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IN BRIEF

Attorneys 'On the Move':
Former ADAG for National Security Joins Jones Day; Fox Rothschild Adds Real Estate Partner

• **George Turner** has joined **Jones Day** as a partner in its investigations & white collar defense practice. He was most recently an associate deputy attorney general for the U.S. **Department of Justice**, where he was the senior DOJ official responsible for national security-related matters in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General. In addition, the firm has hired public finance lawyer **Jeffrey Philip** as a partner in its financial markets practice. He was previously a partner at **Orrick**.



George Turner

• **Davis Wright Tremaine** has added **Glenn Gundersen** and **Gayle Denman** as partners in the firm's intellectual property and branding group. **Hal Borden** has also joined the firm as of counsel. They were all formerly with Dechert.

• **Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati** has added **Stanford (Stan) Renas** as a partner in its energy & climate solutions practice. He was formerly with **Katten Muchin Rosenman**. The firm has also added **Charles (CJ) Gelinas** as a partner in its corporate finance practice. He joins from **Dentons**.

• **Dorf Nelson & Zauderer** has launched a new Matrimonial and Family Law department with a team joining from **Segal & Greenberg**. The department will be led by **Margery Greenberg**, who will serve as partner and chair of the practice and will also include counsel **Olga Batsedis** and **Sara Hiltzik**.

• **Seward & Kissel** has added **Mark Garibyan** as a partner in its litigation & investigations group. He joins from **Schulte Roth & Zabel**.

• **Fox Rothschild** has hired **Crystal Persaud** as a partner in the firm's real estate department. Prior to joining, she was senior real estate counsel at **Kids Empire USA**.

• **Jessica Maroney Shillito** has joined **Foley Hoag** as its director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She joins from **Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison**.

• **Olshan Frome Wolosky** has added **Anthony Crawford**

as the firm's insurance coverage law practice chair. He joins from **Reed Smith** where he was a partner in its insurance recovery group.

• **Morrison Cohen** has launched a Healthcare & Wellness practice group which will be led by **Randi Mason**, co-chair of the firm's corporate practice, **Latisha Thompson**, vice-chair of the firm's business litigation practice, and **Andy Bank**, chair of the firm's real estate practice and co-chair of the firm's luxury brands practice.

• **King & Spalding** has added **Kim Prior** as a partner in the firm's financial services industry team and finance and restructuring practice group. She joins from **Winston & Strawn** where she was a partner and served as co-chair of its digital assets group.

• **Justice Louis L. Nock** (ret.) has joined **Anderson Kill** as a shareholder and a member of the firm's corporate and commercial litigation group. He was most recently presiding justice of Part 38 of **New York State Supreme Court**.

• **Jay Taylor** has joined **Stinson** as a partner in the firm's corporate finance practice division. He was formerly a shareholder and chair of the corporate and finance practice group at **Anderson Kill**.

• **Family law boutique Krauss Shakes Tallentire & Messeri** has added **Alexis Wolf** as a partner. She joins from **Chemtob Moss Forman & Beyda**.

• **Hall Booth Smith** has hired **Joel Fishbein** as of counsel in the aging services practice. Before joining he served as senior vice president and director of litigation and risk at **Complete Care Management**.

• **UJA-Federation of New York** has named **Karen Abramov** as UJA-Federation's new chief legal and compliance officer, succeeding **Ellen Zimmerman**, who retired after more than 30 years.

• **Michael Simes** has joined **Moses Singer** as a partner in its litigation practice. » Page 6

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RULAND WEST/ALM (3)

A U.S. District Court judge in Long Island, **Gary Brown**, discovered magic as a child. He says learning about the 'art of deception' has made it easier to uncover the truth.

The 'Burden of Poof': Judge Gary Brown's Lessons in Magic

BY EMILY SAUL

IN HIS chambers in Long Island, U.S. District Judge Gary Brown has a \$.25 cent coupon for Breen Laundry Detergent.

The coupon is yellow, green and blue. "Breen" is spelled in red lettering, followed by the slogan "The Detergent That Cleans Away Dirt and Grime."

Hidden in plain sight, on the back of the coupon, is a tell. The fine print advises: "Do not embarrass your retailer by asking him to redeem this coupon without making the required purchase."

In 1977, coupon fraud was big business. Stores would buy hundreds of newspapers, clip out the coupons and redeem them, despite not having sold the actual products. Fraudsters pocketed millions of dollars, some of which went into funding terrorism.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service could have devoted countless hours to forensic accounting or other such tools. But instead, they



A humorous message on a desk nameplate reads, "POOF! My Work Here Is Done." Below, a fake Breen coupon sits on a table in Judge Brown's chambers.



turned to what Brown, a prosecutor before he was a judge, called "one of the most brilliant investigative moves in history."

The PIS designed

Many Trump Deal Firms Could Fulfill Pro Bono Pledges in Less Than a Year. But Will They?

BY ABIGAIL ADCOX

MORE than six months have passed since nine large law firms agreed to devote \$940 million in pro bono and free legal services to causes Trump supports. Within that time, some of these firms could be well on their way to completing their pro bono pledges or have already completed them, according to a Law.com analysis of their annual pro bono hours and billing rates, yet law firms may not be quick to complete the hours—or even document them.

At least five of the nine firms could fulfill their pro bono pledges to Trump within a year, if they were to devote the same resources in time and lawyer participation as their pro bono expenditure last year, the Law.com analysis shows.

For instance, Latham & Watkins, which pledged \$125 million to pro bono causes that Trump supports, handled more than 193,000 hours



Latham logged over 193,000 hours of pro bono work last year. At \$1,500 per hour, they could fulfill their commitment in under six months.

performed about 125,000 hours of pro bono work last year. Assuming an average \$1,500 an hour for partner and associate time, it would take the firm just over half a year to complete their commitment.

It's unclear whether

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Meet the Career Public Defender Who Is Now the GOP and Conservative Party Candidate For Manhattan DA

BY EMILY SAUL

Editors' Note: This is second in a series of profiles of candidates seeking election as Manhattan district attorney.

MAUD MARON would describe herself as holding a "heterodox" viewpoint.

A Democrat for 33 years, she likened herself during an interview to the stick figure in comic by blogger Colin Wright. The sketch features a line figure standing immobile in one place, between right and left, as time passes and the left side of the spectrum stretches further and further left. In the final panel, the stick figure is declared conservative.

"The ground shifted beneath the feet of someone like me," Maron said in an interview.

"Defending magnet schools and gifted and talented programs and public schools was a perfectly nor-



Maud Maron, who has worked at Legal Aid Society in Manhattan and the Bronx for years, has centered her campaign on "restoring accountability" in the criminal justice system.

mal position, and then all of a sudden it became white supremacy," she told the New York Law Journal and Law.com.

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Deal Watch: Busy Period For Dealmaking, and Why SPACs Have Returned

BY PATRICK SMITH

IT'S BEEN another busy period for dealmaking. Law firms helped steer at least 10 announced mergers and acquisitions deals over \$1 billion, with a collective value of more than \$100 billion, between Oct. 21 and Oct. 28.

Along with M&A deal flow, SPACs are back. The deal boom in 2021 led to a crash the next year, leaving many investors holding the bag, with accusations of less-than-acceptable financial transpar-

ency. And yet, another SPAC boom has appeared in 2025. In the last week alone, there were at least 12 tracked by Law.com Radar.

Michael Klausner, law professor at Stanford Law and one of the world's foremost experts on SPACs, said there were some inherent flaws with previous iterations of SPACs.

A basic problem with SPACs is that they pretend to be worth \$10 per share—and public shareholders buy at \$10 per share (and many choose not to redeem for \$10 per share when they

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Latham Makes Larger Round of Partner Promotions

BY ANDREW MALONEY

LATHAM & WATKINS is the latest Big Law firm to announce a large round of partner promotions this fall, with the firm confirming Wednesday that 40 associates have been promoted to partner, effective January 2026. Another 56 were promoted to counsel.

Latham's fall partner promotions are up from last year's announce-

ment, when the firm promoted 24 associates to partner, according to the November 2024 release.

Most of the new partners are in corporate practices, including M&A and capital markets, with a handful in litigation or investigation practices. And New York is the most common office of the new partners (8), followed by London (7) and Washington, D.C. (6). An additional eight partners are based in California, between Los Angeles

(4), Chicago and Houston (2) in the U.S., plus Paris, Milan and Frankfurt (1).

Firm chair Rich Trobman said in a statement that the lawyers in the groups announced this week "have contributed significantly to the growth, success, and culture of Latham, and their promotions highlight the incredible depth of talent we have at our firm."

Latham also promoted 19 counsel lawyers to the ranks

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HOW COMPETITIVE IS YOUR FOOTPRINT BY PRACTICES?

Ask Legal Compass:

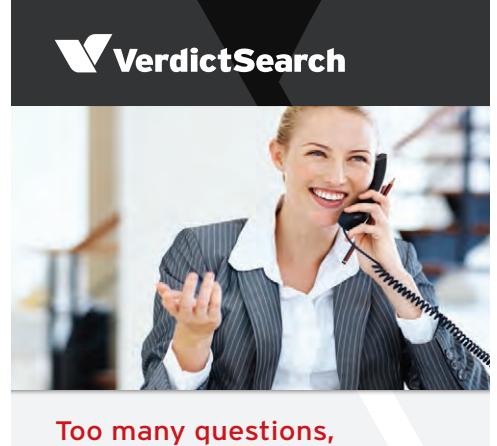
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DOJ Prioritizes Discovery Compliance Through 'Comply With Care' Taskforce by Karen Hoffman Lent and Kenneth Schwartz

Online

Court Calendars

Civil and Supreme Court calendars for New York and surrounding counties are now available weeks in advance at nylj.com. Search cases by county, index, judge or party name. Important Part information, including addresses, phone numbers and courtrooms are updated daily. Only at nylj.com.

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View the special sections online and download today's paper at the Law Journal Download Center. Only at nylj.com.

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Frankfurt's Anti-Money Laundering Authority To Tackle Europe's 'Dirty Money' Problem by Ulrike Barth

Clifford Chance Scores Win In Super League Match Against FIFA's UEFA by Alex D'Elia

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Online

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Gibson Dunn, ADL Debut National Pro Bono Network To Combat Antisemitism

BY DAN ROE

GIBSON, Dunn & Crutcher has partnered with the Anti-Defamation League to launch a national pro bono network aimed at combating incidents of antisemitism wherever they occur, the law firm announced Wednesday.

The ADL Legal Action Network includes more than 40 large law firms across the country that have agreed to receive client referrals or support clients as co-counsel.

The network builds on the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line, or CALL—a partnership between Gibson Dunn, the ADL, Hillel International, and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law—which has received almost 1,000 reports of antisemitism on campus since launching in November 2023.

"We would get complaints outside of the university context, and it was frustrating because we didn't have a system ready for K-12 or



Orin Snyder, Gibson Dunn

just folks on the street or otherwise because our focus was on universities," said partner Orin Snyder.

Amid a national uptick in antisemitism, the ADL Legal Action Network will provide victims of antisemitic incidents with access to attorneys through an app, Snyder said. From there, an artificial intelligence-powered system managed by the ADL will assign reports

to members of a six-firm steering committee composed of Covington & Burling; Cooley; Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; and Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein.

Lawyers at steering committee firms will respond within 24 hours of a report's filing, Snyder said, to conduct in-depth interviews and compile incident summaries. The steering committee firms will meet on a weekly or biweekly basis to decide how to proceed. "That could include a referral to law enforcement, follow-up discussions and calls with the individual, or a referral to a firm in the network who's best suited to handle the case from a geographic and subject matter expertise perspective," Snyder said.

The ADL identified nearly 10,000 anti-Jewish incidents in the U.S. in 2024, per a Gibson Dunn press release, which also cited FBI hate crime data indicating that Jews are victims of more than 70% of religiously motivated hate crimes.

The network seeks to support Jewish Americans following antisemitic incidents, including harassment, physical harm, prevention of religious exercise and others. It may also target "antisemitic extremist organizations or individuals," as well as discriminatory employment or business practices, per the release.

Not all reports are expected to be actionable, said Gibson Dunn partner and pro bono chair Katie Marquart. But as the firm learned through CALL (which is being folded into the new network), those interactions can also be valuable. "Sometimes all we can say is, 'I'm so incredibly sorry that happened to you. It's probably not an actionable incident, but that doesn't make it OK,'" Marquart said. "I think even that is a really valuable service to this country and the people who are being subject to antisemitic incidents."

The list of participating firms includes four of the nine law firms—Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Jacobson

gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Goulston & Storrs; Greenberg Traurig; Jones Day; Katten Muchin Rosenman; Latham & Watkins; Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein; Mayer Brown; McDermott Will & Schulze; Milbank; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough; Nixon Peabody; Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler; Reed Smith; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Sullivan & Cromwell; Vinson & Elkins; Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Goulston & Storrs; Greenberg Traurig; Jones Day; Katten Muchin Rosenman; Latham & Watkins; Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein; Mayer Brown; McDermott Will & Schulze; Milbank; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough; Nixon Peabody; Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler; Reed Smith; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Sullivan & Cromwell; Vinson & Elkins; Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

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EEOC Retreats From Alleging 'Systemic' Discrimination, Brings Fewer Cases Overall

BY CHRIS O'MALLEY

LAWSUITS filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission dropped by 15% in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, with the agency likely to continue to focus less on systemic cases on behalf of a big group of workers in an industry, profession or company.

That's a preliminary take from Duane Morris based on the law firm's tracking of EEOC litigation for the 2025 fiscal year, which included the first nine months of the second Trump administration.

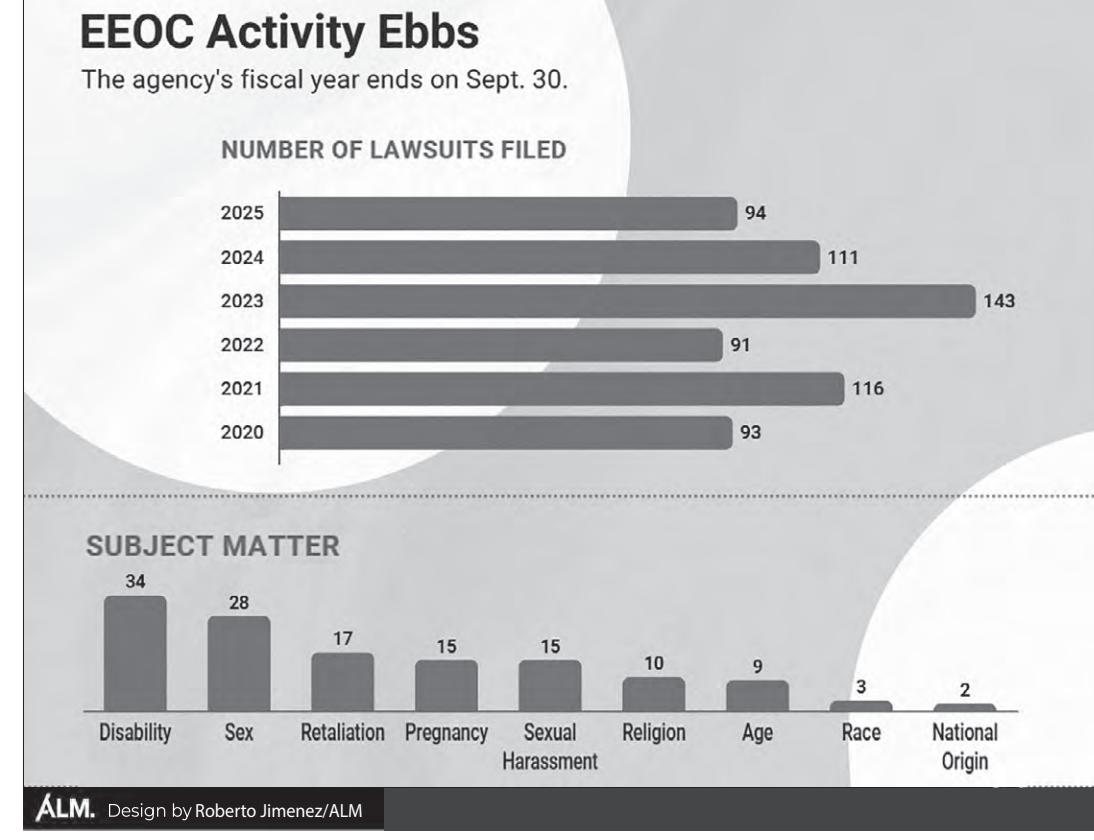
The EEOC filed 94 lawsuits in fiscal 2025 compared with 111 in 2024 and 143 in fiscal 2023, the law firm said.

