

2006 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award Winners

Mark S. Ali, Asian American Pacific Lawyers Association. Mr. Ali is an Assistant Prosecutor in Essex County and Director of the Child Abuse Unit. He has been a prosecutor since 1989 and has extensive experience in the prosecution of a wide range of criminal offenses. Mr. Ali has trained at the National Advocacy Center, taught at the National College of District Attorneys and at the county police academy. He is a founding member of the Asian Women's Safety Net that provides assistance to domestic violence victims. Mr. Ali is a graduate of George Washington University and the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Frank D. Allen, Camden County Bar Association. Mr. Allen is a partner with Archer & Greiner in Haddonfield where he handles complex personal injury litigation. In 2004 he was inducted as a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and he is a Diplomat of the American Board of Trial Advocacy. Mr. Allen has lectured at Temple University Law School and Rutgers University and has taught trial practice for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education. He is an active member of the Camden County Bar Association and served on the Association's Board of Trustees. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University School of Law.

Robert S. Bonney, Jr., Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Mr. Bonney is a partner at Lomurro, Davison, Eastman and Munoz in Freehold. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney who prosecuted federal white collar crimes for several years. He has been a criminal defense attorney for twenty five years and has been designated by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney. Mr. Bonney is immediate past president of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and he has served as Chair of the Criminal Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. He is a graduate of Roanoke College and Washington and Lee School of Law.

Kirsten Scheurer Branigan, New Jersey Women Lawyers Association. Ms. Branigan practices law in Newark and specializes in employment law. In addition, she is an assistant county counsel and handles labor and employment matters for Essex County on a part-time basis. Ms. Branigan is president of the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association and was recently appointed to the Diversity Committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association. She is active in community affairs and has served in leadership positions with the NJ Association of Women Business owners, the National Employment Lawyers Association and the Rutgers Small Business Development Center. Ms. Branigan is a graduate of Rutgers College and Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

William H. Burns, Monmouth County Bar Association. Mr. Burns is a partner of Burns & Van Note in Spring Lake. He practiced law exclusively with firms in the county for over 55 years and has recently become one of the deans of the Monmouth County Bar for this reason. Mr. Burns has been designated by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney. He is past president of the Monmouth Bar Association, past chair and member of the Monmouth County Ethics Committee, and past chair and

member of the District Fee Arbitration Committee. Mr. Burns is a graduate of Hobart College and Syracuse University College of Law.

Juan Cartagena, Hispanic Bar Association. Mr. Cartagena is General Counsel to the Community Service Society in New York City, an organization that conducts public interest and constitutional litigation on behalf of the poor in the areas of voting rights, housing, health and entitlements. He has served as municipal court judge in the City of Hoboken. Mr. Cartagena is a lecturer at Rutgers University and has also taught at St. Peter's College and the City College of New York. He has written extensively on voting rights and related issues touching the Hispanic community. Mr. Cartagena is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Columbia University School of Law.

Randal C. Chiocca, Passaic County Bar Association. Mr. Chiocca is a partner in the firm of Bray, Chiocca & Miller in Parsippany where his primary emphasis is business and real estate litigation. He is counsel to the Wayne Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Chiocca is past president of the Passaic County Bar Association and has served on numerous bar committees. He has served on the District XI Ethics Committee and on the District XI Fee Arbitration Committee. Mr. Chiocca is a graduate of Dickinson College and George Washington University School of Law.

Lawrence P. Cohen, Warren County Bar Association. Mr. Cohen is a senior partner in the firm of Courter, Kobert & Cohen of Hackettstown. He heads the firm's litigation department and specializes in commercial litigation in federal and state courts, in addition to handling local zoning and planning matters. Mr. Cohen has been designated as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney by the New Jersey Supreme Court. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of New Jersey Lawyer Newspaper and the Board of Visitors of Syracuse University College of Law.

Paul R. D'Amato, Atlantic County Bar Association. Mr. D'Amato practices law in Linwood, and has served as Linwood's mayor and in the New Jersey General Assembly. He has been recognized by the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey for Distinguished Service in the Cause of Justice. Mr. D'Amato is founding member of the Vincent Hanneman Inn of Court. His activity in community affairs has resulted in his being named Man of the Year by UNICO and receiving the Pinnacle Tourism Award by the United Way. Mr. D'Amato is a graduate of St. Mary's College and Georgetown University Law Center.

Michellene Davis, Garden State Bar Association. Ms. Davis is Chief of Staff to the State Treasurer and Executive Director of the New Jersey Lottery. During her tenure lottery sales of instant tickets reached all-time levels and a public awareness campaign was launched to educate the public about the benefits of the lottery. Ms. Davis previously served as a senior policy advisor in the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. After completing a judicial clerkship she was an Assistant Public Defender in Essex County. Ms. Davis is a graduate of Seton Hall University and Seton Hall University School of Law.

