



The Year in Review:
Great People Focused on Great Results

Schenck Price
— SCHENCK PRICE SMITH & KING, LLP —



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Continuing to Serve You Without Missing a Beat



Dear Clients and Friends,

It has been a year to remember – and a year we may want to forget! At Schenck Price – and for so many of our clients – it has been a time of unexpected challenges. Yet, I am very pleased to report that we are all rising to this unprecedented occasion. In every area of practice, we have been closing deals, completing transactions and resolving disputes, sometimes in new and unconventional ways. Through much of the year, most of our work has been done remotely, which sometimes presented difficulties. However, we always kept our eye on our clients' objectives and always found a way to accomplish what needed to be done.

The challenges are not over yet, but during this time, we have worked very hard to ensure that our service and communications have been seamless. Our priority continues to be providing excellent, uninterrupted service to our clients, while maintaining the continued health and safety of all those who work in – and visit – our offices.

This year's Year in Review is a little different than it has been in the past. It's certainly coming out later in the year, but, as in the past, it gives us the chance to show you what we are able to accomplish for you, both when times are relatively normal and during a pandemic.

Gary F. Werner, Esq.

Managing Partner

On Behalf of the Partners, Attorneys and Staff

Beating the Clock to Close a Loan

Michael Marotte and **Ilana Pearl** successfully closed a \$20 million non-recourse commercial loan in less than eight days, providing critical secondary financing to a commercial real estate client. Marotte successfully closed a \$50 million+ asset-based loan for a major client. Because of time constraints and commercial requirements, the loan documents were finalized over a single weekend in anticipation of funding on the next Monday. In addition, he oversaw the successful corporate divorce of a business group involving 109 separate businesses and entities.



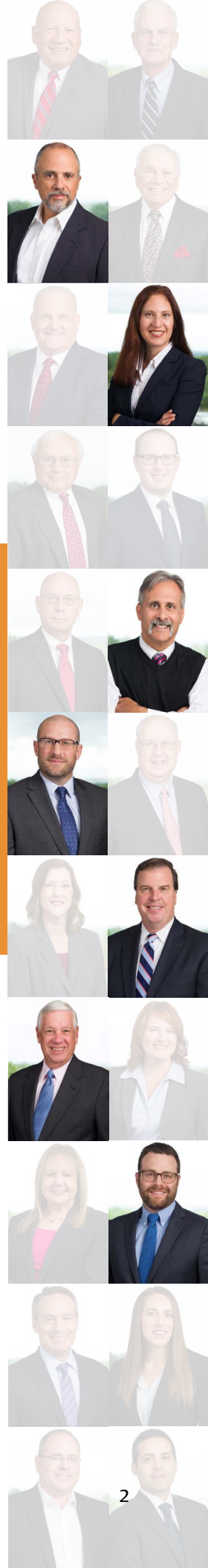
Helping Pass a Business to the Next Generation

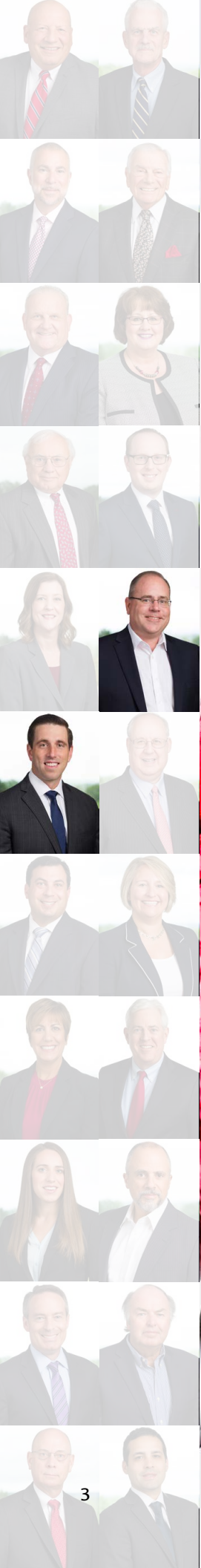
Working with a family-held manufacturing company, **Edward Ahart**, **Gary Mazart**, **Jason Waldstein** and **Stacey Gallagher** concluded a highly complex corporate reorganization and recapitalization, worth approximately \$25 million, including a generational management transfer.

Expanding Corporate Practice in Size and Scope

Schenck Price's Corporate and Business Law team – including **Michael Marotte**, **Edward Ahart**, **Jason Waldstein**, **John Ursin**, **Ilana Pearl** and **Jamie Taub**, as well as Paralegal **Stacey Gallagher** – has been growing and serving an expanding number of companies in a general counsel role. In addition to counseling on operational and contractual matters, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, we partner with our colleagues within the Firm with other specialized expertise, to offer closely held and family-owned businesses guidance on matters like strategic and succession planning, as well as tax and employment issues.

