

**Spencer Freedman** joined Beldock Levine & Hoffman as an associate in 2002. He has represented individuals in numerous civil rights and employment matters, as well as in class action litigation. His cases have included constitutional challenges to the arrest and detention policies and practices of New York City during mass demonstrations, constitutional challenges to jail strip search policies, representing individuals in cases involving the use of excessive force and other police misconduct, and representing employees in cases involving sexual harassment, race and national origin discrimination, whistle blower claims, and retaliation.

Prior to entering law school, he worked in journalism and in the not-for-profit arena on issues involving the promotion and protection civil rights and civil liberties. Following law school, Mr. Freedman completed a federal clerkship for the Honorable Allyne R. Ross in the Eastern District of New York. He was then chosen as the Karpatkin Fellow at the National Legal Department of the American Civil Liberties Union, where he worked on a number of racial and criminal justice matters, including a challenge to the constitutional adequacy of the Montana Public Defender System and representing individuals subjected to racial and ethnic profiling post-9/11.

### **Education**

Brown University (B.A. *cum laude*, 1994).

Yale Law School (J.D., 2000) (C. LaRue Munson Prize for Excellence in Litigation of Clinical Cases)

### **Bar Admissions**

Admitted to bar, 2001, New York State and United States District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York

### **Professional Activities**

Member, Association of the Bar of the City of New York; New York State Bar Association

**Publications**

"Revisiting the Past: In Defense of Criminal History Departures," Federal Sentencing Reporter, 2000.

**Representative Cases**

*Velez v. City of New York*, 04-CV-9715 (WHP) (Obtained settlement for plaintiff who alleged excessive use of force and false arrest by NYPD)

*Flores v. City of New York*, 04-CV-3444 (PKC) (Obtained settlement for plaintiff who alleged false arrest and national origin and racial profiling)

*In re Nassau County Strip Search Cases*, 99-CV-2844 (DRH) (Obtained class certification and represent class *Search Cases* of individuals subjected to unlawful jail strip search policies)

*Hocking v. Merrill Lynch* (Obtained arbitration settlement for former Merrill Lynch broker alleging retaliatory termination)

*Cabrera v. Navarro*, Index No: 04-106765 (Represented board members of not-for-profit community organization in Article 78 action)

*Haus v. City of New York*, 03-CV-4915 (RWS) (Represent multiple plaintiffs in constitutional claims stemming from arrests and prosecutions in retaliation for First Amendment activity at anti-war demonstration)

**Sofia Yakren** joined Beldock Levine & Hoffman as an associate in 2006. She practices civil litigation with a focus on civil rights and employment law. Prior to joining the firm, Sofia was an Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow at the Mental Health Project of the Urban Justice Center. She addressed violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act in New York City's welfare system through individual representation and class action strategy-building. Before her fellowship, Sofia served as a law clerk to the Honorable Nancy Gertner of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

### **Education**

Yale University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1999)

Yale Law School (J.D., 2004)

### **Bar Admissions**

Admitted to bar, 2005, New York.

### **Professional Activities**

Member: The Association of the Bar of the City of New York (Committee on Mental Health Law, 2006 – present); New York State Bar Association.

### **Publications**

“Accomplishing the Purposes of Sentencing—the Role of the Courts and the Commission,” Panel Discussion with Paul Hofer, Aaron Rappaport, Marc Miller, Judge Michael Mihm, Sofia Yakren, *Federal Sentencing Reporter* (Sofia Yakren & Michelle Schwartz eds. 2003).

**Sean Murray** is an associate in the Litigation department of Patterson Belknap Webb & Taylor. Prior to joining Patterson Belknap, Mr. Murray served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Nicholas G. Garaufis of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. From June to August 2005, he was a summer associate at Beldock Levine & Hoffman LLP.

#### EDUCATION

J.D., 2007, Columbia Law School, Articles Editor, Columbia Human Rights Law Review; James Kent Scholar; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar

B.A., 2002, Amherst College, History, summa cum laude

#### ADMISSIONS

New York; U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York