That's still significantly lower than the pre-pandemic high of 217 in fiscal 2018, during the first term of President Donald Trump.

"The decline in enforcement activity suggests that during President Trump's second term in office, employers should not expect the EEOC to be as aggressive as past regimes in terms of the volume of government enforcement lawsuits, particularly in terms of systemic litigation," Duane Morris partner Gerald Maatman Jr. said last month in his preliminary analysis of EEOC data.

At that time, Maatman said the 2025 EEOC data "should be taken with a grain of salt," given the fiscal year was a time of transition in administrations.

But during a webinar last week,



Maatman and his employment law team offered some additional observations that could indicate things to come.

In 2025, 14 of the EEOC 94 lawsuits—or 15%—were of the systemic variety, about the same as the previous year.

In EEOC-speak, systemic cases

are those with "a pattern or practice, policy and/or class cases where the discrimination has a broad impact on an industry, profession, company or geographic location."

"If we were talking about 10 years ago, over 50% of these cases would be on behalf of groups

of employees, called systemic cases. Now, nearly 80% of the filings are what are called 'onesies' or 'twosies' on behalf of one or two employees—very targeted at either small employers or very large employers," Maatman said.

Often, these cases allege retaliation or discrimination based on

disability more than anything else.

"Why? Because those are the two causes of action probably most impervious to a motion for summary judgment and those are the theories that EEOC typically has had the most success on in litigation."

Two years ago, the EEOC sought to "get the most bang for its buck" by bringing large cases, Maatman said. It invested in training of staff on identifying and investigating systemic discrimination.

"Systemic actions ... would send a message to an industry and would impact the greatest number of people," he added.

Under the Trump administration, that's been scrapped, he said.

"The filing of systemic actions really has been downplayed and is not the main focus or emphasis by the EEOC anymore."

There were some exceptions. Duane Morris partner Jennifer Riley noted the EEOC's \$850,000 settlement in July with the Venetian Resort Las Vegas for alleged religious discrimination against employees.

Maatman said he used to get a call once a week from general counsel about systemic investigations in which they were involved. Not so much anymore.

He noted that the EEOC in September indicated it would no longer bring lawsuits solely on allegations of disparate impact. It's a form of discrimination in which a policy or practice, though apparently neutral, has a disproportionate

effect on a protected class of individuals.

Many systemic cases invoke disparate impact or adverse impact theory. "The fact that the EEOC is abandoning and peeling back its use of that tool is one signal that, to the extent they're going to be less of them," Maatman added.

The EEOC's stepping back from bringing cases based solely on disparate impact could have an effect on employment discrimination issues involving artificial intelligence, leaving employees to pursue private litigation.

Riley pointed to a case filed earlier this year in the Northern District of California by job seeker Derek Mobley against HR software giant Workday.

Mobley, a Black man over the age of 40 who claims he suffers from anxiety and depression, alleges that despite his experience and degree in finance, Workday's AI-powered screening tool caused him to be rejected for at least 100 jobs due to race, disability and age.

Workday has denied that its technology is discriminatory.

The EEOC's move away from using disparate impact theory in enforcement "almost certainly will reduce government-led investigations into algorithmic discrimination based on disparate impact theory for the foreseeable future, at least," Riley said.

Disability and gender discrimination, and those related to retaliation, continued to be

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In-House Counsel Grapple With 'Jarring' Geopolitical Policy Shifts

BY MICHAEL GENNARO

CORPORATE legal chiefs and outside counsel say the pace of recent policy changes has been so disruptive that companies are struggling to plan long-term strategies, with geopolitical risk now a front-and-center consideration in deal negotiations.

Speaking Wednesday at the 2025 Berkley Fall Forum on Corporate Governance, legal and communications executives said the cumulative effect of shifting policies in areas like trade, immigration and DEI have created an environment of instability that affects everything from cybersecurity budgets to talent acquisition.

VonderHaar also pointed to an August 2024 ransomware attack in Nevada, which crippled state services including DMV offices, state websites and law enforcement systems.

"The disruption goes from the organization all the way to people in their day-to-day lives," VonderHaar said. "And for us as a cybersecurity vendor, it creates a great deal of uncertainty."

Lauren Odell, partner and chief operating officer at Gladstone Place Partners, a New York-based cybersecurity company, referring to the more than 200 executive orders President Donald Trump has signed since taking office in January.

VonderHaar rattled off concrete examples of policy disrupt-

ing impacting government and the private sector. The Department of Government Efficiency's mass firings of federal workers, for instance, led to "wholesale elimination of departments and uncertainty around procurements" that put cybersecurity contracts on hold, she said. State and local cybersecurity grant programs have been cut off, she said, "leaving states sort of having to fend for themselves without the budget that they had anticipated."

In-house counsel say Trump's willingness to use the powers of the federal government for retribution has been especially difficult to navigate. During Trump's crusade against Big Law earlier this year, 67 former or current general counsel rallied to the defense of Perkins Coie, one of the law firms targeted, writing in an amicus brief that when a president uses his position to punish enemies and silence critics, it creates mass instability.

"The rule of law is not only a legal abstraction but an economic necessity," the brief says. "When harsh sanctions can be imposed based on presidential preference rather than through consistent application of established law, businesses cannot effectively plan for and manage risk. This uncertainty will require businesses to divert resources toward currying political favor rather than investment, innovation, and growth."

The theme across the board is that it's not any one policy or issue, but the cumulative effect

of creating this instability," she said. "It makes it very hard for companies to both plan for the long term, and then also challenge how they communicate their narrative."

In-house counsel say Trump's willingness to use the powers of the federal government for retribution has been especially difficult to navigate. During Trump's crusade against Big Law earlier this year, 67 former or current general counsel rallied to the defense of Perkins Coie, one of the law firms targeted, writing in an amicus brief that when a president uses his position to punish enemies and silence critics, it creates mass instability.

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Tech companies' fear of missing out on AI opportunities is addi-

ing to the instability. Odell noted that his clients are "racing to take advantage of all of the possibilities that exist with AI, while also being aware of the risks and trying to build the infrastructure to support it." But simultaneously, she said, "they're facing challenges in terms of talent and immigration policies that are hindering their ability to find the people to build the infrastructure and the products."

In September 2025, Trump imposed a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications, a dramatic increase from the previous \$2,000 to \$5,000 range. The fees went into effect last month.

Meanwhile, geopolitical considerations have moved to the forefront of deal-making, said Matthew Cowcher, deputy general counsel of TPG Capital. He said the topic used to be merely "background noise" in transaction planning.

"At the start of the deal, teams are building in and trying to understand very early on the exposure to different geopolitical factors: trade control, sanctions, things of that nature," Cowcher said. "And that's got to be built into the model. Now people are going, 'What's the policy risk here? What do we need to be

thinking about?' Deal teams need to come prepared for that."

Cowcher cited tariffs as a prime example of an overnight disruption, noting that companies had to quickly try to understand how their cost structures and supply chains were going to be affected.

"For things to shift radically overnight, it's jarring for a lot of people," he said.

Lisa Kaplan, founder and CEO of Alethea, maker of a risk management platform, said changes in the information landscape have increased the risks businesses face.

"We are living in a world where Laura Loomer is now more influential than most senators," Kaplan said, referring to the American far-right political activist and conspiracy theorist.

Kaplan noted that while only 5% of the population uses Truth Social, Trump's social media platform, "that 5% is hugely influential."

"We've seen more extremes due just to the proliferation of ways people interact and get their information and make decisions," Kaplan said.

Odell said her firm has observed a shift in corporate communications strategies, potentially because they are worried about

responses from the White House.

"Over the last couple of years, we've definitely seen companies less willing to be out there in a major way, opining on something political or something potentially controversial, or something in general that just doesn't pertain to their business," she said. "You don't want to sort of raise your head above the pulpit unnecessarily and get criticized for something that you can avoid."

At the same time, she noted that companies have become more willing to engage with the White House than they were in the past.

VonderHaar said her strategy

Expert Analysis

ANTITRUST TRADE AND PRACTICE

DOJ Prioritizes Discovery Compliance Through 'Comply With Care' Taskforce

Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Gail Slater, head of the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ), recently announced the rollout of "Comply with Care"—a taskforce designed to address alleged gamesmanship and obstruction within DOJ investigations. Gail Slater, Assistant Attorney General, Remarks to the Ohio State University Law School (Aug. 29, 2025), [hereinafter, "Remarks to Ohio State"]. Noting the increasing pace with which certain purported "bad actors" have employed what Slater labeled as "egregious" tactics to circumvent legal processes in antitrust investigations, Slater explained that the initiative would counteract a perceived "race to the bottom" in procedural and subpoena compliance.

A party's alleged noncompliance, however, does not always turn on intentional abuses, as the DOJ often demands millions of documents in a short period of time, with exacting specifications that can make literal compliance challenging. Nevertheless, Slater identified "flagrant" Hart-Scott-Rodino (HSR) violations, privilege log abuses, and the use of ephemeral messaging platforms as among the types of conduct that would fall within the taskforce's purview.

Slater has since stated that the taskforce will operate as a "centralized group" within the "front office," allowing the DOJ's Section staff to "focus on their [substantive] merger cases." Gail Slater, Assistant Attorney General, Q&A following Remarks at the Fordham Competition Law Institute Conference: Winning the Race in Artificial Intelligence Through Real Competition (Sept. 18, 2025).

Further, Slater has claimed that this operating model will benefit practitioners by ensuring that the DOJ maintains a "uniform and efficient response rate in discovery disputes." Remarks to Ohio State. This article examines public comments



By
Karen
Hoffman Lent
And
Kenneth
Schwartz

about the DOJ's "Comply with Care" taskforce to date, as well as the initiative's broader implications for the Trump Administration's approach toward merger reviews.

Ultimately, the DOJ's introduction of the "Comply with Care" taskforce highlights its heightened focus on

While the absence of concrete information about the taskforce's ultimate role creates some uncertainty around its potential impact, its creation and promotion by DOJ leadership serves as another reminder that companies and practitioners before the DOJ should be vigilant with their compliance obligations.

compliance, which was separately made apparent earlier this year when DOJ announced the first-ever civil penalties for allegedly deficient Second Request compliance.

While the absence of concrete information about the taskforce's ultimate role creates some uncertainty around its potential impact, its creation and promotion by DOJ leadership serves as another reminder that companies and practitioners before the DOJ should be vigilant with their compliance obligations.

HSR Violations

The DOJ has not yet released detailed guidance concerning the

scope of its "Comply with Care" initiative, but HSR and Second Request compliance appear to be at the forefront of the types of conduct animating the initiative's formation, with Slater citing recent alleged failures in these areas by KKR & Co. (KKR) and Amedisys. See Remarks to Ohio State. We discuss each of these cases below.

In January 2025, the DOJ sued KKR for alleged noncompliance with the HSR Act, claiming KKR systematically evaded the HSR review process through "document omissions, alterations, and failures to report deals." Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Just., Justice Department Sues KKR for Serial Violations of Federal Premerger Review Law (Jan. 14, 2025).

The DOJ's complaint claimed that while KKR has made more than 100 premerger filings since 2021, the firm failed to make complete and accurate filings in at least 16 of its transactions from 2021 and 2022. See Complaint at 1, *KKR & Co. v. Mekki*, No. 1:25-cv-00343 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 14, 2025).

Specifically, the DOJ alleged that KKR deleted commentary concerning "Competitive Behavior" from submitted documents, identified responsive HSR documents that were submitted only after the DOJ investigation (despite an obligation to produce those documents upfront with its HSR filing), and failed to submit an HSR filing for two purportedly reportable consummated transactions. While the DOJ has not claimed that any of the transactions caused anticompetitive harm, it is seeking civil penalties exceeding \$650 million for this alleged noncompliance with the HSR Act.

Slater's references to Amedisys concern the DOJ's lawsuit against UnitedHealth Group's proposed acquisition of the company. See Remarks to Ohio State. Included in the complaint challenging the transaction's legality—on the basis that it would allegedly lessen competition in the provision of both home health and hospice services and in nurse labor markets—the DOJ claimed that Amedisys falsely certified compliance. » Page 4

KAREN HOFFMAN LENT and KENNETH SCHWARTZ are partners at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.

Judicial Ethics*Opinions From the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics*

The Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics responds to written inquiries from New York state's approximately 3,600 judges and justices, as well as hundreds of judicial hearing officers, support magistrates, court attorney-referees, and judicial candidates (both judges and non-judges seeking election to judicial office). The committee interprets the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct (22 NYCRR Part 100) and, to the extent applicable, the Code of Judicial Conduct. The committee consists of 28 current and retired judges, and is co-chaired by the Honorable Debra L. Givens, an acting justice of the supreme court in Erie County, and the Honorable Lillian Wan, an associate justice of the appellate division, second department.

Opinion: 25-77

Digest: A judge may be the keynote speaker at a scholarship awards ceremony held by a local chapter of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, a not-for-profit charitable organization, provided that the event is not a fund-raiser.

Rules: 22 NYCRR 100.0(M); 100.2; 100.2(A); 100.3(A); 100.4(A)(1)-(3); 100.4(B); 100.4(C)(3)(b)(i)-(ii), (iv); Opinions 24-84; 23-222; 23-49; 23-32; 20-71; 17-117; 17-12; 15-133; 06-143; 97-19; 91-42.

Opinion: The inquiring full-time judge has been invited to be the keynote speaker at an upcoming scholarship awards event sponsored by a local chapter of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. The entity is organized as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization and

was primarily "formed to support the interests of Muslim-Americans and promote the community's civic engagement, as well as greater understanding and bridge building with other communities." The program outline shows there will be brief congratulatory messages from elected officials but "[n]o political speeches are allowed at this event." The event's purpose is presenting awards and scholarships to "recognize and honor young Muslims doing great things for their local communities," and the judge has been assured it is "not a fundraiser." As keynote speaker, the judge would discuss his/her personal journey and try to "encourage public service." The program also includes a community update and programmatic announcements, recognition of sponsors, concluding remarks, and a reception.