Highlighted from top: Michael Marotte, Ilana Pearl, Gary Mazart, Jason Waldstein, John Ursin, Edward Ahart, Jamie Taub



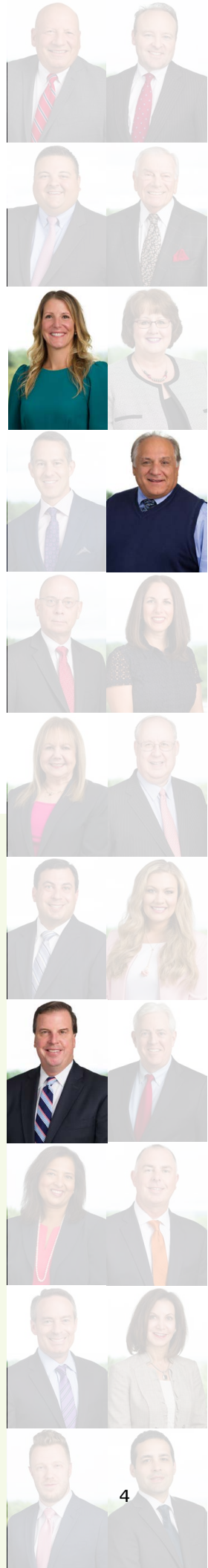


Helping Businesses Work Through Government Regulations

COVID-19 has shone a spotlight on the at-times tenuous relationship between thriving restaurants and the government entities that regulate them. **Ryder Ulon** and **Thomas Cotton** had been leading clients through those battles long before COVID-19, and are continuing to do so today.

Ulon and Cotton recently secured a major victory against a local government's attempt to impose crippling restrictions on a business's liquor license. The government had required the business to cease serving alcohol during peak customer hours, which would have gravely impacted the business's sales. The dispute made its way from city hall to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, to a two-day hearing with an administrative judge, and — ultimately — to an appeal with the Superior Court's Appellate Division. The Appellate Division ruled, as the Schenck Price team had argued, that the restrictions could not be imposed and that the business's liquor license could not be encumbered.

Highlighted from top: Ryder Ulon, Thomas Cotton



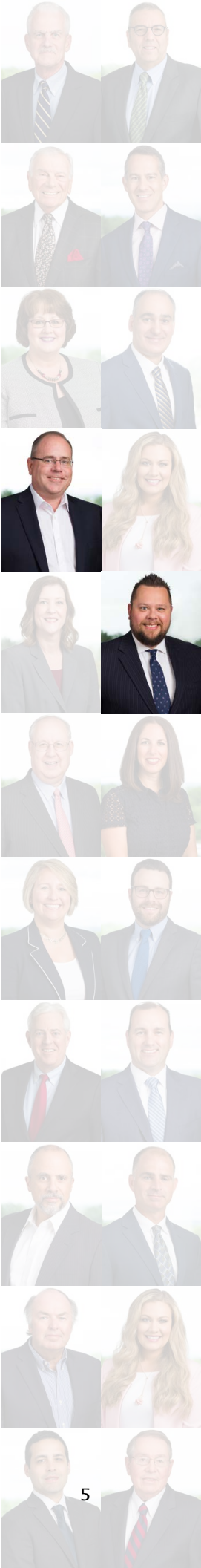
Addressing Leave Policies and Return-to-Work Issues

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unprecedented strain on organizations of all sizes across all industries. State and federal paid and unpaid leave policies have created confusion for employers regarding their obligations and employee rights. Further, the gradual reopening of workplaces has imposed certain health and safety requirements on employers and triggered employment law implications, including requirements to accommodate employees who are considered high-risk for COVID-19 complications or who have childcare obligations. Our Labor and Employment Practice Group, headed by **Cynthia Flanagan** and **Joseph Maddaloni**, has been assisting a wide range of clients with issues, including coordinating paid leave and unpaid leave policies under state and federal law; developing return-to-work protocols to keep employees safe and healthy; managing high-risk employees and COVID-19 fears; and avoiding COVID-19 related employment discrimination claims. They also presented a well-attended webinar covering this array of topics. Their objective is to help clients limit risk and lessen liability in anticipation of the inevitable surge in COVID-19 related employment litigation.



N.J. Supreme Court Victory on Dam Assessments

Schenck Price achieved a significant win for New Jersey residents assessed for the cost of dam repairs on Glen Lake in Sparta. A unanimous New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the assessment imposed was illegal. **John Ursin** represented a group of six homeowners at the trial court and through the appeals, including arguing the case at the New Jersey Supreme Court. The decision significantly clarified and confirmed principles of municipal dam assessments, ruling that only properties that have an objective benefit from a project may be included in the assessment area. The benefit to a property is typically measured by an increase in the fair market value. Further, the Court ruled that the amount of the assessment cannot exceed the benefit and that all of the assessments must be proportional.



Highlighted from top: Ryder Ulon, Joseph Haftek

Facilitating a Parking System During the Pandemic

As COVID-19 forced the State of New Jersey to shut down, **Ryder Ulon** and **Joseph Haftek** were tasked by a public-entity client to develop and then analyze bids for a highly technical parking system. Further complicating the task was the fact that the system needed to be installed alongside ongoing essential construction work, with time being of the essence. Utilizing technology requisite for both the development and analysis of the bids along with technologies to overcome the inability to conduct face-to-face meetings, the Firm quickly finalized the bids and negotiated a comprehensive contract. The Firm's ability to respond permitted the system's installation in the pre-pandemic timeline without a negative impact on the client's operations and budget.

