#### 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

EDWINA G.

Guest Speaker

Honorable Edwina G. Richardson

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

RICHARDSON

MULINO'S

AT LAKE IST

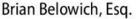
H.

p. 5

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.