A judge must always avoid even the appearance of impropriety (see 22 NYCRR 100.2) and must always act to promote public confidence in the judiciary's integrity and impartiality (see 22 NYCRR 100.2(A)). Although a judge may generally speak, write, and otherwise participate in extra-judicial activities (see 22 NYCRR 100.4(B)), judicial duties "take precedence" over all the judge's other activities (22 NYCRR 100.3(A)). Thus, any extra-judicial activities must be compatible with judicial office and must not (1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's ability to act impartially, (2) detract from the dignity of judicial office, or (3) interfere with proper performance of judicial duties (see 22 NYCRR 100.4(A)(1)-(3)). In addition, a judge "shall not personally participate in the solicitation of funds or other fund-raising

activities" (22 NYCRR 100.4(C)(3)(b)(i)), "may not be a speaker or the guest of honor at an organization's fund-raising events" (22 NYCRR 100.4(C)(3)(b)(ii)), and "shall not use or permit the use of the prestige of judicial office for fund-raising or membership solicitation" (22 NYCRR 100.4(C)(3)(b)(iv)).

We note initially that the sponsor of the event is not a "political organization" under the rules (see 22 NYCRR 100.0(M)), but rather a not-for-profit charitable organization, seemingly analogous to the Polish American Congress or Irish-Americans in Government in its aims for a particular community of Americans (see Opinions 20-71; 97-19).

We have previously advised that a judge may serve as the keynote speaker at a non-fund-raising annual awards dinner of a charitable organization (see Opinion 91-42). Indeed, a judge ordinarily "may be a speaker, guest of honor, or award recipient at a non-fund-raising event of a not-for-profit educational, religious, charitable, cultural, fraternal or civic organization, and may permit the judge's participation to be advertised in advance" (Opinion 23-222; see also e.g. Opinions 24-84; 17-117; 06-143). Moreover, the proposed topics appear permissible, as we have said a judge may speak about his/her "background and experience in becoming a judge, so as to encourage others to pursue a legal career" (Opinion 17-12; see also e.g. Opinions 23-49; 23-32; 15-133).

We see no reason for a different result here. Accordingly, this judge may be the keynote speaker at a scholarship awards ceremony held by a local chapter of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, provided that the event is not a fund-raiser.

Calendar

**FRIDAY, OCT. 31 (DAY 1)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3 (DAY 2)**

NY City Bar (CLE)
16-Hour Advanced Commercial
Mediation Training
12:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.; 16 CLE credits
In-Person Registration Link:
<https://services.nycbar.org/Event>

**Detail?EventKey=Acm103125&m
code=NYLJ**
Contact: 212-382-6663 or
customerrelations@nycbar.org

FRIDAY, OCT. 31

NY City Bar (Non CLE)

Senior Lawyers Chatroom

**12 p.m. - 1 p.m.; registration link:
<https://services.nycbar.org/Event>**
Detail?EventKey=SEN103125&m
code=NYLJ
Zoom: Contact: 212-382-6663 or
customerrelations@nycbar.org

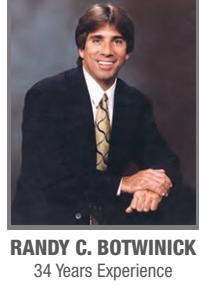
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Off the Front / Expert Analysis

Trump

« Continued from page 1

any firm's Commerce Department work may fall under the agreements. At least two of the nine deal firms—Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and Kirkland & Ellis—committed to doing free legal work for the Commerce Department, the New York Times reported this summer. According to the Times, Skadden was also introduced to the Commerce Department. ALM was not able to independently confirm that report.

"The Commerce Department and Secretary Lutnick are working with some of America's top law firms and legal minds to cement the truly historic trade deals that President Trump negotiated for the American people," an agency spokesman said, according to press reports.

Kirkland's deal specifically says the firm agrees to "pro bono and other free legal services," while Paul Weiss and Skadden's deal does not include the "free legal services" language, according to the deal terms Trump posted on Truth Social.

Paul Weiss firm chair Brad Karp indicated in a recent letter to lawmakers that there's a distinction between free legal services and pro bono work.

"Any work that Paul Weiss might provide the administration, even if unpaid, would not count towards the firm's commitment to provide \$40 million in pro bono services over the next several years," as part of the firm's March 2025 agreement with Trump, Karp told lawmakers, adding that the pro bono work contemplated under Paul Weiss' deal with Trump, including combating anti-Semitism, fairness in the justice system and assisting veterans, fall in areas "that fully align with our firm's values and our historic pro bono commitments."

While several of the largest firms that made deals with Trump could take care of their pro bono commitments in under a year, law firms appear to have an indefinite time to perform the work, with all nine agreements giving the firms time to do it "during the Trump Administration and beyond."

Indeed, law firms may make incremental progress, industry observers say, as long as it's a show of good faith. Some firms may not be in a rush, noted legal ethics professor Leslie Levin at the University of Connecticut.

"Some people in these firms are very unhappy that the deals were made at all, and they are going to be even unhappier if the work seems to be sucking up a lot of lawyers' time," Levin added.

At least three industry observers granted anonymity to speak candidly on the subject said they are unaware of any real push for firms to fulfill their commitments to the administration.

At least one legal observer raised concerns about how firms would want to go about documenting their progress on their pro bono commitments. The observer noted Democratic-led congressional inquiries into the terms of the deal as one motivator for why firms would want to be careful in tracking their progress the Trump commitments.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they're careful about what they

memorialize or write down for a variety of reasons, including the possibility that the firms could be investigated in connection with the agreements, especially if the House is run by Democrats in the next Congress," the observer said. "If the [House's] Oversight Committee and others have subpoena power, I think it's likely the firms would be subpoenaed for information about these agreements."

However, this same industry observer said firms would still want to make progress in completing their commitment, even if it is continuing to do pro bono work that they were doing before that happens to fall under one of the buckets described in the Trump agreement.

"Most or all of the firms involved do a lot of pro bono work anyway ... before this happened and are still doing after it happened, and I think they're going to want to make progress towards meeting the goals and track [their progress] in case they're asked where they are on those commitments by the [Trump] administration," said the observer.

There are "many ways" that some of these firms could rapidly meet their commitments, this observer suggested, noting that firms could be tracking their pro bono time by assigning it a higher billable hourly rate than they normally would.

Levin echoed that it would be hard to avoid "generating and retaining some of this information" on matters worked on as part of the agreement.

So How Long Could It Take?

While it could take some deal firms less than a year to complete their commitments to the Trump administration, there's several indicators that would suggest it will take longer.

For instance, some firms could only pull that off if all their pro bono work in one year was counted toward their commitment.

The firms' total pro bono hours in 2024 were reported as part of Law.com's annual Pro Bono Report. Published each year by Law.com, this report tracks the total number of pro bono hours performed by U.S. lawyers.

For instance, Paul Weiss committed the least amount of the nine firms (\$40 million) in pro bono services to causes Trump supports. The firm handled more than 90,000 hours of pro bono work in 2024, according to the 2025 Pro Bono Report.

If Paul Weiss did the same amount of pro bono hours this year and its lawyers' time was valued at an average of \$1,500 an hour, it would take Paul Weiss less than a third of a year to fulfill their commitment. However, if a smaller number of attorneys did pro bono work towards the commitment, or each attorney did less hours, then it would take much longer.

Kirkland & Ellis, which pledged \$125 million, handled more than 137,000 hours of pro bono work last year. Assuming the firm's lawyers' time was valued at an average of \$1,500 an hour, it would take Kirkland a little less than two-thirds of a year to complete its commitment.

Willkie Farr & Gallagher, which pledged \$100 million, did more than 85,700 hours of pro bono work last year. Using the same \$1,500 an hour value for each lawyer's time, it would take the

firm just over three-fourths of a year to complete its commitment.

For other firms that struck deals, it could take anywhere from two years to more than a decade to complete, stretching past Trump's term in office.

Using that same formula for Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Milbank, it would likely take each firm at least two years to reach its \$125 million and \$100 million commitments, respectively, assuming each firm used all of its usual pro bono time expenditures on the Trump commitments.

Simpson, as a firm, completed more than 83,000 hours of pro bono work last year, while Milbank completed over 66,000 hours of pro bono.

Meanwhile, Cadwalader reported more than 5,300 hours of pro bono work last year, translating to about \$7.95 million if the time was valued at \$1,500 an hour. Under this formula, it would take at least 12 and a half years to complete its \$100 million commitment.

Law.com does not have culminating data on A&O Shearman's total pro bono hours in 2024, because Allen & Overy and Shearman & Sterling's merger went live last May.

All nine firms did not respond to questions regarding their progress in fulfilling their commitments.

It's still unclear what pro bono work could count towards the agreement and if those agreements can even be enforced. The only reported terms of the agreements have been on President Trump's Truth Social posts.

Congressional interest in the matter has increased in recent months, with several top Democratic lawmakers sending inquiries to deal firms regarding their agreements with Trump.

Just last month, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut; Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Maryland; and Sen. Adam Schiff, D-California, sent letters to Paul Weiss, Kirkland and Skadden, pressing the firms for details into any pro bono services they are providing to "Trump's pet causes."

The Democratic lawmakers would likely need Republican support for any subpoena efforts now to the firms.

Meanwhile, the Knight First Amendment Institute, an affiliate of Columbia University, is seeking details of the agreements between Big Law and the Trump administration in a new lawsuit. The group has asked a federal judge to force the Office of Management and Budget and the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the Freedom of Information Act and release the records from the deals between the government and firms.

Amanda O'Brien contributed to this piece.

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Have a Move to Announce? E-mail pkane@alm.com

Daily columns in the Law Journal report developments in laws affecting medical malpractice, immigration, equal employment opportunity, pensions, personal-injury claims, communications and many other areas.

in part because many of the ~2.5 million supplemental documents were produced in response to additional DOJ questions.

Nevertheless, when the DOJ announced its proposed settlement with the merging parties in August 2025—allowing the transaction to proceed with divestitures—included in the agreement was a requirement that Amedisys pay a \$1.1 million civil penalty for falsely certifying that its original Second Request responses were "true, correct, and complete." Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Just., Justice Department Requires Broad Divestitures to Resolve Challenge to UnitedHealth's Acquisition of Amedisys (Aug. 7, 2025).

This settlement—the first of its nature—stands as an important reminder about the importance of thorough, vigilant Second Request compliance. Any compliance deficiencies can provide the agencies leverage to seek additional document productions and information, further elongating the merger process and increasing the potential for civil penalties.

Purported "Tactics of Obstruction"

Beyond the merger review context, Slater also denounced the concealment of relevant documents through tactics like privilege log abuses and improper document retention practices, highlighting behavior from Apple

and Google as what Slater referred to as "striking examples" of such conduct. Remarks to Ohio State.

In April 2025, the District Court for the Northern District of California found that Apple had defied a 2021 injunction by continuing to engage in prohibited anticompetitive conduct. *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc.*, 781 F. Supp. 3d 943, 952 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2025). In response, the Court ordered the production of injunction compli-

ance-related documents, yet Apple proceeded to undertake what the Court described as an "obvious cover-up." Although Apple had asserted privilege over "more than a third of responsive documents," a magistrate judge later found these claims to be largely unsubstantiated, and Apple in turn withdrew approximately 42.1% of its privilege claims.

Similarly, Slater discussed the conclusions from three different courts that Google had engaged in the systematic "destruction of relevant evidence." Remarks to Ohio State (citing *United States v. Google LLC*, 778 F. Supp. 3d 797 (E.D. Va. 2025)); *United States v. Google LLC*, 747 F. Supp. 3d 186.

Lastly, Slater expressed her distaste for purported privilege

Outside Counsel

Trade and Trade-Offs for India: The Dawn of Secondary Tariffs



By Sidhardha Kamraju And Aaron Wiltse

goods already subject to Section 232 national security tariffs (e.g., steel, aluminum, copper), and some goods loaded onto a vessel before August 27 and in transit are exempt.

Like most of the tariffs imposed by President Trump, including the July tariffs, the August tariffs are predicated on IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. §1701 et seq. IEEPA grants the president broad powers to block property

If the Supreme Court upholds President Trump's tariffs, this fusion of sanctions logic with tariffs may dramatically reshape both global trade and U.S. foreign policy.

Executive Order 14329 And Tariffs Based on IEEPA

On Aug. 6, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14329 ("Tariff EO"), "Addressing Threats to the United States by the Government of the Russian Federation," imposing a 25% tariff on most imports from India, to take effect on Aug. 27, 2025. President Trump had already imposed a "reciprocal tariff" on imports from India (and others) in July, see Executive Order 14326, and so the August tariffs would result in a cumulative 50% tariff on most Indian imports to the United States.

The Tariff EO exempts some categories of imports, such as

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in the United States and prohibit U.S. persons from engaging in business dealings with foreign targets after declaring an "unusual and extraordinary threat...to the national security, foreign policy, or economy" of the United States. 50 U.S.C. §1701(a).

The Tariff EO builds on Executive Order 14066, issued by President Biden in March 2022, in which President Joe Biden found "that the Russian Federation's unjustified, unprovoked, unyielding, and unconscionable war against Ukraine...constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States." To address that threat, President Biden prohibited imports of many Russian goods, such as crude oil and coal, into the United States.

In the Tariff EO, President Trump found that "the national emergency

described in Executive Order 14066 continues and that the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," and that it is thus "necessary and appropriate to impose an additional [tariff] on imports of articles of India, which is directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil."

This is not the first time President Trump has announced his intention to impose tariffs on countries that import Russian oil. On March 24, 2025, he issued Executive Order 14245, "Imposing Tariffs on Countries Importing Venezuelan Oil."

EO 14245 provided that "[o]n or after April 2, 2025, a tariff of 25 percent may be imposed on all goods imported into the United States from any country that imports Venezuelan oil," should the Secretary of State "determine in his discretion" that the tariffs should be imposed. EO 14245 relied on the national emergency under IEEPA with respect to Venezuela declared by President Barack Obama in 2015 in Executive Order 13692, which national emergency President Trump said has been "intensified" by the "activities of the Tren de Aragua gang, a transnational criminal organization originating in Venezuela." To date, however, no such tariffs have been imposed under this authority.

Secondary Tariffs and Secondary Sanctions

President Trump has characterized the tariffs imposed by the Tariff EO as "secondary" tariffs. This is not because they are not tariffs—they are—but instead because of the analogy to secondary sanctions, which are a common tool for presidents under IEEPA.

Historically, presidents use IEEPA to impose sanctions on particular countries (such as Russia, Venezuela, or Iran) or individual entities or persons (such as terrorists or transnational criminal organizations) whose conduct they find poses a national-security risk to the United States.

» Page 8

Promotions

« Continued from page 1

of partnership earlier this year.

Latham's Wednesday announcement, like many other law firm releases on promotions, doesn't distinguish between any equity or nonequity partner promotions. Overall, more than 42% of Latham's partners last year were nonequity lawyers, according to American Lawyer data.

