.]). Service may also not be effected on Saturdays when the process server, acting maliciously, knows that the defendant observes that day as a holy time (GBL 13; *Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. v Gross*, 202 AD3d 882 [2d Dep't. 2022]). The beneficiaries of GBL 13 are those who belong to the strict versions of Judaism. A showing of maliciousness in the timing of Saturday service requires evidence that the process server had actual knowledge the defendant was observant (e.g. *Signature Bank NA v Koschitzki*, 57 Misc.3d 495 [Sup. Ct. Kings Co. 2017] [Baynes, J.]). Incongruously, service of process is not prohibited on high holy days that fall on non-Sundays in any given year such as Christmas, Yom Kippur, or Laylat Al-Qadr during Ramadan. Service on non-Sunday national or state holidays is also permissible (*People ex rel. Patterson v Warden*, 36 Misc.3d 1235 [A] n. 4 [Sup. Ct. Bronx Co. 2012] [Massaro, J.]).

...Continued

...Continued

For foreign defendants being served out-of-state under New York's longarm jurisdiction (CPLR 302), the service must be accomplished in a manner recognized by New York law, such as the methods of CPLR 308. However, the individual process server may be anyone that is eligible under the laws of either New York *or* the laws of the foreign state where the service is effected (CPLR 313). For most international service of process, check the procedures of the Hague Convention.

The need for process servers is circumvented if mail service is used as authorized under CPLR 312-a, where any person may mail the summons, complaint, acknowledgment forms, and self-addressed postage-paid return envelope to the defendant (CPLR 312-a[a]). Traditional process serving may also be circumvented when service upon a New York corporation is effected by delivering two copies of the summons and complaint to the Secretary of State, a designated agent under BCL 306(b)(1), which forwards one set of papers to the corporation's office address on file. Similar procedures for serving foreign corporations through the Secretary of State are described in BCL 307. And finally, process servers may be unnecessary if a court orders an alternative method of service under CPLR 308(5), when standard methods prove to be impractical (*e.g. Cheung v Kinsey*, 234 AD3d 958 [2d Dep't. 2025] [service by e-mail and follow-up text]).

---

\*Mark C. Dillon is a Justice of the Appellate Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dep't.,  
is an Adjunct Professor of New York Practice at Fordham Law School,  
and is a contributing author of the CPLR Practice Commentaries in McKinney's.







## WHY IS NOBODY SELLING THEIR PRACTICE?

By: Judith Bachman

As we have explored throughout this series, the sale of a law practice is now ethically permissible in New York. Rule 1.17 of the Rules of Professional Conduct expressly allows lawyers to sell a practice, including goodwill. Yet despite that change, relatively few small and suburban firm owners actually sell their firms. Instead, many attorneys simply close their doors when they retire. That raises an obvious question. Why is nobody selling their practice?

Part of the answer is identity based. Lawyers, particularly solo and small firm practitioners, often do not think of their firms as businesses with transferable value. We think of ourselves as professionals, not entrepreneurs or builders of a sellable asset.

Another challenge is that many firms are too dependent on the individual lawyer. In countless practices, the attorney is the rain-maker, the client relationship manager, the institutional knowledge base, and sometimes even the operational system itself. If the lawyer steps away, there may be little left that feels transferable to a buyer.

This issue becomes even more pronounced when lawyers wait too long to plan. By the time many practitioners begin thinking seriously about succession, they are already winding down, reducing hours, or preparing to retire quickly. That leaves little time to build systems, transition client relationships, develop staff, or strengthen recurring revenue streams. Buyers are attracted to stability and predictability. A firm in late-stage decline is much harder to market.

There is also the simple reality that there is no well-developed marketplace for law firm sales, particularly in suburban communities. If you want to sell a house, there are brokers, listing platforms, and standardized valuation models. The same is true for most businesses. Law firm sales, by contrast, are often informal and relationship driven. Many transitions happen quietly, by word of mouth, or not at all.

At the same time, buyers themselves have become more selective. Firms looking at acquisitions or mergers want clean financials, modern technology, documented systems, trained staff, and transferable client relationships. They do not want to inherit disorganization, outdated processes, or a paper rolodex.

The good news is that this problem is solvable. Lawyers who begin planning early can dramatically improve the marketability of their firms. By building systems, strengthening branding, investing in staff, embracing technology, and gradually transitioning client relationships, a practice becomes far more transferable and valuable.

