

# GISKAN SOLOTAROFF ANDERSON & STEWART LLP

Attorneys at Law

**Oren Giskan** litigates actions throughout the country as lead or class counsel against large corporations involved in deceptive and anticompetitive practices. Mr. Giskan served as lead class counsel in *Cohen v. JP Morgan Chase & Co. and JP Morgan Chase Bank*, E.D.N.Y. 04-cv-4098 (settlement of deceptive claims related to charging of mortgage fee resulting in a recovery of 100% of damages for class members); *Sebrow v. Allstate Insurance Company*, E.D. N.Y., 07cv-3929 (settlement of deceptive practice claims regarding non-renewal of homeowners insurance policies), *Education Station v. Yellow Book USA*, Superior Court of New Jersey (\$70 million settlement of false advertising claims), *Danielson v. Rockford Memorial Hospital*, Circuit Court of Winnebago County Illinois, No. 01 L 139 (settlement of patient billing claims under the Illinois Consumer Fraud Act), and *Truschel v. Juno Online Inc.*, Supreme Court of the State of New York, New York County, No. 01/602486 (settlement of consumer protection claims regarding failure to provide Internet service). He is actively litigating several other consumer fraud class actions throughout the country as lead counsel against companies including LG Electronics, Hewlett Packard, J.P. Morgan Chase, Dow Jones, Cablevision and others.

## **Education**

J.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1990

Bachelors Degree, University of Chicago, 1987

## **Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice**

New York

Illinois

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

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit

## **Industry Areas**

Consumer protection and antitrust class action.

**Darnley Stewart** is a plaintiff's employment and civil rights lawyer. She graduated from Princeton University in 1984 and received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 1990. Prior to entering private practice, she served as Law Clerk to the Honorable R. Ammi Cutter and the Honorable Mel. L. Greenberg of the Massachusetts Court of Appeals. Ms. Stewart's practice focuses on discrimination class actions and she has prosecuted high impact cases against a number of large companies, including Ford Motor Company, Gerber, Coastal Corporation, First Union Bank, National Car Rental, General Motors, Nissan, Toyota, and Bank of America. She is currently serving as co-lead counsel in a gender class action entitled *Bell, et al. v. Lockheed Martin Corporation*, pending in the District of New Jersey. In connection with her work on *Coleman, et al. v. General Motors Acceptance Corporation*, Ms. Stewart was named as a finalist for "Trial Lawyer of the Year" in 2004 by the Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. She has also been named as one of the leading 500 plaintiffs' lawyers in the country and one of America's top 1000 litigators by *Lawdragon* magazine. In addition, Ms. Stewart was selected for inclusion in the list of 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 New York Super Lawyers and one of the New York Area's Best Lawyers for 2011 by New York Magazine.

Ms. Stewart is the President of the Executive Board of the New York affiliate of National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA/NY). She is also a member of the Class and Collective Action Committee of NELA National, and the Technology in the Law and Workplace Committee of the American Bar Association's Labor and Employment Section. Ms. Stewart lectures regularly on employment class action issues, and has frequently commented in the media, including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, National Public Radio and the Today show, regarding issues raised in a variety of employment discrimination cases. She also sits on the Advisory Boards of the Bronx Academy of Letters, Workplace Fairness, and NYU's Center for Labor and Employment Law.

### **Education**

J.D., Northeastern University School of Law, 1990

B.A., Princeton University, 1984

### **Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice**

New York

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York

United States District Court, District of Massachusetts

United States District Court, Western District of Michigan

United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

### **Professional & Bar Association Memberships**

**American Bar Association**

Member, 1991-present

Technology in the Law and Workplace Committee, Labor & Employment Section

**National Employment Lawyers Association**

Member, 1997-present

Member, Class and Collective Action Committee

President, Executive Board, NELA/NY

**Workplace Fairness**

Member, Executive Board

**NYU Center for Labor and Employment Law**

Advisory Board, 2006-2007; 2008-present, *emeritus* member

**Amanda Masters** has practiced civil rights law for thirteen years in both private firm and non-profit settings. Her practice focuses on civil rights litigation including housing discrimination based on race, disability, sexual orientation, or source of income; impact litigation seeking to protect and advance fair housing rights; the rights of people with disabilities, including access to places of public accommodation, housing, employment, architectural barriers and physical accessibility issues, program accessibility, reasonable accommodations, and other areas of disability rights law; and police use of excessive force and other official misconduct. She has litigated a number of complex civil rights cases on behalf of individuals and groups, including high impact civil rights cases against the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, and the New York City Police Department. Ms. Masters was the 2010 recipient of the “Outstanding Fair Housing Attorney” Acting For Justice Award by the Fair Housing Justice Center.