The size of Latham's fall promotions had been trending down, with the round of 24 last year. The firm had promoted 34 associates to partner in fall 2023. But the latest figure is closer to where it was in 2022 and 2021, when it promoted 44 associates to partner.

Michelle Carpenter, chair of the firm's associates committee, added in a statement that the promotions reflect "the value we place on building client teams and cultivating the

best legal talent in the industry."

About 38% of Latham's 40 new partners are women, according to the list announced Wednesday.

In general, Big Law firms have continued to double down on growing in partner count this year, as both countercyclical work and transactional demand have increased, especially in the second half of the year.

Some firm leaders have described being "buried" in deal work, and megadeals have surged

entering the fourth quarter. That pattern of demand is "highly unusual," said Bryce Engelland, a senior data analyst for the Thomson Reuters Institute. "At a time when litigation, labor and employment, and even to a minor degree, bankruptcy demand is pushing firms up and up, we're also seeing M&A, corporate and real estate, tax—all of those are doing fantastically at the same time," he said in an interview this week.

McDermott Will & Schulte announced a record partnership class last week after completing a merger earlier this year. Kirkland & Ellis promoted at least 225 lawyers to equity and nonequity partnership, a firm record, although the firm declined to comment on the exact number. Ropes & Gray also announced a class of 21 new partners—all equity—a near-record for the firm, and White & Case named its largest promotion round in three years, bringing in 45 new lawyers to the partnership.

The biggest firms have also added large classes of new associates, despite advances and investment in artificial intelligence, with firms such as Freshfields adding its largest-ever U.S.-based first-year class, and Sullivan & Cromwell and Kirkland adding associate groups in the triple-digits.

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Discovery

« Continued from page 3

with its Second Request obligations. See Complaint at 32, *United States v. UnitedHealth Group Inc.*, No. 1:24-cv-03267 (D. Md. Nov. 12, 2024).

The Antitrust Division alleged that, at the time of its sworn certification, Amedisys "failed to produce millions of documents or disclose the deletion of other documents" as required by the Second Request subpoena. Press Release, U.S. Dep't of Just., Justice Department Sues to Block UnitedHealth Group's Acquisition of Home Health and Hospice Provider Amedisys (Nov. 12, 2024).

Despite Amedisys producing ~2.3 million documents to the DOJ before initially certifying compliance with its Second Request obligations, the DOJ asserted that Amedisys knowingly failed to produce responsive hard-copy documents from senior executives and other sets of documents due to an email archiving system issue. The DOJ also argued that Amedisys's production of an additional ~2.5 million documents in response to DOJ's inquiries in the eight months after its original certification highlighted the deficiency in Amedisys's initial production. Amedisys disputed these allegations, contending that the DOJ's characterizations of its compliance failures were misleading,

and Google as what Slater referred to as "striking examples" of such conduct. Remarks to Ohio State.

In April 2025, the District Court for the Northern District of California found that Apple had defied a 2021 injunction by continuing to engage in prohibited anticompetitive conduct. *Epic Games, Inc. v. Apple Inc.*, 781 F. Supp. 3d 943, 952 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2025). In response, the Court ordered the production of injunction compli-

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Global Report

Frankfurt's Anti-Money Laundering Authority To Tackle Europe's 'Dirty Money' Problem

BY ULRIKE BARTH

AN ESTIMATED \$750 billion in illicit funds flows into Europe's economy each year, with Germany accounting for almost a fifth of the dirty money, followed by the U.K. and France, according to Nasdaq's Verafin.

To combat criminals more effectively, the EU has created the Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) in Frankfurt. It began operations in July and is expected to be fully staffed with more than 400 experts by 2027.

In 2028, AMLA will be directly supervising about 40 cross-border banks deemed to have high money laundering risks, including crypto-asset service providers, and it will coordinate national supervisors and financial intelligence units, aiming to turn 27 different systems into a unified structure.

AMLA Sets the Standard

"Many of the challenges and fines imposed by the supervisory authorities stem from the fact that the European landscape was so fragmented in the area of money laundering," said Andreas Dehio, a partner at Linklaters' banking supervision unit in Frankfurt. "That's why the new AML rulebook is such a huge opportunity, especially for internationally acting companies."

A key part of AMLA's mandate is harmonization. Starting mid-2026, it will develop Regulatory Technical Standards for the AML Single Rulebook. This introduces directly applicable EU-wide rules for the first time, leaving no room for national deviations. This will raise money laundering supervision "to a completely different level," as Clifford Chance white-collar crime and compliance expert Gerson Raiser put it.

As of July 2027, the Money Laundering Regulation will apply directly in all member states, eliminating the patchwork of regulations. For Dehio, the real breakthrough lies not in AMLA's oversight but in the standardization of legal terms.

"Everything that previously applied and was defined by national authorities and national auditors will become obsolete with the new rules," he said. "The difficulty is that we don't yet know which interpretation of the legal terms will prevail."

According to Dehio, the scope of anti-money laundering compliance has already expanded significantly within large international banks and insurance companies, "partly because there are so many ramifications and sub-groups".

If new interpretations of important legal terms are introduced, the



EU has created the Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) in Frankfurt, Germany

entire organization may have to be reviewed and adapted.

Lurking Uncertainties

The changes will standardize due diligence and KYC (Know Your Client) requirements across Europe and significantly expand the group of obligated parties. Aside from crypto service providers, who now face AML obligations for transactions of €1,000 or more, the rules also apply to luxury goods dealers, real estate agents, professional soccer clubs, and crowdfunding platforms.

"For crypto service providers, the rules of the AML package are not that new," Dehio said, "because the entire crypto regulation actually began with money laundering regulation."

Outside of the financial sector, companies may face a greater challenge.

"In the non-financial sector, structures are often not in place or only very rudimentary. Some companies will really have to build a system from the ground up," said Raiser.

They may not even be aware that stricter rules are on the horizon, leading Clifford Chance to reach out to clients who could soon fall under the AML rules.

Consistency Is Key

"In the nonfinancial sector, much will depend on whether national authorities interpret the requirements consistently," Janina Heinz, a partner at Freshfields, said.

National authorities still have some leeway in areas such as managing transparency registers. This includes decisions about who must be reported as the beneficial owner of a company or foundation and under which conditions. The information is also becoming critical in M&A consulting.

"Compliance with anti-money laundering rules now plays a

greater role in due diligence and negotiations than it did in the past," Heinz said.

Compliance errors could prove costly, with fines reaching up to €10 million or 10 percent of global turnover. Simultaneously, the European Banking Authority is tightening its classification of violations, meaning more cases could be deemed "serious" and incur higher penalties.

Clifford Chance's Raiser expects requirements to be monitored strictly at the outset as national authorities may want to demonstrate that they are doing a particularly good job.

The more active AMLA becomes, the more work will flow to advisers. Freshfields partner Heinz expects consulting work will likely increase substantially within the next year, once the AMLA specifies the technical and organizational requirements. Still, she views AML-related consulting as "more of an add-on for existing clients rather than a standalone business area".

Linklaters is taking a more proactive stance, already advising international financial institutions during the implementation and transition phase.

"Harmonization through AMLA and the Single Rulebook is creating a Europe-wide demand for advice—and we are addressing this with a truly pan-European team," Dehio said.

To meet this demand, Linklaters has expanded its European banking regulatory law team. Marc Perrone, a former partner at Freshfields, returned to Linklaters Paris to advise on financial market regulation and transactions involving banks and financial institutions. In Amsterdam, Mariken van Loopik joined from De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek, where she led the financial market law practice group.

Ulrike Barth can be reached at ulrike.bARTH@alm.com.

Cleary, Clifford Chance, Freshfields Advise Space Giants on Deal To Create SpaceX Rival

BY RICK MITCHELL

CLEARY Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, Clifford Chance and Freshfields are advising Europe's top space companies on a preliminary agreement to combine their satellite manufacturing and services businesses to create a global space company to compete with SpaceX.

Toulouse-based aerospace giant Airbus, Paris-based aerospace and defense manufacturer Thales, and Rome-based defense contractor Leonardo announced they have signed a memorandum of understanding to create a company that will employ 25,000 across Europe and generate an estimated €6.5 billion (\$7.5 billion) in annual revenue.

Airbus will hold 35%, and Thales and Leonardo 32.5% each of the joint venture, which aims to strengthen Europe's strategic autonomy in space and "serve as the trusted partner for developing and implementing national sovereign space programs," the companies said.

The announcement comes as Elon Musk's SpaceX has put some 8,700 Starlink satellites into orbit, including 29 on Wednesday.

The Euro space venture could become operational in 2027, subject to regulatory approvals and satisfaction of other closing conditions, the companies said.

Deal Teams

Clifford Chance, French firm Bredin Prat and EY Société D'Avocats are advising Airbus, while Cleary



Airbus factory in Toulouse, France

and KPMG Avocats are counseling Thales and Freshfields is advising Leonardo.

Clifford Chance's pan-European team is coordinated from Paris by M&A and corporate partners Gilles Lebreton and Marianne Pezant. It includes London's Gareth Camp, Frankfurt's Thomas Krecek, Madrid's Luis Alonso, and Milan's Umberto Penco-Salvi.

Bredin Prat's team includes corporate partners Benjamin Kanovitch and Clémence Fallet, competition partners Igor Simic and Yelena Trifounovitch, and tax expert Julien Gayral, among others.

In another recent aerospace defense deal, Gowling WLG advised the U.K. defense ministry on a \$8 billion deal to supply 20 Typhoon fighter jets to Türkiye.

Guillemette Burgala, with antitrust and FDI partners Gian Luca Zampa, tax structuring partner Vicent Daniel Mayeur, and labor law expert Luca Capone, among others.

Cleary's team advising Thales is led by Paris corporate partners Pierre-Yves Chabert and Rodolphe Elineau with competition partner Frédéric de Bure and tax partner Anne-Sophie Coustel, and antitrust partner Patrick Bock in Brussels, among others.

In another recent aerospace defense deal, Gowling WLG advised the U.K. defense ministry on a \$8 billion deal to supply 20 Typhoon fighter jets to Türkiye.

Rick Mitchell can be reached at rick.mitchell@alm.com.

Clifford Chance Scores Win in Super League Match Against FIFA's UEFA

BY ALEX D'ELIA

IN A VICTORY for Clifford Chance's clients, Madrid's High Court has upheld a 2024 ruling that found FIFA and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) abused their market dominance by preventing football clubs and players from participating in alternative competitions.

UEFA, LaLiga, and the Royal Spanish Football Federation had appealed the earlier decision, but the Madrid court rejected their challenges on October 29.

The dispute arose from the breakaway Super League announced by 12 clubs from Spain, Italy and England in 2021. The project swiftly collapsed within days of its announcement after fierce public criticism and rejection from FIFA. The European Superleague Company sued UEFA and FIFA in the Commercial Court of Madrid, claiming they had abused their dominant position in the market.

Clifford Chance successfully represented the European Superleague Company and A22 Sports Management, both based in Spain, in responding to the appeals. The team was led by partners Fernando Irurzun Montoro, Luis Alonso, and Miguel Odriozola.

Ashurst and Spanish law firm MLAB represented UEFA in its dismissed appeal, according to the judgment. Ashurst's team included partners José Antonio Rodríguez Álvarez and Alberto Manzanares Entrena, working alongside MLAB's managing partner Helmut Brokelmann.

Marimón Abogados counseled LaLiga, led by partners José Marcelino Pajares Villarroya and Yolanda Martínez Mata. The Royal Spanish Football Federation was advised by its director of legal counsel Jordi Aparisi Seguí.

The appellants were ordered to



The Super League teams jerseys

pay the cost of the proceedings. They have 20 days from the notification of the judgment to appeal to the First Chamber of Spain's Supreme Court.

The Long-Running Case

Before the Commercial Court of Madrid in 2021, the European Superleague Company alleged that FIFA and UEFA's conduct constituted abuse of a dominant position in the market, citing a statement by FIFA and its member confederations, including UEFA, that refused to recognize the formation of the Super League and warned participating clubs and players that they would be expelled from competitions organized by FIFA and its confederations.

Those clubs included some of the biggest football names in competition including FC Barcelona, AC Milan, Juventus, Liverpool, Chelsea, and Tottenham Hotspur, among others, and with them star players like Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

The Commercial Court of Madrid referred questions to the European Union's Court of Justice, which decided in 2023 that the FIFA and UEFA rules requiring

the creation of inter-club football competitions to be subject to their prior approval were unlawful. The court did not rule specifically on the Super League project, however. The European court also found that the rules giving FIFA and UEFA exclusive control over commercial rights were to restrict competition.

The Commercial Court of Madrid issued its decision last year, partially upholding the European Superleague Company's claims and declaring that FIFA and UEFA did abuse their dominant position by granting themselves the discretionary power to prohibit participation in alternative competitions.

Real Madrid, one of the LaLiga clubs behind the attempted Super League breakaway of 2021, issued a statement on Wednesday saying the dismissal of the appeals "confirms UEFA seriously breached European Union competition law in the Super League case."

The club said it will request compensation from UEFA for the "substantial damages" it has suffered. Real Madrid has been contacted for comment.

Alex D'Elia can be reached at alex.delia@alm.com.

White & Case Partner Named Fifth Most Influential Black Person in UK

BY HABIBA CULLEN-JAFAR

A WHITE & Case partner has been recognized as the fifth most influential Black person in the U.K.

Debt finance partner Joshua Siaw MBE placed sixth on the 2026 Powerlist, an annual list that celebrates some of the U.K.'s most influential Black people.

Siaw, a partner who is also director of the firm's Africa practice, advises corporations, governments, banks and other financial institutions on cross-border deals in Africa.

This is the 11th consecutive year that he has been recognized on the list, having placed sixth last year. Commenting on his achievement, Siaw said: "I am honored to be included among such influential role models who have used their platforms to create positive and lasting social impact in communities across the U.K. and around the world."

There were a number of other lawyers on the list, including Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner's global senior partner Segun Osuntokun, DLA Piper employment partner Sandra Wallace, who also acts as deputy managing partner and



Joshua Siaw, White & Case

managing director for international practice groups, and Kingsley Napley partner Sandra Paul.

Beyond the law, the powerlist includes a number of other personalities including football pundit Ian Wright, the Bank of England's chief financial officer Afua Kyei and actor Idris Elba.

Data published by Law.com earlier this month continues to show that ethnic diversity remains dis-

proportionately low among senior lawyers. The data showed that Black partners accounted for only 0.67% of all partners across the U.K.

Siaw's firm, White & Case, in fact emerged as the firm with the most ethnically diverse partnership with 20% identifying as ethnically diverse.

AHabiba Cullen-Jafar can be reached at habiba.cullen-jafar@alm.com.

EEOC

«Continued from page 2 the leading causes of action in EEOC cases in fiscal 2025, the law firm found.

However, "you'll see there are no filings with respect to gender identity or sexual orientation," Maatman said.

"That is the hand of the Trump administration de-emphasizing that particular cause of action that first arose during the Obama and Biden administrations, where EEOC was an active filer in that particular space."

In February, citing the administration's executive order on "gender ideology extremism," the EEOC announced it would withdraw seven lawsuits it had filed on that issue.