Ultimately, the question should not simply be why nobody is selling their practice. The better question may be whether lawyers are building practices that can actually be sold. Succession planning is not just about leaving practice. It is about creating a firm with value that survives beyond the individual lawyer who built it.

## COMMERCIAL LITIGATION ISSUES OF INTEREST

Submitted by Joseph Churgin, Esq. and Susan Cooper, Esq.\*



Your client, as seller of a residence, entered into an escrow agreement with the buyer after closing. The agreement required your client to clear all deficiencies under existing permits and obtain a certificate of occupancy by a specified date, or forfeit to the buyer the \$100,000 in escrowed funds. If, however, all the work was completed by the specified date, but certificates of occupancy were not yet issued, then your client had an additional month, to get the certificates and still receive the escrowed funds. Although most of the deficiencies had been cleared by the specified completion date, two minor deficiencies, which had been first identified by the municipal inspector two weeks before the completion date, were not cleared until 5 days after the completion date, and the certificates of occupancy were not issued for another week. You commenced an action for release of the escrowed funds to your client. The buyer moved for summary judgment.

Will you succeed in defeating the buyer's claim to the escrowed funds?

The answer is yes.

In *22 Tomahawk Drive LLC v. Hiser-Chason* (Sup. Ct. Westchester Co. May 7, 2026, Docket No. 75298/2025; N.Y.L.J. May 14, 2026), the plaintiff commenced an action by filing a summons with notice of motion for summary judgment in lieu of complaint, based on an escrow agreement in connection with the sale of plaintiff's residential property in the Village of Harrison. The defendants cross-moved for summary judgment.

The escrow agreement, which was signed after the closing, provided for the escrow agent to hold \$100,000 pending the seller obtaining certificates of occupancy by "closing" "all open permits" including specified building permits for interior alterations and a deck expansion. The agreement provided that if the open permits are not closed by July 12, 2025, then the escrowed funds shall be released to the purchaser. But, if all the work is completed and the only outstanding issue is that the COO's have not been issued, the seller shall have until August 12, 2025, to get the certificates of occupancy and/or completion and still receive the escrowed funds.

Two of the three outstanding open permits were closed by July 9, 2025, at which time the Village inspections noted two deficiencies that were identified by the Village on May 28, 2025 – an opening in the garage ceiling and un-mowed grass. These repairs were completed by July 17, 2025, and the COO issued on July 24, 2025. In the meantime, on July 14 and 21, 2025, the defendant buyers demanded release of the escrowed funds to themselves. The seller did not consent and the funds remained in escrow.

... Continued



... Continued

On their motion for summary judgment, defendants argued that the terms of the escrow agreement unambiguously required the seller to obtain the COO on or before July 12, 2025, or forfeit the escrow funds. Plaintiff countered that all prior interior deficiencies were repaired by July 9, 2025, and the new deficiencies noted on the inspection of May 28, 2025, were not contemplated by the escrow agreement. Moreover, the defendants accepted the benefits of plaintiff's work, permitted the plaintiff to continue after the stated deadline, allowed issuance of the final CO's, and only then attempted to withdraw the escrow funds in bad faith, which constituted a violation of the terms of the escrow agreement.

The Court began its ruling by dismissing the plaintiff's action commenced by motion for summary judgment in lieu of a complaint, explaining that such a motion under CPLR 3213 is available to enforce an instrument for the payment of money only, not an escrow contract. The Court accepted the respective motion papers of the parties as a complaint and answer before ruling on the merits.

The Court noted, "The law generally exacts a high price for failure to comply with the precise language of a contract," quoting *135 E. 57<sup>th</sup> St. LLC v. Daffy's Inc.*, 91 A.D.3d 1, 2 (1<sup>st</sup> Dep't 2011). However, the same case counsels that "in some situations, principles of equity have softened the often harsh results of common-law rules of strict construction. These equitable principles, such as the doctrine of substantial performance, import the concept of fundamental fairness to the context of contract-dispute litigation." *Id.* at 3. The plaintiff's burden, said the Court, was to "establish that its failure to perform was inadvertent or unintentional and that the defects were insubstantial." citing *Novair Mech Corp. v. Universal Mgt. & Cont. Corps.*, 81 A.D.3d 909, 910 (2d Dep't 2011).

