

WHO'S WHO

Women in Professional Services

New York State Part 36 fiduciary list as a court appointed guardian ad litem to represent individuals who cannot appear in the Surrogate's Court to protect their own rights and interests.

Katz-Erato is admitted to practice law in New York and New Jersey. She earned a juris doctor from Hofstra University Maurice A. Deane School of Law and a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Stony Brook University.

Cona Elder Law is an award-winning law firm concentrating in the areas of elder law, estate planning, special needs planning, estate administration and litigation, and health care law.

Celebrating over 20 years in practice, the firm's mission is to inspire and empower older adults to embrace aging with support and resources through a holistic approach to elder law.



Hanna E. Kirkpatrick is a partner at Jaspan Schlesinger LLP. Kirkpatrick's areas of concentration include litigation, appellate practice and matrimonial and family law. In the matrimonial context, she represents clients in proceedings concerning equitable distribution of real property and other assets, spousal maintenance and child support, as well as custody disputes.

Kirkpatrick also represents clients in other types of civil litigation including individuals and businesses in cases involving contractual and partnership disputes. Her experience includes all phases of litigation, including pretrial discovery, substantive motion practice, and trial. She has also successfully briefed and argued appeals before the appellate division, second department.

2022 has showed the legal community that a number of the technological advancements that were forced upon us as a result of Covid-19 are here to stay, Kirkpatrick said.

"These advancements have proven that matters that were once held strictly in-person can operate smoothly and efficiently utilizing a remote platform," she said. "As a litigator, one welcomed advancement is the option to conduct court conferences in a virtual setting."

"I am looking forward to seeing how our profession continues to advance and adapt to the needs of attorneys and clients," Kirkpatrick noted.

Kirkpatrick is a member of Jaspan Schlesinger's New York Divorce and Family Law blog editorial team and regularly contributes articles. She is a Super Lawyers Rising Star and received the "Outstanding Women in Law" Award by the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Nassau County Bar Association, Suffolk County Bar Association and the Nassau County Women's Bar Association.

Kirkpatrick is admitted to practice in New York and is a graduate of Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.

Jaspan Schlesinger LLP is one of the region's leading full-service law firms. With more than 50 attorneys and offices in Garden City and Westchester County, Jaspan Schlesinger is equipped to handle complex matters while delivering individualized advice and counsel to its clients.

For more than 75 years, Jaspan Schlesinger LLP has been providing legal services in the areas of commercial litigation, banking and financial services, education law, municipal law, real estate, land use and zoning, tax certiorari and condemnation, and estates and trusts.



Megan Klingbeil, CPA is an accounting and audit partner at Anchin, a leading accounting, tax and advisory firm. A key member of the firm's Consumer Products Group, Klingbeil co-leads the beauty practice and is a key member of the food and beverage practice. Her focus is on helping privately-held food, beverage, beauty, health and wellness brands, manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

She has worked with numerous companies from their early stages through capital raises, as well as in their ultimate exits to strategic buyers and has advised many clients on transitioning their family businesses to the next generation. Helping founders pursue their business goals, whether it's achieving a level of prominence in the marketplace, a big-ticket exit, or arriving at other milestones, is the most rewarding part of her role. She works with both well-established businesses and emerging brands on tax planning, operational strategy, accounting guidance, and securing financing/funding.

Klingbeil is also an active member of Anchin's Women's Initiative Network, which provides support to the women in the firm in the areas of business development, personal growth, and work/life balance.

The pandemic has altered consumer behavior, Klingbeil said.

"Young consumers continue to seek out meat alternatives and say they plan to eat more plant-based foods in the next year," she said. "Sustainability continues to impact decision-making. Even though consumers are returning to in-person shopping, many have switched to ordering groceries online. This trend has introduced 15-minute delivery platforms. Additionally, higher costs associated with supply chain disruptions persist."