Cases brought under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act once again comprised the majority of cases filed in fiscal 2025—about 50%, versus 58% of filings in the previous year, Riley said.

That was followed by EEOC filings in Americans with Disabilities Act cases—32% of all cases vs. 42% in 2024.

There was an uptick in filings invoking the Age Discrimination



The lobby of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

in Employment Act—nine vs. six in fiscal 2024—and in the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act—six compared with three in fiscal 2023. Because the law went into effect in June 2023, it was in place for only the final three months of that year.

Notably absent were cases filed under the Equal Pay Act or Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, which had been priorities under the previous administration, Riley said.

As in the previous fiscal year, the hospitality and health care industries bore the brunt of EEOC lawsuits. But there was a big decrease in enforcement actions against retailers, from 23% in fiscal 2024 to 11% of cases in 2025.

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IN BRIEF

« Continued from page 1
He joins from **Simes Law** which he founded in 2023.

• **Blank Rome** has added **Roland Rivera Santiago** as a patent attorney in the firm's intellectual property group in New York. He joins from **Leason Ellis**.

• **Sheppard Mullin** has added the following intellectual property litigation attorneys: Partners **Steven Pepe**, **Kevin Post** and **Matthew Shapiro**; associates **John Healy, Jr.**, **Patrick Lavery**, **Brian Lebow**, **Michael Morales** and **Lance Shapiro**; and special counsels **Hyun Joong Daniel Kim**, **Alexander Middleton** and **Jolene Wang**. All join from **Ropes & Gray**.

• **Falcon Rappaport & Berkman** has promoted **Dana Walsh Sivak** and **Allen Abraham** to equity partners. Abraham has also been named chief operating officer.

• **George Evans** has joined **BCLP** as a partner in its real estate practice. He was formerly with **Goulston & Storrs**.

• **The Aylstock, Witkin, Kreis & Overholtz Legal Network** has hired **Hillary Nappi** to lead its New York-based Survivor Advocate Attorneys, the Network's newly launched sexual assault practice group. Prior to joining she was a partner at **Hach Rose Schirripa & Cheverie**.

• **Duane Morris** has added **Seth Rokosky** as a partner in the firm's trial practice group. Prior to joining, he was with **Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher**. In addition, Judge **Robert E. Grossman** (ret.) has rejoined the firm as of counsel in its business reorganization and financial restructuring practice group. Grossman served as a U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Eastern District of New York from 2008 until his retirement in June 2025. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was a partner at Duane Morris.

• **Seward & Kissel** has elected partner **Daniel Bresler** as chair of its management committee, effective Feb. 1, 2026. He will succeed **James Cofer** who has served as chair for more than 11 years and will now lead the firm's tax practice.

• **Goldberg Segalla** has added **Avery Aulds** as an associate to the firm's defense base act and war hazards compensation act group, and **Davinderpal (Dave) Singh** to the firm's transportation practice group.

• **Malkin Law** has appointed **Steven Schain** as of counsel to the firm's cannabis and hemp practice.

• **Chaim Stern** has joined **Alston & Bird** as a partner in its federal & international tax group.

• **Barnes & Thornburg** has added partner **Brantley Hawkins**, and associates **David Sur** and **Drew Bader** to the firm's corporate practice. Hawkins was previously a partner at **Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres**. Sur joins from **Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison**. Bader was

formerly at **Hughes Hubbard and Reed**.

• **Pryor Cashman** has added partner **Caitlin Connolly** to its family law group. She joins from **Aronson, Mayefsky & Sloan** where she was also a partner.

— Patricia Kane

Cooley Mandates 4-Day In-Office Policy in 2026

Cooley will require all of its U.S. and Europe-based lawyers to return to the office four days per week beginning next year, Cooley confirmed to The American Lawyer on Wednesday.

The policy will take effect Jan. 1, 2026.

Cooley joins a growing list of Am Law 100 firms that have increased their in-office requirements to four days per week within the last year, including Latham & Watkins, Covington & Burling, DLA Piper, Duane Morris, and several others. Sullivan & Cromwell, meanwhile, returned to five days a week in the office at the beginning of this year.

Though the change at Cooley affects European and U.S. offices, some of the firm's offices in Asia have already been working in the office five days a week, a source familiar with the firm noted.

— Samson Amore

Vending Machine Company's Alleged 'Creditor-on-Creditor Violence' Prompts Lawsuit in Manhattan US Court

Hedge funds are pressing an antitrust claim against the vending machine company, Selecta Group, and its majority bondholders, alleging that they violated U.S. competition law by using a cooperation agreement to devalue minority creditors' debt.

Represented by Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath, the hedge funds alleged a "concerted, anticompetitive and clandestine" between Selecta and a group of majority bondholders to transfer "nearly all the economic value" in Selecta Group to the majority creditors.

The effect of the Selecta restructuring was to take value from our clients and give that value to the holders that took control of the company, even though before the transaction both groups of noteholders held the same first lien debt," said plaintiffs attorney, James Millar.

"This conduct is not only a breach of the underlying agreements, but also, given their freeze out of our clients through the cooperation agreement, violation of the U.S. antitrust laws."

The case was filed on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The lawsuit targets Selecta Group, its Dutch parent corporation, several affiliates and a group of majority bondholders—Invesco Ltd., Man Group

Plc, Strategic Value Partners LLC and Diameter Capital Partners LP—that entered into a cooperation agreement with each other.

Increasingly common within U.S. restructuring transactions, cooperation agreements are arrangements in which lenders agree not to enter into a deal with the borrower away from other lenders.

In a call with the New York Law Journal and Law.com, Samir Parikh, a Wake Forest Law professor whose scholarship focuses on mass tort restructurings and business reorganizations, explained that cooperation agreements have historically been used by creditors to protect against a distressed borrower. By working together, the group has a chance at higher recovery, he said.

But in their complaint, the hedge funds allege that the majority bondholders used a cooperation agreement to collude with Selecta to trigger a foreclosure in the Netherlands. In prior statements, Selecta said this restructuring deal allowed it to obtain €330 million in new funding and to reduce its outstanding debt by €1.1 billion.

The plaintiffs, however, said that the proceeding transferred all of Selecta's shares to an entity allegedly under the majority bondholders' control and replaced the minority creditors' first lien notes with "near worthless" third out notes.

Those third out notes—trading for approximately 15-20 cents on the euro—can only be traded up in exchange for valuable protections, the plaintiffs claim. The first lien notes held by the majority bondholders are trading at approximately 75 cents on the euro, according to the complaint.

"Taken together, these steps constitute a striking (and disturbing) example of 'creditor-on-creditor violence,'" the plaintiffs said.

Selecta and Invesco declined to comment. Representatives for Man Group, SVP and Diameter didn't respond to Thursday requests for comment.

Parikh said that cooperation agreements aren't typically used the way the plaintiffs alleged.

The complaint alleges "it was actually used... as a means to exclude minority creditors—to formalize the exclusion of minority creditors," he said.

Although Parikh called the alleged misconduct "weird," he pointed out that the Second and Seventh circuits have established that creditors cooperating to coordinate recovery "is not the sort of activity of which antitrust laws are concerned."

"I don't know if this is going to go anywhere," Parikh said.

The case was brought under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, and the New York General Business Law.

— Alyssa Aquino

Off the Front

Deal Watch

« Continued from page 1
merge)—when in fact the shares are not worth \$10 per share," he wrote in an email.

The SPAC shares, due to cash and equity drained by sponsors, is worth more in the realm of \$7 or \$8 per share.

"This is inherent in the SPAC structure," Klausner wrote. "The result is that SPAC share prices, post-merger, fall at least by that amount, and typically much more. The market finally realized this a couple of years ago. As a result, (a) any SPACs that were created saw essentially 100% redemptions, or (b) a failure to merge and hence liquidation, SPACs then vanished for a while."

They didn't vanish forever, of course. A major change, Klausner said, is in part responsible for the surge of SPACs this year.

"SPACs have recently come back but with a big difference," he wrote. "Public shareholders redeem nearly 100% of their shares. So, unlike before, public shareholders are not hurt. This also means that the only investment in private companies is from the SPAC sponsor and perhaps other private investors."

Klausner also said that a new SPAC structure—created by Canadian businessman Chamath Palihapitiya, and which removes dilution and cash extraction—could also catch on, incentivizing investors.

Palihapitiya previously made some news as an executive at Facebook. He oversaw the rollout of the advertising platform Facebook Beacon in 2007, which was later the target of a class action lawsuit due to privacy concerns before being discontinued in 2009.

"For both this SPAC and the other recent SPACs, the test will be whether they succeed in merging and then what happens to their post-merger share price," Klausner wrote.

"Perhaps Chamath's structure will catch on, in which case SPACs would not be as abusive to non-redemding public shareholders as they were in the past."

Either way, Klausner said the type of company that would want to go public via a SPAC, without public investors, would be very specific. "From a target point of view today, merging with a SPAC is a way to go public, but it is not a way to raise significant amounts of equity investment," he wrote. "It also means that private companies will bear much of the cost inherent in the SPAC structure, since there are no public shareholders around today when the merger occurs. So, the private companies that merge with SPACs must be desperate to go public and must not have immediate needs for cash—and no access to the IPO market, which would provide a much cheaper way to go public."

Klausner did note in a separate email that there is still a lot of money to be made for the sponsors, just perhaps not as much as in the past.

"Even with 100% redemption, sponsors can make a lot of money, though not as much as a few years ago. They get many shares in the post-merger company for free, and they can negotiate a good deal with a target desperate to merge," he wrote.

Deals on the Radar

The information regarding the deals below was derived exclusively from Law.com Radar.

American Water Works and Essential Utilities have agreed to combine in an all-stock, tax-free merger as a regulated U.S. water and wastewater public utility with a combined enterprise value of approximately \$63 billion. The transaction, announced Oct. 27, is expected to close by the end of the first quarter of 2027. Camden, New Jersey-based American Water was advised by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Essential Utilities, which is based in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, was counseled by a Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a Latham & Watkins corporate team led by partners Julian Kleinendorfer, Owen Alexander and David Zaheer. Plymouth was represented by Morrison & Foerster and Alston & Bird. The Morrison & Foerster team was led by M&A partners Brian Stadler and Erica Egenes. Ares, which is based in Los Angeles, was counseled by Kirkland & Ellis and a L

Off the Front

Brown

« Continued from page 1

their own coupon, for Breen Laundry Detergent. The fake coupons were published one Sunday in a small handful of papers in New York. Soon, stores across the country redeemed the phony clippings. In that one move, PIS made scores of cases.

"The thing about Breen Laundry Detergent is that it's an illusion," the judge said. "There was no such thing."

For Brown, who has been practicing magic longer than he's been practicing law, the coupon offers valuable lessons in the art of deception—and what it takes to get to the truth.

Brown says he's found that practicing magic, something he's done since his youth and continues to do today, gives him some insight into trickery.

Magic is rooted in subterfuge: misdirection, illusion, carefully crafted tricks designed to distract and mislead.

The legal system, at least in theory, is devoted to uncovering the truth. A judge's role, Brown said, is to tease out what's true and what's not.

"My downtime I spend with people who are openly deceptive; they deceive for a living," he said during an interview.

"Figuring out the truth, separating the truth from untruth, is not science," he explained. "It's art."

In Plain Sight

While he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York earlier in his legal career, Brown prosecuted Dr. Michael Swango, a serial-killing physician believed to have murdered more than 60 people in the U.S. and Africa throughout the 1990s.

Swango ultimately pleaded guilty in three deaths and is now serving a mandatory life sentence in solitary confinement in the Colorado-based supermax facility ADX Florence. But investigating the murderous doctor was an uphill battle.

"The problem with Dr. Swango—when there's a murder, something happens," Brown explained. "There's a gunshot, there's someone stabbed, someone screams, someone strangled, right? It's different. It stands out."

Swango committed his crimes in plain sight, the judge said, while doing things doctors do every day. He gave people shots or added something to their intravenous bag. And he sometimes committed the murders surrounded by groups of other people who had no idea the person in front of them was being killed.

In the end, the office was able to charge the case by looking at the anomalies in his records and actions: Medical entries that didn't make sense, or testimony about Swango's odd habits, like bringing his own syringe.

"The notion of hiding in plain sight is a really big issue when you're investigating the truth," Brown said. "You have to look for the outliers."

Misdirection comes up a lot in court, Brown said. In the way a magician might loudly proclaim a box is solid while tapping on everything but the bottom of the box, experts or witnesses often talk around information they're trying to avoid.

"When you're trying to find a deception, you have to pay attention to the details," the judge explained. "As a magician, you look at a trick, and we talk about this all the time: There's always a tell. There's always some part of the trick I don't want to get into, right? And how do we uncover the tell? Once you see that in action, it does help you realize the situation."

'Magic Is a Safe Space'

While some judges may respond to the scrutiny of the job by becoming more private, Brown said he's not concerned about people knowing he practices magic.

"I'm unlike my fellow judges," he said. "I think I probably score higher, maybe dangerously high on the extrovert scale."

All judges need an outlet to deal with the weight of their work. Magic is his. In the realm of magic, Brown is an inventor, an author, a lecturer and a wand-maker. He is a prolific writer and performer, whose personal website treats viewers not only to videos, such as his performance on the television show "Penn & Teller: Fool Us," but also delightful accounts of the patent litigation surrounding stage illusions such as the "saw the woman in half" trick.

"Magic is a safe space," he explained. "Who cares if I do card tricks, right? I'm not talking about my cases. I'm not talking about confidential information; I'm not giving up grand jury secrets. This is what I like to do in my spare time. And please emphasize spare."

Brown could only recall one

time that the hobby was an issue.

He was overseeing a sentencing,

some time ago, and had received

hundreds and hundreds of

submissions ahead of the hearing.

One night, he was reading letters

on the defendant's behalf. On the

last page, in the last submission,

he encountered a problem.

A relative of the defendant

wrote that they'd purchased one

of Brown's books on wand-making.

The writer said a child family

member made a wand and used it

to wish the defendant would come

home soon.

"I looked at the lawyer, and I

said, 'I read to page 564 [of] your

submission, and on that page, the

very last page, I found the reason

that I now have to recuse myself,

because she said she bought my

book,'" the judge recalled.

The lawyer talked to his clients

and reported the whole thing was a

lie: There was no purchase or wish.

Yet Brown, who would have been

approximately \$.40 cents richer

had there been such a purchase,

still recused himself.



Above clockwise from bottom left: Judge Gary Brown performs a card trick. He reveals an empty box, from which he conjures an American flag. At left, Brown presents a photograph with U.S. Circuit Court Judge Guido Calabresi, who was the Dean of Yale Law School at the time.

RYLAND WEST/ALM (5)

how to hold people's attention, how to interest them in things, how to present things in a way that is helpful to keep jurors focused, to get litigants to realize things."

While formal trickery should be used almost never, investigations do sometimes toe that line, he noted.

For example, working with informants. Brown cited a case—not his—in which a member of an organized crime group flipped. During his cooperation, the man was ordered to go assault someone, which he could not do while working for the government.

"They put him in a body cast," the judge recalled. The informant told people he'd been in a car accident and was therefore unable to move forward with, as Brown put it, "beating the stuffing out of someone."

As a bonus, the agents concealed a microphone under the cast and recorded an inculpatory interaction.