The Court found that two of the three permits were completed prior to the contractual deadline and the remaining deficiencies identified by the inspector were cured within days. The remaining deficiencies were *de minimis* and did not constitute a material failure of performance. The delay was minimal and the COO was issued well within the August 12, 2025, extension date. There was no prejudice caused by the short delay in obtaining the COO, and the remaining deficiencies were immaterial. The Court quoted *Oppenheimer & Co. v. Oppenheim*, 86 N.Y.2d 685, 691 (1985) – "to the extent that the non-occurrence of a condition would cause disproportionate forfeiture, a court may excuse the non-occurrence of a condition unless its occurrence was a material part of the agreed exchange." Thus, reasoned the Court, "allowing the defendants to retain the amount placed in escrow by plaintiff despite receiving the full benefit of the bargain, would cause disproportionate forfeiture,."

... Continued

... Continued

Summary judgment was granted to plaintiff with prejudgment interest from July 24, 2025, the date the outstanding certificates of occupancy were issued.

*The lesson?* The failure to comply with an unambiguous condition of a contract will not necessarily be a breach if the Court determines that a deviation from performance of the condition was minor and no prejudice resulted from the deviation.

\*By Joseph Churgin, Esq. and Susan Cooper, Esq. of

SAVAD CHURGIN, LLP, Attorneys at Law

## 7 Tips On How To Stop Constant Worrying In Your Life

By: Stan Popovich

Do you find yourself worrying about everything that is going on around you?

It can be very tiring and depressing to constantly worry about your family, your job, your health, and everything else that is happening. Having things out of your control is very scary.



**As a result, here are 7 tips on how to overcome the cycle of worry and fear in your life.**

- 1. Focus on the facts of your situation; not your thoughts:** When people are stressed out, they rely on their fearful and depressing thoughts. Your fearful thoughts are exaggerated and are not based on reality. When you are anxious, focus on the facts of your current situation and not on what you think.
- 2. You can't predict the future:** Remember that no one can predict the future with one hundred percent certainty. Even if the thing that you are afraid of does happen, there are circumstances and factors that you can't predict which can be used to your advantage. For example, you miss the deadline for a project you have been working on. Everything you feared is coming true. Suddenly, your boss tells you that the deadline is extended and that he forgot to tell you the day before. This unknown factor changes everything.
- 3. Take a break:** Take a deep breath and try to find something to do to get your mind off of your anxieties and stresses. A person could take a walk, listen to some music, read the newspaper, watch TV, play on the computer, or do an activity that will give them a fresh perspective on things. This will distract you from your current worries.
- 4. Take it one day at a time:** Instead of worrying about how you will get through the rest of the week or month, focus on today. Each day can provide us with different opportunities to learn new things and that includes learning how to deal with your problems.
- 5. Learn how to manage your thoughts:** Challenge your negative thinking with positive statements and realistic thinking. When encountering thoughts that make you fearful, challenge those thoughts by asking yourself questions that will maintain objectivity and common sense.
- 6. Things change over time:** Regardless of your circumstances, your current situation will not stay the same. Everything changes over time. Knowing that your situation will improve will help give you the confidence that things will get better.
- 7. Get some help:** Sometimes, it helps to be able to talk to someone about your stressful situations. Talking to a trusted friend, counselor, or clergyman can give you additional advice and insights on how to deal with the fear of the unknown. Remember that there is nothing wrong in asking for assistance.

### BIOGRAPHY



Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day or Emancipation Day) is a day to honor and celebrate liberation and resilience. It was on June 19, 1865 that all Americans became free from slavery (despite the Emancipation Proclamation occurring two years prior). In June 2021, Juneteenth National Independence Day was established as a Federal Holiday, the first federal holiday to be established since Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 1983. Today, the holiday is about celebrating Black culture, history and life and bringing people together to honor all those who fought for the rights and privileges we hold today.

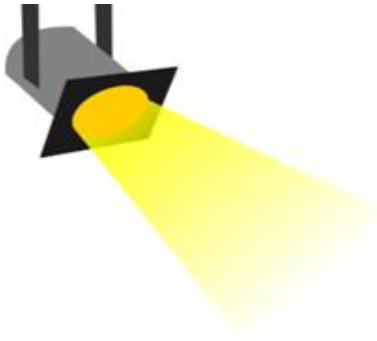


First federally recognized in June 2006, Caribbean American Heritage Month recognizes a community that has shaped US history. Caribbean American Heritage Month recognizes the influence of individuals from Caribbean nations, encompassing the diversity of the region, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and many more. Caribbean American Heritage Month provides an opportunity for Americans to learn about the vibrant cultures, achievements, and complex histories of Caribbean immigrants and their descendants.