Ms. Masters worked for eight years at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), a non-profit civil rights firm where she served as both the Director of the Access to Health Care program (a racial justice practice) and the Director of the Opportunity & Access program (a disability rights practice). She supervised attorneys and other staff engaged in a range of activities including impact litigation, administrative advocacy, direct representation, lobbying, community organizing, and outreach. She also served as co-counsel on the *Willowbrook* class action, enforcing the permanent injunction in that case brought on behalf of 5,000 developmentally disabled and formerly institutionalized New Yorkers to ensure their right to live in the community and receive high quality services

Prior to NYLPI, Amanda was an associate at a firm focused on police misconduct and other civil rights issues, and a staff attorney at a legal services organization focused on immigrants' rights. She also served as Program Director for the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, a non-profit organization providing funding to free legal services providers and housing counseling organizations in New York City. She has served as the Treasurer of the National Police Accountability Project (NPAP), she is the Executive Vice-President of Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS/HIV Research and Treatment (SMART), and she is the founder of the New York City Policing Roundtable (NYCPR) and serves on its Advisory Board. Ms. Masters has taught numerous Continuing Legal Education courses on the topics of police misconduct law, the rights of people with disabilities, and community organizing.

## **Education**

**J.D., The Ohio State University, 1996**

*Law Journal*

*Public Service Fellow*

*Rebecca Topper Memorial Award*

**B.A., The Ohio State University, 1993**

*Honors in the Humanities*

**Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice**

New York

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York

United States District Court, Northern District of New York

### **Professional & Bar Association Memberships**

#### **New York State Bar Association**

Member Since: 1997

Committee on Legal Aid, 2006 – Present

#### **Association of the Bar of the City of New York**

Member Since: 2001

Member, Committee on Housing and Urban Development, 2008 – Present

Member, Health Law Committee, 2006 – 2008

Member, Corrections Committee, 2003 – 2006

#### **New York City Policing Roundtable**

Member Since: 2001

Founder and Advisory Board Member, 2001 – Present

#### **Sisterhood Mobilized for AIDS/HIV Research and Treatment (SMART)**

Executive Vice-President

#### **Selected CLE Presentations**

New York City Policing Roundtable, “Ethical Considerations: Collaboration between Private Attorneys and Non-Profits” 2009

New York State Bar Association, Legal Assistance Partnership Conference, “NYCHA Housing and Police Practices, Opportunities for Organizing” 2008

American Bar Association and Brooklyn Law School, “Balancing Competition and Government Allocation of Health Care Resources: The Berger Commission Report” 2007

New York State Bar Association, Legal Assistance Partnership Conference, “Ready, Willing, and Able: Utilizing Law Students to Meet Client Needs” 2006

Suffolk University Law School, “Advanced Police Misconduct Litigation Issues: Less Lethal Force, Handling Emotionally Disturbed People & Use of Experts” 2005

Golden Gate University School of Law, “Plaintiffs’ Strategies for Winning Tough Cases: Representing People with Mental Illness” 2004

New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, “Policing Best Practices” 2004

#### **Selected Publications**

Locked Out: Little Relief for NYC Homeowners in the Foreclosure Settlement Process (CNYCN 2009).

No Place Like Home: A Preliminary Report on Police Interactions with Public Housing Residents in New York City (NYLPI and Shearman & Sterling LLP, 2008).

Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century: Right Sizing and Investing in Underserved Communities (NYLPI 2006).

Is Procedural Due Process In a Remote Processing Center a Contradiction In Terms?  
Gandarillas–Zambrana v. Board of Immigration Appeals, 44 F.3d 1251, 4th Cir., cert. denied,  
116 S. Ct. 49, 1995, 57 The Ohio State University Law Journal 999–1025 (1996).

**O. Iliana Konidaris**, an associate at Giskan Solotaroff Anderson & Stewart LLP, represents plaintiffs in employment and civil rights cases as well consumer class actions. During law school, Ms. Konidaris worked at Washington University's Civil Justice Clinic and at the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. She also co-lectured an undergraduate feminist legal studies course at Washington University, covering employment discrimination, global feminism, and aspects of family law.

Before law school, Ms. Konidaris taught English in the public schools in the South of France that served predominantly immigrant families and worked at an immigration non-profit in New York City

#### Education

J.D., Washington University Law, 2009

B.A., Haverford College, 2004

#### Jurisdictions Admitted to Practice

New York

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York

United States District Court, Southern District of New York

#### Professional & Bar Association Memberships

National Employment Lawyers Association - New York

Member Since: 2010