"It's trickery, right?" the judge noted. "But there is trickery in detecting deception."

Controlling the Flow of Information

There is a surprising amount of overlap between magic and the law.

The performance of magic teaches one to speak in public. It teaches an awareness of hand gestures and of the speed of one's speech. It teaches improvisation during an unexpected answer on cross, or the ability to command a jury's attention.

Both have observers, a stage and somewhat of a script. And some of magic's biggest names have found themselves in legal trouble.

"Mentalism and many kinds of tricks are often about controlling the flow of information," Brown observed. "You start off showing somebody something, but not telling them certain aspects [of it], until you get to the moment

where you want to make a revelation. It's the same thing. When we speak as litigators, we're making an argument. We want to save a certain point and build up to that point and then bring it home."

Brown discovered magic in the way many kids did; he thinks he received a magic kit around the holidays and "fell in love." He frequented magic shops growing up and had a beloved magic teacher as a teen. He never stopped liking magic, but it came in ebbs and flows through the years.

It remains a sizable part of his life, sometimes in unexpected places. Brown's most cited opinion is a social security case where he managed to successfully link the testimony of vocational experts to a Magic 8 Ball.

In chambers, Brown keeps a framed photo of himself and Guido Calabresi, Senior Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The photo, snapped by Brown's now-wife, was taken around

1986 when Brown was a student at Yale Law School. Calabresi, then the Dean, annually threw holiday parties for the children of the law school community, Brown said. Calabresi solicited volunteers to entertain the kids, and Brown signed up.

But of all the volunteers, only Brown and a piano player showed up, leaving the trio to entertain some 40 kids under 10 years old.

Calabresi sang, Brown did some tricks, and somehow, they managed to entertain the hordes of children for an afternoon. And because of that experience, Brown said Calabresi became his mentor.

"I always tell the young interns and clerks—this is what networking is," he explained. "It's not something where there's the little piece of cheese and wine... You make real connections to people."

Brown credits that experience with getting him his first clerkship, which he says was snagged with a letter of recommendation from Calabresi. Brown graduated summa cum laude from Columbia University. After Yale Law School, he clerked for U.S. District Judge Jacob Mishler of the Eastern District of New York and then became an Assistant U.S. Attorney at EDNY. He departed civil service for a stint of increasingly senior roles at a software company and then returned to the bench as an EDNY Magistrate Judge in 2011. While a magistrate, he garnered attention for a ruling in Superstorm Sandy litigation that said insurance companies appeared to have manipulated flood insurance claims.

Brown has the unusual distinction of being nominated by former U.S. President Barack Obama but having his nomination expire after he was reported out of committee at the end of the congressional session. He was nominated again by President Donald Trump, then in his first term, and received his judicial commission in December 2019.

At his confirmation hearing, the first question from Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Chuck Grassley was: "So Judge Brown, is it true that you're an amateur magician?"

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Off the Front / Outside Counsel / Deal Watch

Maron

« *Continued from page 1*

Maron, 54, is running on the Republican/Conservative line to be district attorney in Manhattan. That seat is currently held by DA Alvin Bragg, who she says has "Soros-backed progressive ideas." Also on the ticket is former career prosecutor Diana Florence.

Maron has centered her campaign on "restoring accountability" in the criminal justice system. She wants to roll back cashless bail and amend "Raise the Age" and discovery laws. She would vote to keep Rikers Island open and prosecute all offenses available under the penal code.

A career public defender with Legal Aid Society, Maron knows the system and the defendants she would be prosecuting if elected. But she has faced criticism from former colleagues and others about her views on race, education, trans youth, and what she told the New York Law Journal was her "refusal to disavow" a group of PTA moms the Southern Poverty Law Center placed on an extremist watchlist.

In its evaluation of district attorney candidates, the New York City Bar Association's committee rated her "not approved."

"The voters are the ultimate arbiters," Maron said response to the rating.

Experience

Maron spent over 20 years working as a public defender in Manhattan and the Bronx.

She knows the system, she said, because she's spent countless hours interviewing, talking, interacting with and representing defendants.

"I know how the criminal justice system works [...] I know exactly the profile of the people who are committing the crimes, in fact, better than some of the prosecutors, because I worked with them over the years," she said.

Maron worked as a trial attorney in both boroughs and as director of training at Legal Aid Society, training new incoming classes of public defenders and managing ongoing programs. She left Legal Aid Society in 2022 after suing the organization for constructive discharge due to a hostile work environment. A federal judge in Manhattan dismissed the suit.

If elected, Maron said she would prosecute all crimes, including lower-level offenses that are not currently charged.

Maron cited the now-infamous "Day One Memo" released by Bragg at the beginning of his first term, which initially directed the office to stop prosecuting wide swaths of crimes. The memo was returned by the DA following backlash.

"I would prosecute all of the offenses in the New York penal law," she said.

She also attacked the rate of case dismissals in Bragg's office. Prosecutors, including Bragg, have appealed to Albany to change aspects of now-highly punitive laws passed to reform discovery in the state. A recent change in the law

is expected to ease those burdens.

"It's bad public policy," she said of Bragg's progressive prosecutorial approach. "It's bad for all New Yorkers, and it's part and parcel of Alvin Bragg's version of how we should all live, and I reject it."

Maron said she has no current plans to reorganize the office and has not yet assembled a leadership team. She said she imagines leadership would be composed of former prosecutors, but she would also consider those with a background similar to hers.

If elected, "Day one is to walk into the office and say hello to all the people that work there." Plus, "tearing up" Bragg's 'Day One' memo," she said.

"It's setting a new tone for the office," she said of initial priorities. "Our job is to make people more safe, and the way we do that is by getting the worst offenders and the people who are most likely to commit crime off the street."

Maron has no qualms about her lack of prosecutorial experience.

"I know how the criminal courts work," she said. "What [assistant district attorneys] need from their boss, from the person at the top, is someone who encourages them and gives them the license and the rein and the instruction and the management to do their job well."

"I don't think internal reorganization is going to produce the kind of change that we need to see as much as, I think, tearing up Alvin Bragg's 'Day One' memo and going back to a time where we prosecute."

Outside of public defense, Maron's work experience includes a stint in a public-private partnership with what was then-called the Randall's Island Sports Foundation. She interned at Legal Aid and went straight back after law school.

She's also spent time on community boards, created an education advocacy group to "defend meritocracy," and has done consulting for other groups such as the Jewish Institute of Liberal Values.

Progressive Prosecutors

Maron said she once considered herself "un-ironically" progressive, but now does not recognize that label.

"Where the progressive world has gone in my adult years is to a place that I don't relate to, that is not part of me," she observed. "It's become fiercely anti-Israel, which is barely cover for being anti-Jewish. Criminal justice reform is a perfect example of this. There's a weird connection between actually harming the very people that the far left claims it wants to help."

"The whole concept of like progressive justice is meant to help the people that were supposedly being harmed by the justice system," she continued. "Poor people, Black people, people who were oppressed in some way. But of course, when the murder rate goes up, whose numbers in the homicide victim category rise the fastest, it's young Black men. So you're not doing much by helping people when you institute reforms that get them killed."

The New York City Police Department in June reported record-low murder rates for the first five

months of 2025. Rape and felony assaults are up, per the data.

The states' criminal justice reform was "too extreme," she said. As a defense attorney, she believes there were "major" discovery issues pre-reform, but "pre-reform was better than what we have now."

"We've shifted it so far in one direction that one side doesn't even have to make a showing, and the other side bears all of the downside," she said of discovery obligations.

Cashless bail and "Raise the Age" laws also went too far, she said, saying bail laws were "100 times better" pre-reform than they are now.

"You can grant that each one of those law changes might have come from a good place, a desire to make sure that the criminal justice system is fair to the accused, which certainly I think it should be," she explained.

Trump and Immigration

The Manhattan DA's Office came under intense public scrutiny when Bragg became the first law enforcement officer to indict then-former President Donald Trump prior to his reelection. The Manhattan business records case was the only one of four indictments to make it to trial.

Some have questioned the case, which charged Trump with falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment to adult film star Stormy Daniels. Trump was found guilty by a Manhattan jury and, following his re-election to president, sentenced to unconditional discharge.

Maron said she didn't think the case should ever have been brought.

"What a phenomenal and, like, grotesque waste of resources," she said of Trump case. "If you see the role of the DA as keeping New Yorkers safe, and you listen to Alvin Bragg constantly bellyaching that he doesn't have the resources to keep people safe, you have to ask yourself: Why in the world would you spend that kind of money to prosecute a case that did nothing to make the people who walk our streets, the people who live here, the people who pay the taxes, more safe?"

That case is under appeal.

As for federal enforcement in the city, Maron said she would oppose agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement entering courthouses.

"You have to make sure the halls of justice are available to crime victims and crime witnesses without fear of deportation," she said. "That being said, if there's a valid removal for somebody who is deportable and is someone who's wanted for a criminal offense, or who's convicted of a criminal offense, the local authorities have to cooperate with federal authorities. Lawlessness isn't excused because you disagree with the person in the White House."

Departure From Legal Aid Society

In 2020, Maron took a sabbatical from Legal Aid Society to pursue a run for New York City Council. During her sabbatical, she authored an opinion piece in the New York Post

titled: "Racial Obsessions Make It Impossible for NYC Schools to Treat Parents, Kids As People."

As U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla of the Southern District of New York put it, the op-ed decried what Maron felt was the Department of Education's "endorsement of the 'chilling doctrine called anti-racism,'" which she asserted "insists on defining everyone by race, invites discrimination[,] and divides all thought and behavior along a racial axis."

In response to the op-ed, the Black Attorneys of Legal Aid, a group within the union of Legal Aid attorneys, issued a public statement calling Maron's viewpoint "racist," and calling Maron "a classic example of what 21st century racism looks like."

Legal Aid Society then followed with its own statement, chiding her "racist perspective" and questioning the ability of a public defender to do the job if they do not support an anti-racist mandate.

In an interview with the New York Law Journal, Maron noted that many of her detractors did not have children, or did not have children in public schools.

Maron filed suit against Legal Aid in 2021, alleging the statements were false and that she'd been singled out as a White woman.

The lawsuit claimed a hostile work environment and constructive termination, stating she could no longer return to work because the statements from BALA and LAS were so discriminatory that they altered the terms and conditions of her employment.

Legal Aid moved to dismiss the action, alleging Maron failed to allege that the conduct was motivated by her race as opposed to her viewpoint, which is not a protected characteristic under federal civil rights law.

Polk Failla dismissed the lawsuit in 2022, finding that the hostile work environment claims failed because Maron did not allege conduct "sufficiently severe or pervasive" to satisfy the Title VII.

"Plaintiff was not exposed to a hostile environment, especially given the fact that she was on sabbatical doing work unconnected to her role as a public defender at the time the statements at issue were released," the judge wrote.

Polk Failla also dismissed the claim for constructive discharge, as Maron failed to allege in the pleadings that she had resigned from LAS.

During an interview in October 2025, Maron said she still feels she was "effectively terminated" but acknowledged Polk Failla disagreed.

"It was plain as day, I was being targeted as a white woman by parts of Legal Aid," she said. "The federal judge [...] said that [the alleged conduct] was neither severe nor pervasive. She was wrong about that. I lived through it. It was both severe and pervasive."

Asked about Maron's departure, a spokesperson with Legal Aid Society said Maron resigned, as she declined to return at the conclusion of her sabbatical.

"Maron's current assertion that she was 'effectively terminated' is directly contradicted by the court's finding," the spokesperson said.

Education and Trans Youth

Since leaving Legal Aid, Maron says she has focused on "education advocacy" through work with various organizations. She lost a run for New York City Council in 2021 and a run for U.S. Congress in 2022.

Maron co-founded Parent Leaders for Accelerated Curriculum and Education (PLACE) but stepped down as co-president in 2023.

As a member of the Manhattan District 2 Community Education Council, Maron sponsored a resolution that urged the city's school system to review and reconsider the gender guidelines for school sports.

David Banks, then-NYC Schools chancellor, called the resolution "hateful." Banks removed Maron from the council in 2024, after she called the anonymous author of a student newspaper op-ed a "coward."

The editorial branded the war in Gaza a "genocide."

Maron was later reinstated by a federal judge, who wrote her removal may have been unconstitutional. Maron was not reelected to the position.

In 2023, education publication The 74 reported that Maron sent private messages to a parent chat stating: "There is no such thing as trans kids [because] there is no such thing as transition i.e. changing your sex."

In two subsequent messages, she wrote: "Adults should be free to drug & surgically modify their bodies as they choose[...]" and "have their civil rights respected but children should not be drugged or operated on."

Asked how she would square her views on gender ideology with the job of Manhattan's top prosecutor, Maron noted she used to represent trans youth, sometimes runaways, who would be arrested for prostitution.

"I think you can entirely be respectful of human beings that are walking a path that is very different from the one you would walk, or that you would wish for anybody, while having a visceral horror about what's going on with children in this country with regard to gender ideology," she said.

If elected, she said the employees of the Manhattan DA's Office can identify however they want.

"That's their own damn business," she said. "They can call themselves nonbinary as much as they want. They're either a man or a woman, because all human beings are a man or a woman. And, you know, I don't have to buy into other people's belief system."

She likened the identity to religion, saying she doesn't have to partake in Christianity or Islam just because staff do.

"Why in the world would somebody running around calling themselves non-binary affect my ability to work with them in a professional context," she said. "If they want me to bend the knee of their ideology and put up signs and calling men women and calling women men and like – No, I'm not going to do that."

In the debate hosted by Spectrum News NY1, Maron confirmed she would prosecute hate crimes against those attacked due to their gender identity.

While some voters may not agree with her on certain points, she says her law enforcement vision aligns with what the city needs.

"There's been an effort to paint me as sort of far right, or extreme, by people who are, in fact, very far left and very extreme in their points of view," she observed. "I think my take on what we need, in terms of safety in our streets and our subways, aligns with the vast majority of New Yorkers who are distressed at seeing how many deeply mentally ill, homeless people, often drug addicted, are on our streets and in our subways."

Maron called herself a realist and described her campaign as a difficult "uphill battle."

"Ultimately, the city will self-correct, and self-correcting on public safety is going to probably lead the way," she concluded. "I don't know that it's going to happen on this election cycle, but it will happen eventually, and I'll just be prepared to say I told you so."

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Deals

« *Continued from page 6*

Hughes Hubbard corporate partners Michael Traube and Javad Husain lead the team that is advising Cantor Equity Partners II, Inc., a special purpose acquisition company sponsored by an affiliate of Cantor Fitzgerald, on entering into a definitive business combination agreement with Securitize, the world's leading platform for tokenizing real-world assets, through which Securitize will become a publicly-listed company. Davis Polk is serving as legal adviser to Securitize. Skadden is serving as legal adviser to Citi and CF&Co in connection with their roles as co-placement agents.

IPOs:

JST Group Corp. Ltd. announced its initial public offering and listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in reliance on Rule 144A and Regulation S. The gross proceeds from the offering amounted to approximately \$2.1 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$270 million) before giving effect to the exercise of the over-allotment option. Shenzhen, China-based JST Group was advised by Davis Polk & Wardwell partner Jason Xu.