A graphic featuring six horizontal brushstrokes in the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. The strokes have a textured, hand-painted appearance.

HAPPY  
**PRIDE**  
MONTH



In celebration of Pride Month, the DEI Committee shines its spotlight on Attorney, Shira Krance, Esq.

**Where did you grow up and what is your current hometown?**

I grew up in Nyack and currently live in Valley Cottage.

**Where did you go to high school/college/Law School?**

I am a proud graduate of Nyack High School. After high school I matriculated to Dartmouth College where I majored in history. I also have a double Master's from Fordham University in Special Education and Early Childhood Education. I earned my Juris Doctor from Pace Law School.

**What is your current position?**

I am currently the Principal Law Clerk to the Honorable Rachel Tanguay.

**What has been your career path?**

My career path actually started during college when I decided to spend a semester in Los Angeles working with a film production company. I actually worked on the show Party of Five! During the summer between junior and senior year worked on a movie set in New York City for



a movie called “Someone Like You” starring Ashley Judd and Hugh Jackman. After graduation I returned to LA and worked with the movie producer famous for the movie “American Beauty”. Around this time, 9/11 happened, and it was truly an introspective moment for me. I quickly realized that the movie business was not my passion and not where I thought I could have the greatest impact. I decided to move back to New York and work in news where I felt I could work to tell important stories. I started as a production assistant at WNBC and I truly loved my job. One of the most important pieces I worked on was a piece about the “Man in the Red Bandana”, Welles Crowther, who saved at least 18 lives during the September 11 attacks before losing his own life. It was really powerful and important to tell this heroic story. After WNBC I worked at NY 1 in various positions – although always behind the camera. I loved being in the field and working on different stories, but even then I realized that the news stories that gripped me the most were the legal cases. After working in news, I had a brief stint as press secretary for the Department of Consumer Affairs in the administration of Mayor Bloomberg.

During my time as a press secretary, I had the thought “My mom’s a teacher, and she has a wonderful career that she loves, maybe I should explore teaching too.” I decided to get a double master’s in special education and childhood education. At that same time, I was also starting a family and realized that a career in education did not align with my personal goals and priorities as a parent. After having my daughter and spending a few months at home with her, I was offered a position with the Hon. Sherri Eisenpress in Rockland Family Court. I loved Family Court! It is such an important Court and always busy. It was during my time with Judge Eisenpress that it really started to become clear to me that I should go to law school. It was around this same time that I was starting to have a personal awakening. The summer of 2019 I came out to my friends and family. The fall of 2019 I started law school. It was an exciting and scary time for me but it was liberating to finally be standing in my truth. I was pursuing a career that felt authentic to me and my passions and I was simultaneously proclaiming the truth of my identity as a gay woman.

#### **What is your favorite thing about Rockland?**

I love the diversity of Rockland. Growing up in Nyack, I was always around all different types of people. I truly cherish the diversity of this community. I also love that it has a small-town feeling where you can really build meaningful and impactful personal and professional relationships all the while being in close proximity to New York City.

#### **Can you share a little about your family?**

I live in Valley Cottage with my two children – Lucy, 17, and Gus, 13 – and our 2 dogs. My entire family is nearby so my now ex-husband/best friend Max and his wife Kate, also one of my closest friends, live close to me and we are a very close-knit family. I am the Aunt of Max and

Kate's 1-year old son, George and he is just the light of my life (along with my own children, of course). I feel so fortunate that while getting divorced and coming out certainly changed the shape of my family, it didn't diminish it. Instead, it allowed our family to grow – both in size and strength.

My sister and her children also live close by, as do my parents. Every summer we vacation in Provincetown and all 12 of us stay in one big house.

**Who is your inspiration/hero?**

My parents have always inspired me and I am continuously thankful for their love and support. Another important inspiration for me came after I stepped out of my comfort zone and attended a retreat run by Glennon Doyle and her wife Abby Wambach. Glennon's path to uncovering her authentic self later in life was truly eye-opening and made me realize how important it is to show my kids that it is never too late to be true to yourself.

One of my favorite quotes is - "The price of admission is high. But the price of exclusion from your most authentic life is higher."