Hon. Edward J. DeFazio, Hudson County Bar Association. Mr. DeFazio is the Hudson County Prosecutor and first joined that office in 1978. His prosecutorial career was interrupted by terms as judge of the Jersey City Municipal Court, and later as a judge of the Superior Court. He is a member of the New Jersey Death Penalty Study Commission and the Parole Board Advisory Committee. Mr. DeFazio is a past officer and trustee of the Hudson County Bar Association and is past president of the North Hudson Lawyers' Club. He is a graduate of Fordham University and Seton Hall University Law School.

Frederick J. Dennehy, New Jersey State Bar Association. Mr. Dennehy is a partner in Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer of Woodbridge and is General Counsel to the firm. He specializes in complex commercial litigation at the trial and appellate level. Mr. Dennehy is a member, and past chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Professional Responsibility Committee. He has extensive experience in legal ethics defense matters and lectures frequently on topics related to professional responsibility. Mr. Dennehy has represented the State Bar Association as amicus counsel on a number of occasions. He is a graduate of Boston College and Yale Law School and he holds a Ph.D from the University of Virginia.

Hon. Samuel G. DeSimone, Gloucester County Bar Association. Mr. DeSimone served twenty five years on the Superior Court bench, and retired as Assignment Judge for Vicinage 15. He is now of counsel in the law office of his son, John G. DeSimone in Woodbury. Judge DeSimone has trained judges in many parts of the world and has contributed to strengthening judicial systems in a number of nations. He has lectured extensively at judicial education programs in New Jersey, particularly in the art of settlement negotiations. Judge DeSimone recently received the McLaughlin Professionalism Award from the NJSBA's Civil Trial Bar Section. He is a graduate of Gettysburg College and Georgetown University Law School.

Hon. Paula T. Dow, Association of Black Women Lawyers. Ms. Dow is the Essex County Prosecutor. Before being appointed to her present position, she worked in the United States Attorney's Office in the special prosecutions division, and subsequently as Counsel to U.S. Attorney Christopher Christie. Before going into public service, Ms. Dow handled environmental matters for Exxon Corporation. This year, she was elected Secretary of the Prosecutors' Association and she is past chair of the Judicial Administration Committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association. Ms. Dow is a graduate of Franklin and Marshall College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Dennis J. Drasco, Essex County Bar Association. Mr. Drasco is a partner in the firm of Lum, Danzis, Drasco and Positan in Roseland. He is a certified Civil Trial Attorney and in 2000 received the Essex County Bar Association's Civil Trial Achievement Award. Mr. Drasco is a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and is past chair of the ABA's Section of Litigation. He is a member of the ABA Commission on the American Jury and is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He is currently

vice-president of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey. Mr. Drasco is a graduate of Fordham College and Rutgers University Law School-Newark.

Cynthia S. Earl, Burlington County Bar Association. Mr. Earl has been a solo practitioner in Moorestown for the past eighteen years and is active in the Burlington County Bar Association. She is trained as a teacher and taught as a special education teacher for thirteen years before becoming a member of the bar. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers School of Law- Camden.

Catherine Fitzpatrick, Mercer County Bar Association. Ms. Fitzpatrick is a solo practitioner in Lawrenceville. She has been certified as a Matrimonial Law Attorney by the New Jersey Supreme Court. Ms. Fitzpatrick is past president of the Mercer County Bar Association and she has served as Chair of the Association's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. She has been a member of the District VII Ethics Committee, and a member and Secretary of the District VII Fee Arbitration Committee. Ms. Fitzpatrick is a graduate of Villanova University and Capital University School of Law.

Jeffrey C. Green, Middlesex County Bar Association. Mr. Green is a partner in the firm of Green & Green in Somerset. He is past president of the Middlesex County Bar Association and serves as a trustee of the Middlesex County Bar Foundation. Mr. Green has also served as a trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and was recognized by the Association's General Practice Section as General Practitioner of the Year in 1997. He currently serves as judge of two municipal courts in Middlesex County. Mr. Green has been recognized for his commitment to legal services programs by Legal Services of New Jersey. He is a graduate of Rutgers College and Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

Bernard Warren Hehl, Union County Bar Association. Mr. Hehl is a partner in the firm of Hehl & Hehl in Union and he has been practicing law in the state since 1952. He is past president of the Union County Bar Association. Now an Emeritus Member of the New Jersey State Bar Association, he served the NJSBA as Chair of the Disciplinary Review Committee and as a member of the Board of Trustees and numerous committees. Mr. Hehl has long been active in community affairs, including the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Suburban Golf Club. His US Army service in World War II included the D-Day landing and the Battle of the Bulge.

Frank J. Hoerst III, Salem County Bar Association. Mr. Hoerst is a solo practitioner in Woodstown and past president of the Salem County Bar Association. He is currently a trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and is a past member of the Association's Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee. Mr. Hoerst is past president of the State Bar Foundation. His commitment to local organizations is evidenced by awards he has received from the Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, the NAACP, the Boys Scouts of America, and Salem County Women's Services. He is a graduate of Temple University and Stetson University Law School.

