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# Longtime NY Judge To Lead Lachtman Cohen ADR Team

By **Andrea Keckley**

Law360 (September 23, 2025, 3:48 PM EDT) -- Lachtman Cohen & Belowich LLP has announced a longtime New York state court and family court judge has joined its ranks to lead its mediation and alternative dispute resolution practice, calling her "one of the most respected jurists in Westchester's history."

Retired Justice Joan B. Lefkowitz has joined Lachtman Cohen after 41 years on the bench, the firm said in its announcement Monday, during which she became the third woman elected in the history of the Westchester County Supreme Court in the Ninth Judicial District.

The firm did not immediately respond to Law360 Pulse's request for comment Tuesday.



Joan B. Lefkowitz

Elected to the Westchester County Family Court in 1987 and to the New York state court in 1990, Lefkowitz oversaw a range of complex civil, commercial, tort, fiduciary, matrimonial, guardianship and medical malpractice matters throughout her career, according to Lachtman Cohen. The Brooklyn Law School alum is also credited with pioneering the Westchester County Supreme Court's settlement conference part to help parties resolve disputes.

"Judge Lefkowitz's ability to resolve disputes is second to none," co-managing partner and transactional group chair David Lachtman said in a statement Monday. "Our clients will benefit enormously from her wisdom, compassion, and pragmatic approach to problem-solving. Her arrival strengthens not only our litigation practice but also our firm as a whole."

News of the retired judge's hire comes just days after Lachtman Cohen co-managing partner Brian Cohen, who was sworn in earlier this year as president of the Westchester County Bar Association, paid tribute to Lefkowitz at her retirement celebration in New Rochelle, New York.

Cohen and Brian Belowich are co-managing partners of Lachtman Cohen and co-chairs of its litigation group. In a joint statement, they called Lefkowitz "a towering figure in our legal community."

"Her unparalleled experience, reputation for fairness, and groundbreaking role as one of the first women on the bench in Westchester will be invaluable as she brings her skills to bear in private mediation," they added. "We are honored to welcome her to the firm."

Lachtman Cohen includes 15 attorney and non-attorney professionals, according to its website. It's Empire State offices are in New York City, Westchester. It also has outposts in Connecticut and

Los Angeles.

--Editing by Lakshna Mehta.

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