I often describe my life as not realizing I was living in black and white, until the moment I realized I was gay. It was as if someone flipped a switch and suddenly, everything was in color.

Since coming out, and living authentically, I am more fulfilled and present as a mother, lawyer, friend and citizen, who will hopefully continue to make a difference in the world around me.

**What good advice have you received?**

It's never too late to be your true self.

**Favorite TV show/Book?**

I love to read – I am a voracious reader. I love two books by Howard Reiss (yes, he's my Dad but genuinely he is also a brilliant author!) – "The Year of Soup" and "P-Town." Although I don't usually love horror, one of my all-time favorite books is Stephen King's 11/22/63. My favorite author is Ann Patchett and she is coming out with a new book this month (June). I can't wait!

**What is your guilty pleasure?**

Bravo – I love mindless TV like Vanderpump Rules and Summer House. My daughter watches Summer House too so we watch that one together.

**Is there anything we didn't cover that you would like the Bar Association to know about you?**

I know, maybe it sounds a little cheesy, but I really do feel like I am living my best life. My happiness is now internal not external and I feel really happy just being me.





# Rockland County Bar Association

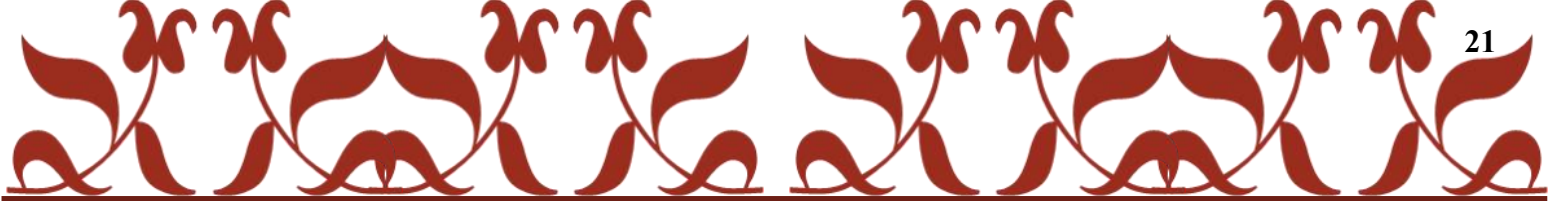
337 North Main Street, Suite 1; New City, NY 10956; [rocklandbar.org](http://rocklandbar.org)

## 2026 CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

|                            |                                                                                           |                                                                                  |                                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Thursday,<br>June 11, 2026 | Virtual<br>12:30 pm–1:30 pm                                                               | <b><i>1031 Exchanges CLE</i></b>                                                 | Ryan Vassar, Esq.                       |
| Tuesday,<br>June 16, 2026  | In Person<br>5:30 pm<br>Tudor Room, Elisabeth<br>Haub School of Law at<br>Pace University | <b><i>Annual Appellate View from the Bench</i></b>                               | Westchester County Bar Association Host |
| Thursday,<br>June 18, 2026 | Virtual<br>12:30 pm–1:30 pm                                                               | <b><i>Surviving Stress in the Legal Field while Strategizing for Success</i></b> | Jackie Cara, Esq.<br>Jennifer Clayto    |

**CLE Break for the Summer—  
See you in September!**





## RCBA Cares

**The following resources are provided to you courtesy of the Lawyer to Lawyer Committee.\***

### **Lawyer Assistance Programs**

New York State Bar Association: 1-800-255-0569; [lap@nysba.org](mailto:lap@nysba.org)

New York City Bar Association: 212-302-5787; <https://nysba.org/attorney-well-being/>

### **Suicide Prevention**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988

Crisis Text Line: Need help? Text START to 741-741

### **Chemical Dependency and Self-Help Sites**

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA): 212-870-3400; [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

International Lawyers in A.A. (ILAA): [www.ilaa.org](http://www.ilaa.org)

Narcotics Anonymous (NA): 818-773-9999; [www.na.org](http://www.na.org)

Nicotine Anonymous (NA): 1-877-TRY-NICA; [nicotine-anonymous.org](http://nicotine-anonymous.org)

