

# WESTCHESTER LAWYER



THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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ANDREW SCHRIEVER



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*You are cordially invited to attend ...*

WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION'S



## 124<sup>th</sup> Annual *Banquet*

Thursday, May 9, 2024

COCKTAIL RECEPTION: 5:30 PM

DINNER & PROGRAM: 7:00 PM

### *Honoring*

Outgoing President Andrew Schriever  
Incoming President James Landau  
Newly-elected Officers & Directors  
50 Year Award Recipients

### *Guest Speaker*

**Honorable Edwina G. Richardson**  
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge  
for Justice Initiatives  
New York State Unified Court System

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By Hon. Mark C. Dillon  
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### *Call for Nominations*

Deadline: April 24, 2024

Outstanding New Lawyer  
and Outstanding Mentor

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# MEMBER *Spotlight*



Brian Belowich, Esq.



Tejash V. Sanchala, Esq.

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](mailto:Tejash.Sanchala@gmail.com)

**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.

**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.