Richard V. Jones, Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. Mr. Jones is a partner in the firm of Bressler Amery & Ross. He has published numerous articles on toxic tort and workers compensation issues and has lectured extensively on these subjects. He has served on committees of a number of bar associations and is currently a trustee of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey, where he has helped develop position papers for submission to the Supreme Court on proposed changes to trial practice rules. Mr. Jones has taken responsibility at his firm for mentoring young lawyers in the nuances of trial practice. He is a graduate of Yale University and Duke University School of Law.

Joanne D. Kay, Cape May County Bar Association. Ms. Kay is a partner in the Wildwood firm of Kay & Kay and past president of the Cape May County Bar Association. She is president of the New Jersey Association of County Welfare Attorneys. Currently a member of the State Bar Association's Board of Trustees, Ms. Kay served on the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee of the NJSBA. She was a member of the District I Ethics Committee, a founding director of Cape Mediation Services, and president of Cape Counseling Services. Ms. Kay is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Temple University School of Law.

Linda Lawhun, Cumberland County Bar Association. Ms. Lawhun is the Executive Assistant Prosecutor in Cumberland County where she has worked since 1996. Prior to that time, Ms. Lawhun was a solo practitioner in Vineland and she served as Vineland Municipal Prosecutor and Solicitor for the Deerfield Township Planning Board. She is past president of the Cumberland County Bar Association and is active in the National District Attorney's Association and the State Bar Association. Ms. Lawhun is a graduate of Rider College and Rutgers University School of Law-Camden.

Donna Legband, Somerset County Bar Association. Ms. Legband is a partner in the firm of Altman, Legban & Mayrides in Skillman and her primary area of practice is family law litigation and mediation. Ms. Legband is past president of the Somerset County Bar Association and past chair, and currently Secretary, of the District XII Ethics Committee. She was co-founder of the Somerset County Custody Mediation Program and is a panelist in the Matrimonial Early Settlement Program. Ms. Legband served as a master in the Central Jersey Inn of Court. She is a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University and Stetson University College of Law.

Arthur Leyden, Ocean County Bar Association. Mr. Leyden is a partner in the firm of Leyden, Capotorto & Ritter in Toms River and specializes in insurance defense litigation. He is President of the New Jersey Defense Association and a trustee of the Ocean County Bar Association. Prior to his legal career, Mr. Leyden was trained as an emergency care nurse and worked in the open-heart surgery unit at Beth Israel Medical Center. He is active in community activities, particularly the Kiwanis Club and Toms River Soccer Association. Mr. Leyden is a graduate of Seton Hall University and Seton Hall Law School, and he holds a nursing degree from Rutgers University.

Stephen Roseman, Sussex County Bar Association. Mr. Roseman is a partner in the firm of Roseman & McGovern in Newton He specializes in real estate, municipal law,

land use and estates. Mr. Roseman is past President of the Sussex County Bar Association and he has served as a member of both the ethics and fee arbitration committees, as well as a member of the Supreme Court Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. He is past President of Newton Memorial Hospital and Newton Country Club and he is active in the Lions Club and Sussex Jewish Community Center. Mr. Roseman is a graduate of Dickinson College and Rutgers Law School-Newark.

Donald F. Scholl, Jr., Hunterdon County Bar Association. Mr. Scholl is a solo practitioner in Flemington where he specializes in civil litigation and real estate development. He is former President of the Hunterdon County Bar Association. Mr. Scholl served as a member of the District IV Ethics Committee. A certified civil mediator, he is an early settlement panelist for family law litigation in Hunterdon and Warren Counties and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Women's Crisis Services. Mr. Scholl is a trustee of the Hunterdon County Historical Society. He is a graduate of Susquehanna University and the University of Toledo College of Law.

Hon. Marguerite T. Simon, Bergen County Bar Association. Ms. Simon is Counsel to the firm of Lawrence M. Simon. She served twenty years as a judge of the Superior Court in the Family Part, the Law Division and Chancery Division, where she was named Presiding Judge. Judge Simon was a member of a number of Supreme Court Committees including the Conference of Presiding Equity Judges, the Complimentary Dispute Resolution Committee and the Model Civil Jury Charge Committee that she co-chaired. Prior to being appointed to the bench Judge Simon practiced law in Bergen County. She is a graduate of Barnard College and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Lewis Stein, Morris County Bar Association. Mr. Stein is a partner in the firm of Nusbaum, Stein, Goldstein, Bronstein & Kron in Succasunna. He has been designated as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney and a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney. Mr. Stein is past President of the Morris County Bar Association and he received the Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003. He is a past trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and past member of the Board of Governors of ATLA-NJ. He also served as a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Civil Model Jury Charges and the Advisory Committee on Arbitration. Mr. Stein received his undergraduate and law school degrees from New York University.