

MODERATOR

Hon. Laura E. Drager (Ret.)

Judge Drager is a member of the Lee Anav Chung White Kim Ruger & Richter LLP's matrimonial and family law practice group, where she specializes in mediation, arbitration, and settlement negotiations and serves as a special master. She is a certified mediator, certified by the Center for Divorce Mediation and Training for matrimonial and family law matters and by the American Arbitration Association for civil litigation matters.

Judge Drager served in a dedicated matrimonial part in Manhattan Supreme Court for 20 years. She presided over 5,000 contested matrimonial cases involving issues of equitable distribution, maintenance, child support, and custody.

Judge Drager is a member of the Statewide Office of Court Administration's Matrimonial Practice and Advisory Committee, a member of the New York City Bar Association's Matrimonial Law Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association's Family Law Section, a member of the New York County Lawyers' Association's Matrimonial Law Section, and a director of the New York Women's Bar Association. She was an adjunct professor at New York Law School for 15 years, and has lectured extensively on matrimonial and family-law issues.

Prior to serving in a matrimonial part, Judge Drager served in the criminal term parts of the Manhattan Supreme Court and Manhattan Criminal Court. Before being appointed to the bench by the late Mayor Ed Koch, she was Chief of the Rackets Bureau in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, an Assistant District Attorney in the Sex Crimes Unit and the Trial Division of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, and an associate at Proskauer Rose.

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SPEAKERS

Evridiki "Vicky" Poupouridis

As a partner at Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP, Evridiki "Vicky" Poupouridis's practice focuses on all aspects of matrimonial and family law, including divorce, equitable distribution, child custody and child and spousal support. Vicky has extensive experience handling complex child custody disputes. She has litigated habeas corpus and international child abduction matters. She has also served as a Supreme Court-appointed guardian ad litem.

Vicky began her career as a private equity attorney at an international law firm, successfully structuring, negotiating and closing transactions involving mergers and acquisitions, fund formations and investments, and various other private equity transactions. Her corporate background in handling complex financial transactions has proven an invaluable asset to her clients. She is well-versed in drafting and negotiating financial settlement agreements, child custody and support agreements, and prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. Vicky also regularly appears in Supreme and Family Courts, zealously advocating for her clients.

A respected and accomplished attorney, Vicky has been selected by her peers as a New York Super Lawyers Rising Star every year since 2014.

Vicky is actively involved in both the legal community and her local community. She serves on the Matrimonial Committee of the New York City Bar Association, and on the Programs Committee of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert. She is also a member of the New York State Bar Association as well as the New York Women's Bar Association. Vicky is also an involved alumnus of the Bronx High School of Science. She is a former intern with the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society and pro bono attorney with Her Justice, an organization that provides free legal services to low-income women in matrimonial and family law.

Vicky is a lifelong New Yorker. She is fluent in Greek.

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Madelyn Jaye

Madelyn Jaye believes that litigators are first and foremost story tellers. They must convince their audience, whether that audience be a judge, jury, or adversary, that the story they are telling is the only true story and the ending they are proposing the only right ending. Madelyn Jaye brings her experience from the worlds of theater and film as well as her background in psychology (Master's Degree in Art Therapy) to the practice of law since graduating from the prestigious Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

As an attorney at the Mandel Law Firm, Madelyn Jay practice focuses on all aspects of matrimonial and family law, including child custody and child and spousal support. Madelyn Jaye believes that great lawyering begins with careful preparation – that the results you achieve are in direct proportion to the effort you apply.

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Eric T. Saar

Eric T. Saar has extensive experience representing clients in complex matrimonial and family law matters, including handling issues pertaining to the division of complex assets; highly intricate custody matters; spousal and child support issues; and the preparation and negotiation of pre- and post-nuptial agreements. Eric is a skilled negotiator, writer, and courtroom litigator, with significant trial experience.

He is an active member of the New York City Bar Association's Matrimonial Law Committee, and serves as co-chair of the Legislative Affairs subcommittee. Eric is also a member of the New York State Bar Association's Family Law Section.

Before joining Krauss Shaknes Tallentire & Messeri LLP, Eric was an associate in several prominent matrimonial practice groups. He has concentrated his practice in the field of matrimonial law since prior to his graduation from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, serving as a law clerk for the largest law firm in the country that practices matrimonial law exclusively.

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