### **Mental Health**

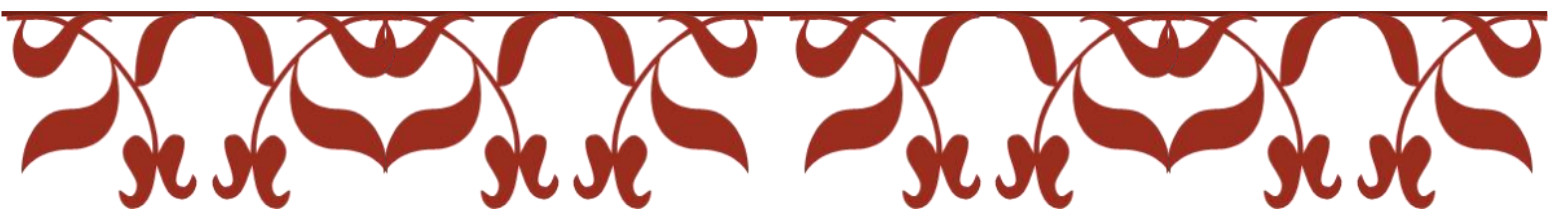
Depressed Anonymous: [depressedanon.com](http://depressedanon.com)

National Mental Health Association (NMHA) - 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach a 24-hour crisis center;  
Text MHA to 741741 at the Crisis Text Line

Source: Andrew Denney, Bureau Chief of NYLJ and the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

***\*For more information about the Lawyer to Lawyer Committee,***

***please email: [office@rocklandbar.org](mailto:office@rocklandbar.org)***



# Advertise with the Rockland County Bar Association



**Rockland County  
Bar Association**

337 North Main Street, Suite 1; New City, NY 10956; [rocklandbar.org](http://rocklandbar.org)

1893 - 2025

**CHECK OUT THE VARIOUS  
OPTIONS TO ADVERTISE  
YOUR PRACTICE OR  
SERVICES**

IN THE  
NEWSBRIEF



ON THE  
WEBPAGE

**RATES START  
AT \$75 FOR 3  
MONTHS**

**Rockland County Bar Association**

*Promoting equal access to justice and greater understanding of the law*

AT AN EVENT **RATES START  
AT \$100**

Contact us for more details

## **MORE INFORMATION**



845-634-2149



[Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org](mailto:Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org)



[www.rocklandbar.org](http://www.rocklandbar.org)







## ROCKLAND COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HELPING ATTORNEYS AND THE PUBLIC

Join Today!

### RCBA IS LOOKING FOR ADVERTISERS AND SPONSORS

Who are your favorite vendors?

Do you work with a process server, private investigator, translator, title company or court reporting company?

The RCBA offers these businesses several ways to promote themselves to local attorneys. They can become Affiliate members, advertise on our website or in the Newsbrief, or sponsor one or more CLE programs or special events.

If you have a favorite business, please let us know.

Contact [Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org](mailto:Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org)

with their contact information so we can reach out to them about these opportunities.

**NEW INCENTIVE FOR YOU!** As an added incentive, when a business you referred becomes a Sponsor or places an ad with us, you will be given one free online CLE session. So... review your contacts now and help us promote their business!

[Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org](mailto:Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org)

845-634-2149

## **Join RCBA's Lawyer Referral Service**

We receive several calls each day from clients looking for local representation. We welcome all members to participate but are especially in need of attorneys in these practice areas:

Civil Appeals

Commercial law

Consumer law, including small claims court

Constitutional and Human Rights

Corporate Law including business formation, dissolution & franchises

Education law

Elder law

Environmental Law

Insurance Law, including automobile, home, disability, long term care

Intellectual Property

Landlord Tenant Law: residential and commercial

Legal Malpractice

Zoning Law

**Visit our [webpage](#)**

**or contact [office@rocklandbar.org](mailto:office@rocklandbar.org)**

**for more information and an application.**



## **NEWSBRIEF ADVERTISING RATES**

### **NEWSBRIEF ADVERTISING RATES**

Discounts: 10% for 6 mo. bookings, 20% for 1 year bookings. Must be paid for in advance

| <b>AD SIZE</b>               | <b>REGULAR RATE</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>FULL PAGE (7.5x10.25)</b> | <b>\$400.00</b>     |
| <b>1/2 PAGE (7.5x5):</b>     | <b>\$250.00</b>     |
| <b>1/4 PAGE (3.75x5):</b>    | <b>\$200.00</b>     |
| <b>1/8 PAGE (3.75x2.5):</b>  | <b>\$125.00</b>     |
| <b>BUSINESS CARD:</b>        | <b>\$75.00</b>      |

### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

RCBA Members – free, up to 50 words; 51 to 100 words, cost is \$75.00.