Gigabit, a Malaysia-based provider of internet hosting and technology services, filed with the SEC to raise up to \$5 million in an initial public offering. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia-based Gigabit was advised by Loeb & Loeb partner Lawrence Venick; Harneys; and the Ong Eu Jin Partnership. D. Boral Capital, which acted as the underwriter, was counseled by Sichenzia Ross Ference Carmel partner Ross Carmel.

Duke Holding, which provides shipping and third-party logistics services between East Asia and the United States, filed with the SEC to raise up to \$6 million in an initial public offering. Ontario, California-based Duke Holding was advised by Hunter Taubman Fischer & Li. US Tiger Securities Inc., which acted as the underwriter, was counseled by VCL Law.

Gigabit, a Malaysia-based provider of internet hosting and technology services, filed with the SEC to raise up to \$5 million in an initial public offering. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia-based Gigabit was advised by Loeb & Loeb partner Lawrence Venick; Harneys; and the Ong Eu Jin Partnership. D. Boral Capital, which acted as the underwriter, was counseled by Sichenzia Ross Ference Carmel partner Ross Carmel.

Debt Offerings:

Truist Financial Corp. announced a \$1.25 billion in aggregate principal notes offering. Charlotte, North Carolina-based Truist Financial was advised by Mayer Brown. The underwriters were counseled by Sullivan & Cromwell partner Catherine Clarkin.

The Viridium Group announced an 850 million euro (\$989 million) subordinated bond offering. The offering is closely linked to the recently completed acquisition of the Viridium Group by a consortium of investors consisting of T&D Holdings, Allianz, BlackRock and others. T&D Holdings, Allianz SE and BlackRock were advised by Hengeler Mueller partners Carl-Philipp Eberlein and Alexander Rang. Counsel information for the Viridium Group, which is based in Luxembourg, was not immediately available.

Energy company YPF SA announced a \$700 million secured term loan facility. Buenos Aires, Argentina-based YPF was advised by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton partners Matthew Brigham and Juan Giraldez.

NRG Riverside, a lessor of specialized waste vehicles, announced the refinancing of its 455 million pound (\$604 million) debt structure. Skelmersdale, United Kingdom-based NRG Riverside was advised by a Kirkland & Ellis team including partners James Boswell, Alexandra Holden and James McGivern.

Kaiser Aluminum Corp. announced a \$500 million aggregate principal notes offering. The initial purchasers were advised by a Latham & Watkins capital markets team led by partners Stelios Saffos and Andrew Baker. Counsel information for Kaiser Aluminum was not immediately available. The senior notes come due in 2034.

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Trade-Offs

« *Continued from page 4*

Those sanctions typically block those targets' assets when those assets are located in the United States and prohibit U.S. persons from engaging in trade or business with those targets. Critically, this also freezes them out of the U.S. financial system. These types of sanctions are referred to as "primary" sanctions.

"Secondary" sanctions, by contrast, extend pressure on the sanctioned country, entity, or person by imposing consequences on foreign non-U.S. persons who deal with a sanctioned party (in the current landscape, this primarily means those who deal with Iran and North Korea).

When secondary sanctions are imposed, a non-U.S. person who deals with a sanctioned party—such as foreign banks, shipping firms, or oil purchasers that facilitate transactions with the sanctioned target—may find themselves designated for U.S. sanctions, blocked from U.S. financial transactions, denied export licenses, or facing other penalties.

Secondary sanctions ramp up the power of primary sanctions by forcing non-U.S. actors to choose between continuing

Court Calendars

First Department

APPELLATE DIVISION

CALENDAR FOR THE NOVEMBER TERM

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

2 P.M.

20/1115 People v Jose A.
25/0490 Robinson v Hiatt
25/06801, Anthony
25/0908 GS Realty Co. v Brady
24/6646(1) Rodriguez v 167 LLC
24/0829(1) Rodriguez v 167 LLC
22/5672 People v Lloyd Anderson
24/5348 Owens v New Empire Corp.
24/4782 Ng v Figueroa
19/5337 People v Brady B.
24/7465 B., John v Maria U.
25/4934 United Medicine & Rehabilitation v Yakobashvili
24/5568(3) Solomon v 360 E. 72nd Street
23/2138 People v Carl Moultrie
25/695 Brigadier Cavalry Fund v Chirico
24/732(2) Windermere Properties v City of NY
24/2846 TD Bank v A.H. Dental
24/2969(2) People of State of NY v Richmond Capital
25/0616 People v Leonard Lewis
24/5313N Berger v NYC Transit Authority

THURSDAY, NOV. 6

2 P.M.

20/1314 People v Jeffrey Tarrt
24/0850 Quezada v City of NY
25/0120 G., Cayanna
24/495 Garcia v 100 Church Fee Owner
25/0192 Spence v Brosnan Risk Consultants
25/2669 Vassilev v Vassilev
24/0291(1) People v Syndou Cisse
24/0822(1) People v Syndou Cisse
24/5457 URP Maiden Lane v Valley National
25/0629(3) Bordonaro v E.C. Provin Co.
25/2301 C., Nercida v Cristal C.
24/3849 RSD857, LLC v Wright
18/4848 People v Abdulla Shuai
25/3417 Zepha Industries v 401 West Property
24/5946 Szczesniak v Ery Tenant
24/6848 Biswas v Aramis Distributors NY
24/4242 Lee v Montefiore Medical Center
24/355(2) Will of Stanley Walker
24/2809 People v Jateise Leak
25/1837N Blimbaum v Chan

FRIDAY, NOV. 7

10 A.M.

20/2179 People v Rafael Jimenez
24/0603 SKMF VYSE Management v Niblack
24/4327 LN, Children
25/1643 Hanslick v UG2
24/5853 Olshan Frome Wolosky LLP v Kestenbaum
24/3041 Jones v River Park Residences
22/2422 People v Armando Cruz
24/5268 Molina v Mount Sinai Morningside
24/4571 Greenway Mews v Liberty Insurance
18/4623 People v Angel Soto
24/2644 Ovaskainen v Ovaskainen
24/3491 D., Justice
24/643 Parque Solar v Enel S.P.A.
25/0939 Rockwell v Bobs
25/4537 People of State of NY, Ex Rel: Margaret Doroche
24/7843 People v Eligio Orellana
24/6748 Angen v De Jesus
25/2186 Robinson v Delgado
22/3393 People v Daquan D.
24/2471N Strasser v Strasser

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12

2 P.M.

20/1855(1) People v Quaran Rich
25/3501 CLNC 2019-FL1 Funding v Bennett
25/1761 M., Lucila v Jessica H.
24/0753 Ceja v Positivo Civil, Inc.
24/1643 Fishman v Fishman
23/1544 People v Saquan Jackson
25/3543 Jimenez v Rosi
24/5661 Jane Doe One in KIPP Academy
24/206 People v Douglas Williams
24/5167 Greenland Asset v Microcloud Hologram
25/0709 Stevens v Audthan LLC
22/1402 People v David Taylor
25/2195 NYC Transit Authority v Local 100 TWU
24/6301 O'Rourke v Hammerstein Ballroom
24/5872 State of NY v Daniel M.
19/5509 People v Joseph Medina-Hidalgo
24/386 Lerena v 975 Park Avenue Corp.
25/0349 Rexjet, LLC v Honeywell International
22/5579 People v Dillion D.
Johnson-Watson
24/5460(1)N Wilmington Savings v Lau

THURSDAY, NOV. 13

2 P.M.

24/7841 People v Nelson Rivera
24/4801 Feliciano v Caban
25/1030 K., Anthony
25/2975 Arias v City of NY
24/5149(2) Mycklebust v Consolidated Edison
23/2611 People v Michael Ortiz
24/0691 People v Javier Santiago
24/6155 West Side Marquis v Maldonado
24/4574 Corbx, Inc. v NYC School Construction
24/5955 Mather v HFZ Kik 30th Street
23/6486 People v Tawana Dobson
25/1674 Di Francesco v McEnroy
24/4851 Abramov v 230 PAS SPE
24/5469 Ramirez v Teixeira Baker
24/6873 People v Robert Moore
24/5549 Dewinter v Equinox Greenwich Ave.
22/2187 People v George McTaggart
24/0787(1) Etage Real Estate v Stern
24/311(1)N Etage Real Estate v Stern
24/6783N J.C., an infant v 2078 Arthur

FRIDAY, NOV. 14

10 A.M.

24/0991 People v Elliot Rodriguez
24/3617 Judson Realty v Judson CRE
23/6224, Nova
25/0800 Nguyen v Phan
24/281(1) PH-105 Realty v Elayana
24/6569(1) PH-105 Realty v Elayana
24/4863 People v Brandon Smith
24/4860 People v Christopher Landa
24/6114 Mt. Hawley Insurance v Michell Kuo Corp.

COURT NOTES

LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NY

Ratings of Judicial Candidates

In advance of the Nov. 4, 2024 General Election, the Judiciary Committee of the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York is pleased to announce its ratings of all candidates: (i) for New York State Supreme Court in 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th, 11th and 13th Judicial Districts (comprising New York, Kings, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Richmond Counties); and (ii) for New York City Civil Court in Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond Counties). Candidates were eligible to receive the following ratings: "Highly Approved," "Approved," "Not Approved," or "Failed to Appear."

In order to obtain an "Approved" rating, the Panel must be satisfied that the candidate, once on the bench, will: (1) demonstrate a commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people; (2) possess the integrity, intellect, experience, and temperament required of judicial office; and (3) perform judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and will not permit discrimination against any minority in their courtroom.

In order to obtain a rating of "Highly Approved," the candidate must possess all of the characteristics required for an "Approved" rating to an outstanding degree, and in addition must have demonstrated a history of commitment to the equality of rights for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

SUPREME COURT

Supreme Court, First Judicial District (New York County)

Suzanne Adams: Highly Approved
James G. Clynes: Highly Approved
Deborah A. Kaplan: Highly Approved
Judy Kim: Approved
Gowri Krishna: Failed to Appear
Jared Trujillo: Failed to Appear

Supreme Court, Second Judicial District (Kings County)

Maria Aragona: Failed to Appear
Betsy Barros: Failed to Appear
Claudia Daniels-DePeyster: Approved
Jill R. Epstein: Highly Approved
Brian L. Gotlieb: Failed to Appear
Norma Jennings: Highly Approved
Carl J. Landicino: Failed to Appear
Derefin Neckles: Failed to Appear
Jacqueline Williams: Failed to Appear

Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties)

Diane M. Clerkin: Approved
John P. Collins, Jr.: Highly Approved
Thomas Humbach: Failed to Appear (carried over from 2024)
Desmond C. Lyons: Approved
Raymond P. Raiche: Failed to Appear
Verris B. Shako: Highly Approved
George A. Smith: Failed to Appear
Kiel E. Van Horn: Failed to Appear

Supreme Court, Tenth Judicial District (Nassau and Suffolk Counties)

Bronwyn M. Black-Kelly: Failed to Appear
Carl J. Copertino: Failed to Appear
Mark A. Cuthbertson: Failed to Appear
Paul Kenn: Failed to Appear
James W. Malon: Failed to Appear
Matthew T. McDonough: Failed to Appear
Joseph C. Pastorella: Failed to Appear
Steven A. Pilewski: Failed to Appear
Margaret C. Reilly: Failed to Appear

Supreme Court: Eleventh Judicial District (Queens County)

Richard Felix: Failed to Appear
Ira R. Greenberg: Approved
Gary F. Miret: Approved
Gary Muraca: Failed to Appear (carried over from 2024)
Sandra Perez: Approved
Soma S. Syed: Failed to Appear
Frances Y. Wang: Highly Approved

Supreme Court: Thirteenth Judicial District (Richmond County)

Matthew P. Blum: Approved
Raymond L. Rodriguez: Approved

CIVIL COURT

Civil Court, Bronx County (Countywide)

Shekera Anessa Algarin: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, First Municipal Court District of Bronx County

Katherine A. O'Brien: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Second Municipal Court District of Bronx County

Lauvienka E. Polanco: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Kings County (Countywide)

Marisa Arrabito: Approved
Janice Chen: Approved

Civil Court, Second Municipal Court District of Kings County

Chidi A. Eze: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Sixth Municipal Court District of Kings County

Juliet P. Howard: Highly Approved

Civil Court, Seventh Municipal Court District of Kings County

Duane Frankson: Failed to Appear
Dagmar Plaza-Gonzalez: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Third Municipal Court District of New York County

Eric J. Wurthorn: Highly Approved

Civil Court, Seventh Municipal Court District of New York County

Onya Brinson: Highly Approved

Civil Court, Eighth Municipal Court District of New York County

Lisa S. Headley: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Ninth Municipal Court District of New York County

Terence W. McCormick: Approved

Civil Court, Queens County (Countywide)

Thomas D. Barra: Failed to Appear
Sheridan C. Chu: Failed to Appear
Indira D. Khan: Failed to Appear
Oma D. Phillips: Approved
William David Shanahan: Failed to Appear
Susan M. Silverman: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, First Municipal Court District of Queens County

Juliette-Noor Haji: Highly Approved

Civil Court, Second Municipal Court District of Queens County

Stephen C. Dachtera: Failed to Appear
Eve Cho Guilligan: Approved
Thomas G. Wright-Fernandez: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Fourth Municipal Court District of Queens County

Gail A. Adams: Failed to Appear
Fania Jean: Failed to Appear
Mary-Ann E. Maloney: Failed to Appear

Civil Court, Fifth Municipal Court District of Queens County

Jennifer A. Tubridy: Approved

Civil Court, First Municipal Court District of Richmond County

Matthew J. Santamuro: Failed to Appear
Remy Smith: Approved

NEW YORK WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Judicial Ratings for Candidates For the Civil and Supreme Court In New York County

The New York Women's Bar Association today announced the results of its review of the qualifications of candidates seeking positions as judges of the New York City Civil Court and the Supreme Court of the State of New York in New York County.

New York Civil Court, New York County

Onya Brinson*: Approved
Lisa Headley*: Approved
Terence McCormick*: Approved
Eric Wurthorn*: Approved

New York Supreme Court, New York County

Suzanne J. Adams*: Approved
James G. Clynes*: Approved
Deborah Kaplan*: Approved
Judy H. Kim*: Approved
Gowri Krishna: Not Rated—Did Not Appear
Jared Trujillo: Not Rated—Did Not Appear

For further information, contact:

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New York Women's Bar Association
president@nywba.org

Note 1: Pursuant to NYWBA protocols, members of the NYWBA Board who are judges, who are employed by the New York State court system, or who are candidates for judicial office, did not participate in the consideration, review, ratings or votes on any potential judiciary candidates.

Note 2: An asterisk (*) after a candidate's name indicates that the person is a current or past member of the New York Women's Bar Association. Members are reviewed in the same manner and with the same criteria as non-members.

The New York Women's Bar Association is a non-profit, non-partisan bar association devoted to promoting the fair and equal administration of justice.

NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION

Ratings for Judicial Candidates For Civil Court, Supreme Court and NYC District Attorney

The New York City Bar Association has completed evaluations of the following candidates who are running in general elections on November 4 for Civil Court, Supreme Court and District Attorney. The review was conducted by the Association's Committee on the Judiciary.