"One development in beauty, food and beverage is the increasing representation of women and minority-owned businesses," Klingbeil said. "Customers, retailers and investors are showing support to innovative MWBE-owned companies with their dollars and resources. We're also seeing a broadening

definition of 'inclusivity,' transcending gender or race, and encompassing identities, orientations and health conditions."

Klingbeil frequently provides insights through delivering internal and external seminars, as well as articles for the firm's consumer products network. She is also involved in training programs for brands under accelerators.

Anchin is a full-service accounting firm specializes in the needs of privately-held companies, investment funds and high-net-worth individuals and families. Its highly-focused industry specialization helps clients overcome challenges and achieve their financial objectives with exceptional confidence. Consistently recognized in respected "Best of" lists for service, firm management and employee satisfaction, Anchin prioritizes partner-level engagement, and commitment to employee happiness.

With a staff of over 400 and more than 60 partners, Anchin provides a wide range of assurance, financial reporting, tax and advisory services, including tax strategies and compliance; tax credits and incentives; state and local and international tax strategies, family office strategies management and succession advisory; growth, transition and exit strategies; transaction advisory; client accounting advisory services; cybersecurity and digital risk solutions; and litigation support, forensic accounting and valuation services.

Anchin has offices in New York City, Uniondale, New York and in Boca Raton, FL, and is an independent member of BKR International, a network of more than 160 firms with more than 500 offices in over 80 countries around the world.



Elizabeth Magennis is president of ConnectOne Bank, a leading commercial bank nearing \$9 billion in assets that serves the New York, New Jersey and South Florida markets.

Magennis has more than 30 years of experience in the banking industry. As president of ConnectOne she is responsible for the growth, function and strategic direction of the bank.

Magennis joined ConnectOne Bank in 2006 and has played an integral role in growing the company to a top-performing bank with industry-leading metrics. Under her leadership, the bank has experienced record organic growth, expanded its footprint into new markets, built a robust loan portfolio, and made significant strides into the digital space including the launch of online accounts and a cloud-based loan management system.

This year has brought significant developments, specifically to ConnectOne Bank's changing talent environment, Magennis said.

"Throughout our return-to-office

process, we navigated a new style of working and implemented a newly developed hybrid work model, to support evolving trends and remain a competitive employer," she said. "Additionally, various new employee engagements were instilled to maintain the unique culture we pride ourselves in."

"From open communication between the executive team and frontline employees to ongoing professional development tools, resources and mentorship, we provide our employees with the tools needed to thrive," Magennis noted. "As talent wars heightened, we developed initiatives to attract new talent and streamline the onboarding process, offering candidates a better overall experience."

"These strategic initiatives have allowed us to retain our talent base, while continuing to attract top talent," she said.

Founded in 2005 by an entrepreneur, ConnectOne Bank serves the New Jersey and New York markets. Since completing its successful IPO in 2013, ConnectOne has grown into a high-performing commercial bank, offering a full suite of products and services with a focus on serving small to middle-market businesses through its people first mission.

Through high-tech tools and service, ConnectOne Bank has most recently expanded into the South Florida market, supporting clients as they move into new markets.



Christine Malafi is a senior partner at Campolo, Middleton & McCormick, LLP (CMM), where she also chairs the corporate department at CMM.

Malafi has led CMM's legal team in closing countless M&A deals worth billions of dollars. She has vast experience advising on both buy-side and sell-side M&A transactions in a variety of industries, including technology, manufacturing, education, healthcare, and professional service sectors.

She is particularly adept at working closely and strategically with clients' other professional advisors, including accountants, bankers, and M&A advisors, as well as forging those critical relationships for clients based on the deep network of relationships she has cultivated over years in the business.

Malafi's practice also includes advising clients on business divorce matters and a wide variety of both routine and complex corporate transactions. She serves in a general counsel role for many of the firm's corporate clients. Clients also turn to her for guidance on employment issues including payment of wages, overtime, paid and unpaid leave, hiring, and termination; drafting customized policies, procedures, handbooks, and training programs, including sexual harassment prevention; and conducting internal investigations in connection with discrimination, harassment, compensation