WESTCHESTER 1896 2024 TY BAR ASSOCIATION'S STORTAIN MAGAZI VOL 11 T NO IE WESTC APRIL 2024 THE PRACTICE You are cordially invited to attend ... PAGE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S By Hon. Mark C. Dillon p.6 124th Annual **Call for Nominations** Deadline: April 24, 2024 Thursday, May 9, 2024 COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 5:30 PM Outstanding New Lawyer INNES LAN DINNER & PROGRAM: 7:00 PM and Outstanding Mentor Honoring Outgoing President Andrew Schriever Incoming President James Landau Newly-elected Officers & Directors 50 Year Award Recipients

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Guest Speaker

Honorable Edwina G. Richardson

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives New York State Unified Court System

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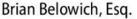
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Member SPOTLIGHT Brian Belowich, Esq. p. 22

MEMBER Spotlight







Tejash V. Sanchala, Esq.

Tejash: How long have you been a member of the WCBA and what have some of your contributions been?

Brian: I joined the WCBA in 2006, when I moved my practice from New York City to Westchester. I am currently a member of the Board of Directors of the WCBA, Co-Chair of the Construction Law Committee and Co-Chair of the Public Service Committee. I am also a member of the Committee on Attorney Well Being and am involved in the WCBA mentoring program. I have presented several CLE programs on issues relating to construction law and attorney mental health and wellness and moderated programs including a recent "Meet the Judges" event at Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, where I graduated in 1999 and currently serve on the Board of Visitors.

Tejash: What is your current job and practice area?

Brian: I am a co-founding and co-managing partner of Lachtman Cohen & Belowich. My areas of practice are complex commercial litigation and real estate and construction litigation. I handle cases involving claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and fraud, shareholder and partnership disputes, judicial dissolution proceedings, mechanic's lien foreclosure actions, and fraudulent conveyance proceedings.

Tejash: Can you share a memorable case that you have worked on?

Brian: I recently obtained a \$1.6 million judgment on behalf of my client after a hard fought three and a half months of trial in Rockland County Supreme Court. I represented the majority shareholders of a construction company in a highly contentious and complex case involving claims for breach of fiduciary duty and usurping corporate opportunities.

Tejash: What might people be surprised to learn about you?

Brian: Those who know me know I am a huge live music fan! My favorite bands are Phish and Goose. I try to go to as many shows as my schedule (and understanding wife) will permit.

In this feature, Tejash V. Sanchala, Board Member and Employment Law Committee Co-Chair, interviews WCBA members about their experiences and insights.

Tejash can be reached at: Tejash.Sanchala@gmail.com

Tejash: Why did you decide to become a lawyer?

Brian: Good question. I didn't really know what I wanted to do after I graduated from college. I worked for a couple of years and decided during that time that I wanted to go to law school. I definitely made the right decision!

Tejash: What is one your guilty pleasures?

Brian: Peanut M&Ms. I could eat them all day long.

Tejash: If you were not an attorney, what would be your profession?

Brian: I would be in the music business (or at least going to more shows). I really enjoy the business aspect of owning a law firm and, as you now know, I love live music.

Tejash: When is the last time you were outside of your comfort zone?

Brian: As a litigator, business owner, husband and father of two girls (ages 23 and 21), I'm outside of my comfort zone every day. There is no place I'd rather be.

Tejash: What is one of your future ambitions?

Brian: As you know, a couple of months ago, I joined forces with David Lachtman and WCBA Vice President Brian Cohen to create a new firm -- Lachtman Cohen & Belowich. My future ambition is to create a full-service law firm with high-quality attorneys who are also great people who share the same core values.

Tejash: What is your favorite legal-related movie or television show?

Brian: A Few Good Men. Come on.

Tejash: What were you known as in high school or college?

Brian: Halibut. I was in Sigma Nu fraternity at University at Albany. Halibut was my pledge name. Don't ask.

Tejash: Is there a particular experience or training that helped build your trial skill set?

Brian: When I first started out as a lawyer, I worked at a large international law firm in New York City. I was fortunate to work with a partner who afforded me the opportunity to take depositions and second chair trials as a junior associate and taught me how to be a lawyer. Thanks Rich De Palma.

Tejash: What is one of your favorite things to do in Westchester?

Brian: Without a doubt, going to see live music at the Capitol Theater and Garcia's is my favorite thing to do in Westchester. There are lots of great hiking trails too!

Tejash: What advice would you give to your younger self?

Brian: Keep working hard but have fun.

Tejash: Attorney wellness is an important issue. The WCBA's Task Force (now Committee) on Attorney Well-Being recently issued a report with its recommendations. How do you manage your physical and/or mental health with such a busy practice?

Brian: I wrote a section of the report about the billable hour model and recently presented a CLE program about attorney wellness. I manage my mental health (or at least try to) by meditating, hiking, and (surprise) going to a lot of concerts.