The Committee uses two ratings: Approved and Not Approved. Candidates rated Approved have affirmatively demonstrated qualifications necessary for the performance of the duties of the position for which they are being considered.

NEW YORK COUNTY

Civil Court, 3rd Municipal Court District

Eric Wurthorn: Approved

Civil Court, 7th Municipal Court District

Onya Brinson: Not approved

Civil Court, 8th Municipal Court District

Lisa S. Headley: Approved

Civil Court, 9th Municipal Court District

Terence W. McCormick: Approved

Civil Court, 1st Municipal Court District

Katherine O'Brien: Not Approved

Supreme Court, 1st Judicial District

Suzanne Adams: Approved

James G. Clynes: Approved

Judy Kim: Approved

Deborah A. Kaplan: Approved

Gowri Krishna: Not Approved

Jared Trujillo: Not Approved

District Attorney

Alvin L. Bragg Jr.: Approved</p

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CITATIONS NY

File No. 2022-829 — SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION — The People of the State of New York — To: John McAleavy, Marie McSweeney, Susan McSweeney, Caroline McSweeney, Marie McSweeney, Michelle McSweeney, Clare McSweeney, Ronald Jinks, the great grand nieces and nephews of PATRICK SWEENEY whose names are unknown and whose whereabouts are unknown and after due diligence, cannot be ascertained, if they be living and if they be dead, to their heirs at law, distributees, executors, administrators, creditors, liens, their husbands or wives, or successors in interest and to the unknown heirs at law and next of kin of HAYWOOD White, deceased, if they be living, and if they be dead, to their Executors, Administrators, Creditors and Liens, their Husbands or wives or successors in interest. A petition having been duly filed by THOMAS J. McGRATH, domiciled at 3 Thomas Place, Valhalla, NY 10595 THIS RETURN DATE IS A VIRTUAL COURT DATE. IN-PERSON COURT APPEARANCES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THE RETURN DATE UNLESS A PARTY NOTIFIES THE COURT THAT IT WISHES TO APPEAR IN PERSON BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COURT DATE. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE by making a virtual appearance before the Surrogate's Court, Bronx County, New York, located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451, USA on NOVEMBER, 18 2025 at 9:30 a.m. why the Court should not grant the following relief: Why a decree should not be made in the estate of PATRICK SWEENEY, lately domiciled at 565 Netherland Avenue, Apt 2D, The Bronx, New York 10471, USA, admitting to Probate a Will dated February 7, 2019, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of PATRICK SWEENEY, deceased, relating to real and personal property and directing that [X] Letters Testamentary issue to THOMAS J. McGRATH [] Letters of Trusteehip issue to [] Letters of Administration c.t.a issue to [X] This Court grants such other and further relief as it may deem just and proper. PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (718) 618-2373 OR VIRTUAL-BRONXSRRO-GATESCOURT®. NYCourts.gov FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPEAR ON THE COURT'S VIRTUAL PLATFORM. Dated, Attested and Sealed: SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez Surrogate Elix Madera-Fliegeleman, Clerk Clerk ATTORNEY Petitioner's Attorney: LORRAINE COYLE, ESQ. Address: 5911 RIVERDALE AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10471, USA Telephone Number: 718-543-2200 Email: LCOYLELAW@GMAIL.COM. [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] 15654 o24-F n14

CITATIONS NY

File No. 2024-1173 — CITATION — The People of the State of New York by the Grace of God Free and Independent — To: Haywood White, whose whereabouts are unknown and after due diligence cannot be ascertained, if they be living, and if they be dead, to their heirs at law, distributees, executors, administrators, Creditors, liens, their husbands or wives, or successors in interest and to the unknown heirs at law and next of kin of HAYWOOD White, deceased, if they be living, and if they be dead, to their Executors, Administrators, Creditors and Liens, their Husbands or wives or successors in interest. A petition having been filed by Catherine Emanuel who is domiciled at 750 E. 179 St, Apt. 5F, Bronx, NY 10457 THIS RETURN DATE IS A VIRTUAL COURT DATE. IN-PERSON COURT APPEARANCES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED ON THE RETURN DATE UNLESS A PARTY NOTIFIES THE COURT THAT IT WISHES TO APPEAR IN PERSON BEFORE THE SCHEDULED COURT DATE. YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE by making a virtual appearance before the Surrogate's Court, Bronx County, New York, located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451, USA on November 25, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. why the Court should not grant the following relief: Letters Testamentary issue to Catherine Emanuel PLEASE CONTACT THE COURT AT (718) 618-2373 OR VIRTUAL-BRONXSRRO-GATESCOURT®. NYCourts.gov FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPEAR ON THE COURT'S VIRTUAL PLATFORM. Dated, Attested and Sealed October 10, 2025 Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez SURROGATE Johanna O'Brien, Acting Chief Clerk ATTORNEY Petitioner's Attorney: Alan Gerson Esq. Address: 212-45 26th Ave Ste 7 Bayside, NY 11360 Telephone Number: (718) 279-8151 Email: agersone@mortgage.law.com [NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] 16263 o31

LIMITED LIABILITY ENTITIES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF THE URBAN RESIDENCY LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/2/2025. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 882-C 8th Avenue #133, New York, NY 10019. Purpose: any lawful act. 14936 o03-F n07

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF VSM NY WAREHOUSE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 8/26/2025. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 142nd St apt 2A, New York, NY 10030. Purpose: any lawful act. 14936 o03-F n07

[NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.] 14936 o03-F n07

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 177 NORTH AVENUE OWNER LLC. Arts of Org filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 9/30/25. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15487 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF 22ND HERITAGE LLC. Arts of Org filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/8/15. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 80 State St, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15488 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

Z HOLDINGS 6 LLC. Filed with SSNY on 03/15/2023. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 BARSTOW RD STE 401, GREAT NECK, NY 11021. Purpose: Any Lawful 15529 o10-F n14

2 STANCO ST LLC. Filed with SSNY on 09/29/2025. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 20 VICTORIA LN, GLEN COVE, NY 11542. Purpose: Any Lawful 15525 o10-F n14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/08/2020. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 3444 Duncomb Ave, #2, Bronx, NY 10467. Purpose: any lawful act. 14894 o10-F N14

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF STONECREST PARTNERS LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/29/2025. Office location: Bronx County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 108 W 13th St, Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Formation filed with DE Secy of State, P.O. Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15546 o10-F n14

SALES

SALES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACREDIT LOANS INC. MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-QS4, against JENNIFER TANICO A/K/A JENNIFER CASANO, AS EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF EMILY RENDA, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Queens on May 1, 2018, wherein AS DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ACREDIT LOANS INC. MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2006-QS4 is the Plaintiff and JENNIFER TANICO A/K/A JENNIFER CASANO, AS EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF EMILY RENDA, ET AL. are the Defendants. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the QUEENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 88-11 SUTPHIN BLVD., COURTROOM #25, JAMAICA, NY 11435, on 11/21/2025 at 10:00 AM, premises known as 158-30 96TH STREET, HOWARD BEACH, New York 11414; and the following tax map identification, 14165-20. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF QUEENS, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 707159/2015, Judah Maltz, Esq. - Referee, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

14977 o17-F n7

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAMP TRUST 2005-WMC3, -against DEBORAH KEYES, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Bronx on July 12, 2024, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAMP TRUST 2005-WMC3 is the Plaintiff and DEBORAH KEYES, ET AL. are the Defendants. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the BRONX COUNTY COURTHOUSE 851 GRAND CONCOURSE, ROOM 711, BRONX, NY 10451, on 11/17/2025 at 2:15PM, premises known as 102 PILOT ST, BRONX, New York 10464; and the following tax map identification, 5625-83. ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE BOROUGH AND COUNTY OF BRONX, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 381000/2007E, Edmond J. Pryor, Esq. - Referee, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

15408 o17-F n7

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX CITI-MORTGAGE, INC. Plaintiff - PRISCILLA A. BRITO A/K/A PRISCILLA BRITO, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on February 9, 2016, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Courtroom 711, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451-2937 on the 17th day of November, 2025 at 2:15 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York. Premises known as 2784 Pond Place, Bronx, NY 10458 (Block: 3289, Lot: 11) Approximate amount of lien \$554,088.05 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 380097/14. Joseph T. Jednak, Esq. Referee, McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorneys(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347/286-7409 For sale information, please visit Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 Dated: September 26, 2025 During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale.

15467 o17-F n7

SALES

SALES

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF BRONX, U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE OF THE TIKI SERIES III TRUST Plaintiff, vs. JENNIFER WILLIAMS, ET AL, Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on January 25, 2017, an Order to Extend dated February 1, 2024 and an Order to Extend dated February 3, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Supreme Court, Courtroom 711, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451-2937 on November 24, 2025 at 2:15 p.m., premises known as 1856 Andrews Avenue South, Bronx, NY 10453. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 2879 and Lot 16, Approximate amount of judgment is \$493,322.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #35401/2014, Alberto Torres, Esq., Referee Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Firm File No.: 181451-11 15593 o24-F n14

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF QUEENS U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee, successor in interest to Bank of America, National Association, as Trustee, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for Merrill Lynch First Franklin Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-1, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-1, Plaintiff AGAINST Richard Douglion; Sofiear Douglion; et al, Defendants(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered February 6, 2019, amended September 22, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Queens County Supreme Courthouse, on the second floor in Courtroom 28, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435 on November 21, 2025, at 11:00AM, premises known as 535 Beach 72nd Street, Arverne, NY 11692. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Queens, City and State of New York, Block: 16065 Lot: 43. Approximate amount of judgment \$375,743.76 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 703804/2017, Daniel Ferreira, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorneys(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: October 4, 2025 87516 15635 o24-F n14

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF BRONX Wells Fargo Bank, NA, Plaintiff AGAINST Robert Morrison, Jr. a/k/a Robert Morrison, Jr.; et al, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered December 21, 2018, amended August 22, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 711, Bronx, New York on November 17, 2025, at 2:15PM, premises known as 1147 Reverend James Polite Avenue a/k/a 1147 Reverend James A. Polite Avenue, Bronx, NY 10459. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 381000/2007E, Edmond J. Pryor, Esq. - Referee, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF BRONX NYLIT 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against FRIENDS LAND DEVELOPMENT CO., LLC, et al Defendants(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on November 3, 2022, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Supreme Court, Courtroom 711, located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451 on November 24, 2025 at 2:15 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of the Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 4898 and Lot 63 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map. Said premises known as 1332A EAST 224TH STREET, BRONX, NY Approximate amount of lien \$9,912.24 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 27962/2019E. CHRISTOPHER P. MARTONE, Esq., Referee Phillips Lytle LLP Attorneys(s) for Plaintiffs 100 S. Clinton Avenue, Suite 2900, Rochester, NY 14604 15418 o24-F n21

NOTICE OF SALE

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SALES

NOTICE OF SALE

In pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly granted and entered in an action entitled NYCTL 2017-A Trust and The Bank of New Mellon as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2017-A Trust v. Melrose Homes, Inc., et al., bearing Index No. 28983/2018, before IAS Part 21 (Barbato, J.) on or about January 24, 2020 and an Order of the Court entered July 7, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Supreme Court, Courtroom 711, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451-2937 on November 24, 2025 at 2:15 p.m., premises known as 1856 Andrews Avenue South, Bronx, NY 10453. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 2879 and Lot 16, Approximate amount of judgment is \$493,322.15 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No. 35401/2014, Alberto Torres, Esq., Referee Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Firm File No.: 181451-11 15593 o24-F n14

16147 Oct31 f Dec5

LIMITED LIABILITY ENTITIES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of MRC PRESERVATION LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/17/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o The LLC, 276 3rd Ave, Ste 905, NY, NY 10001. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15026 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of NAV BEAUTY LLC, Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/23/2025. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 1 HOL-LAND AVE SUITE 105, FLO-RAL PARK, NY, NY 11001. Any lawful purpose. 15119 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of OTIS OLIVER LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/24/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1 HOLE-LAND AVE SUITE 105, FLO-RAL PARK, NY, NY 11001. Any lawful purpose. 14858 Sept26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Cypress Capital Partners LLC, amended to Cypress Capital Investors LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/10/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporation Service Co., 80 State St, Albany, NY 12027-2543. Purpose: Any lawful activity. 14690 Sept26 f Oct31

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Davis Brook Realty LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 5/15/25. Office location: Westchester County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to: 535 MADISON AVE, 19TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY, NY 10022. Any lawful purpose. 15077 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Skye and Stones LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 9/16/25. Office location: NY County. Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY mail process to: 2000 Marcus Ave, New Hyde Park, NY 11042. Purpose: any lawful activity. 14858 Sept26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of SPIRITALASTE LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/2/25. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Co-Geny Global Inc., 122 E 42nd St., 18th Fl., NY, NY 10168. Purpose: all lawful purposes. 14849 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of SPIRITALASTE LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/2/25. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 998C Old Country Road, #153, Plainview, NY 11803. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15042 Sept26 f Oct31

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Trade Capital Solutions LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/12/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Co/ The LLC, 1407 Broadway, 41st Fl., NY, NY 10018. Purpose: any lawful activity. 15025 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of WMC Building Services LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/16/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Capitol Services, Inc., 1218 Central Ave, Ste 100, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 15036 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 402 SARLES LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/11/25. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 14862 Sept26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of AEQUITAS GLOBAL LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on August 15, 2025. Office location: New York County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to the principal business address 2653 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10030. Purpose: any lawful act. 14816 S26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Ascenda Advisory LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 5/9/2025. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to 41 River Terrace, New York, NY 10282. Purpose: any lawful act. 14852 Sept26 f Oct31

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Gstaad 5M, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/19/25. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. The name and address of the Reg. Agent is C T Corporation System, 28 Liberty St, NY, NY 10005. Purpose: any lawful activity. 14875 Sept26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of HANGING GARDEN STUDIOS LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/15/25. Office location: New York County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: PO Box 502, 99 Ave, NY, NY 10003. Purpose: any lawful activity. 14876 S26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of JEWELRY BY ANGY, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/14/2025. Office location: BX County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to Angely Mercedes Valdez, 1975 Sedgwick Ave, Bxmt, Bronx, NY 10453. Purpose: any lawful act. 14871 S26 F 031

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LIMITED LIABILITY ENTITIES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of NEW YORK STUDIOS LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 9/17/25. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process against LLC to 10835 53rd Ave 2F, Corona, Queens, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful act. 14848 S26 F 031

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Northwell Primary MSO Ventures LLC, Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy. of State (SSNY) on 8/29/25. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1 HOLE-LAND AVE SUITE 105, FLO-RAL PARK, NY, NY 11001. Any lawful purpose. 15119 Oct3 f Nov7

NOTICE OF FORMATION of ZEMO HOLDINGS NY LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Secy. of State (SSNY) on 8/29/25. Office location: NY County. Princ. office of LLC: 24 E 82nd St., #5B, NY, NY 10028. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 60 Cutter Mill Rd., Ste 601, Great Neck, NY 11021, adam@w-financial.com. Purpose: any lawful activity. 14806 Sept26 f Oct31

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 100 GRANNY RD, SUITE 2, FARMINGDALE, NY 11738. Purpose: Any lawful act. 15344 o10-F n21

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