Non-Members, cost is \$50 for up to 50 words; 51 to 100 words, cost is \$100.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**NEWSBRIEF IS NOT PUBLISHED IN JULY**

**CALL Jeanmarie @ 845-634-2149 or send email to [Jeanmarie@Rocklandbar.org](mailto:Jeanmarie@Rocklandbar.org)**

**TO ADVERTISE IN NEWSBRIEF**

**Advertising & articles appearing in the RCBA Newsletter does not presume endorsement of products, services & views of the Rockland County Bar**

**Association.**

**All advertisements and articles must be reviewed by the Executive Committee for content.**



**MEMO****TO ALL RCBA COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VICE – CHAIRS**

The Association is seeking articles from your committee for publication in the Bar's monthly Newsletter. The membership would greatly benefit from your input and would appreciate it. The article does not have to be complicated or long- a succinct piece of general interest and importance would be best.

If you are able to submit an article for the Newsletter it should be sent via email to [Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org](mailto:Jeanmarie@rocklandbar.org) by the 15th of the month so that the Executive Board may review it.

Thank you!



Monthly  
Newsletter



**YOUR AD HERE!****ATTORNEY**

Neimark Coffinas & Lapp LLP (New City) seeking attorney with 3 to 5 years' experience in personal injury litigation. Salary commensurate with experience. Generous benefits package.

E-mail resume to: [ggc@ncl.law](mailto:ggc@ncl.law)

**LOOKING TO RETIRE OR SELL YOUR  
PRACTICE?**

If you are a solo or small firm attorney considering retirement or selling your practice, contact Judith Bachman, 845-639-3210 or [judith@thebachmanlawfirm.com](mailto:judith@thebachmanlawfirm.com). As a professional courtesy and seeking colleague to colleague conversations, she will help you evaluate options and talk about practice acquisition.

**YOUR AD HERE!****Matrimonial/Family Law Attorney**

Rockland County, NY law firm specializing in matrimonial and family law is seeking a full time associate. Excellent writing skills, trial experience and fluent Spanish speaking a plus. Starting salary range is \$55,000.00 to \$85,000.00+. Please call 845.639.4600 or fax resume to 845.639.4610 or E-mail: [michael@demoyalaw.com](mailto:michael@demoyalaw.com)

**Attorney Position Available**

Feerick Nugent MacCartney, South Nyack, seeking NYS admitted attorney with 2 to 4 years of experience in litigation and interest in land use, zoning, and planning. Full-time, requiring some evening work for attendance at planning/zoning board meetings – Rockland/Orange Counties. We offer health, dental, vision and 401k Plan. Starting salary \$120,000 - \$140,000 depending on qualifications/ attorney registration status.

**Part Time Paralegal / Legal Assistant**

In person and/or virtual; Surrogate filings personal injury matters; complex personal injury matters; salary commensurate with experience.

Contact: [jeff@injurylaw-nv.com](mailto:jeff@injurylaw-nv.com)

**Office Space Available**

Beldock & Saunders, PC, located in New City, has a private office with a separate workstation, for support staff, available to sublet. Access to conference rooms, reception area, kitchen & plenty of parking. Rent terms are flexible. Contact Steve at (845) 267-4878 or email [sbeldock@beldockandsaunderslaw.com](mailto:sbeldock@beldockandsaunderslaw.com) .

**IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY WANTED**

Rockland County, law firm is seeking a full time associate with immigration experience. Trial experience, Spanish speaking, admitted to SDNY and willingness to assist with bankruptcy and loan modifications a plus. Starting salary range is \$55,000.00 to \$85,000.00+.

Call 845.639.4600 or fax resume to  
845.639.4610 or

E-mail: [michael@demoyalaw.com](mailto:michael@demoyalaw.com)



## Helping businesses thrive is important.

At M&T Bank, we understand that small business is the lifeblood of any thriving community. Which is why we are committed to providing our support and keeping our lending decisions local. [See what we can do for your business at your neighborhood branch or \*\*mtb.com\*\* today.](#)

M&T Bank is proud to support Rockland County Bar Association.

Adam Schoenenberger  
(845) 638 0146  
228 South Main Street  
New City, NY 10956

**M&T**Bank



Equal Housing Lender. ©2024 M&T Bank. Member FDIC.