Dispute Between Former Business Partners Can Raise Unique Difficulties

Because partners' relationships are often as personal as they are business-driven, those difficulties can be all the more heightened when the pursued partner files for bankruptcy.

Gary Werner and **Thomas Cotton** took on that burden for several years, ultimately securing a very favorable settlement on their clients' behalf. They scoured bank records in a search for assets, analyzed the liquidity of the pursued partner's new business ventures, litigated an adversary action and conducted mediations with multiple mediators. At the end of the day, the pursued partner agreed to settle claims that would otherwise have risked discharge in bankruptcy.

Advising Lenders Through the Complexities of COVID-19

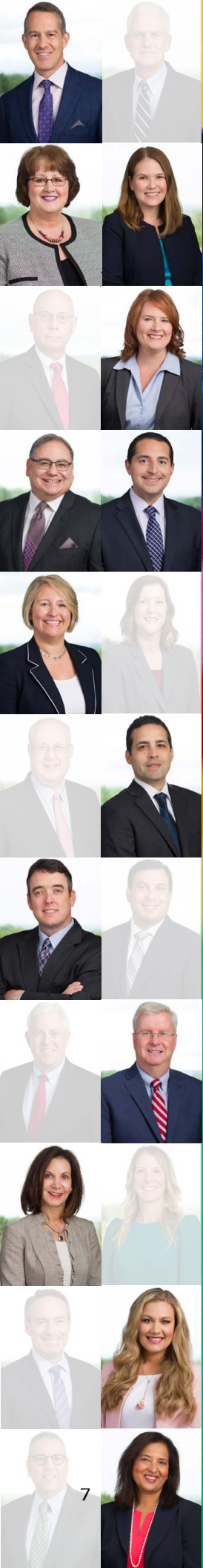
The **Banking and Finance Practice Group** has expanded its practice by assisting lenders in understanding and complying with the various governmental lending programs available to borrowers nationwide during the COVID-19 pandemic under the CARES Act. The group recently completed a substantial project for a national lender which involved researching and analyzing on a national scale the recent guidance and rules surrounding those programs created under the CARES Act.

During the pandemic, our Banking and Finance Practice Group attorneys have been:

- advising lenders and borrowers on sources of capital
- helping lenders and borrowers to structure transactions to determine eligibility under the various lending programs included under the CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") and EIDL Program
- advising lenders and borrowers of the requirements of the CARES Act and PPP
- assisting lenders in implementing the PPP and applying for funds in the PPP
- assisting lenders and borrowers with respect to debt forgiveness under the PPP
- assisting lenders and borrowers with outstanding PPP loans in change of ownership scenarios
- advising lenders and borrowers, respectively, concerning creditors' and debtors' rights
- advising lenders and borrowers regarding subordination of their EIDL loans

Highlighted from top: Gary Werner, Thomas Cotton and the Banking and Finance Practice Group, including: Jeremy Garlock, Thomas Hofstetter, James Dempsey, Michael Gallo, Heidi Hoffman-Shaloo, Michael Messer, Robert McAnanly, Jason Rubin





Helping Schools Navigate Through the Pandemic

During the pandemic, our School Law attorneys have supported and guided school district clients by deciphering, summarizing and assisting those clients with the myriad of Executive Orders, NJ Department of Education guidance documents, laws and regulations that have been adopted in the past year that directly impact them. This includes providing counsel on the many legal issues surrounding distance learning, force majeure contract issues, health and safety concerns, the FFCRA, educating special needs pupils, leave of absence issues, conducting remote BOE meetings and readiness for the 2020-21 school year. Along with day-to-day counsel, our School Law attorneys have issued a plethora of Legal Alerts on these topics and hosted a successful webinar attended by hundreds of school officials.

Highlighted from top: The School Law Practice Group, including: Marc Zitomer, Joanne Butler, Robin Ballard, Katherine Gilfillan, Paul Green, Joseph Roselle, Alison Kenny, Christopher Sedefian. The Health Care Law Practice Group, including: Daniel Carroll, Brian Foley, Deborah Cmielewski, Meghan Hoppe, Divya Srivastav-Seth

Offering Health Care Providers Continual Support

Throughout the pandemic, our **Health Care Law Practice Group** has:

- Counseled health care provider clients with respect to telehealth issues and negotiated telehealth-related agreements
- Negotiated agreements on behalf of hospital clients for COVID-19 related clinical research
- Counseled a research sponsor client with respect to modifications to the administration of a study to account for COVID-19 impacts
- Counseled clients through remote working policy and process, including provision of telebehavioral health services
- Drafted and reviewed agreements on behalf of clients distributing personal protective equipment to health care entities

Highlighted from top: Gary Werner, Joseph Haftek, Jake McCarthy, Dana Ferrera, Thomas Cotton, Thomas Gamarello and the Land Use and Redevelopment Practice Group, including: Sean Monaghan, John Ursin, Jeremy Garlock, James Polles, Matthew Posada, Jason Rubin

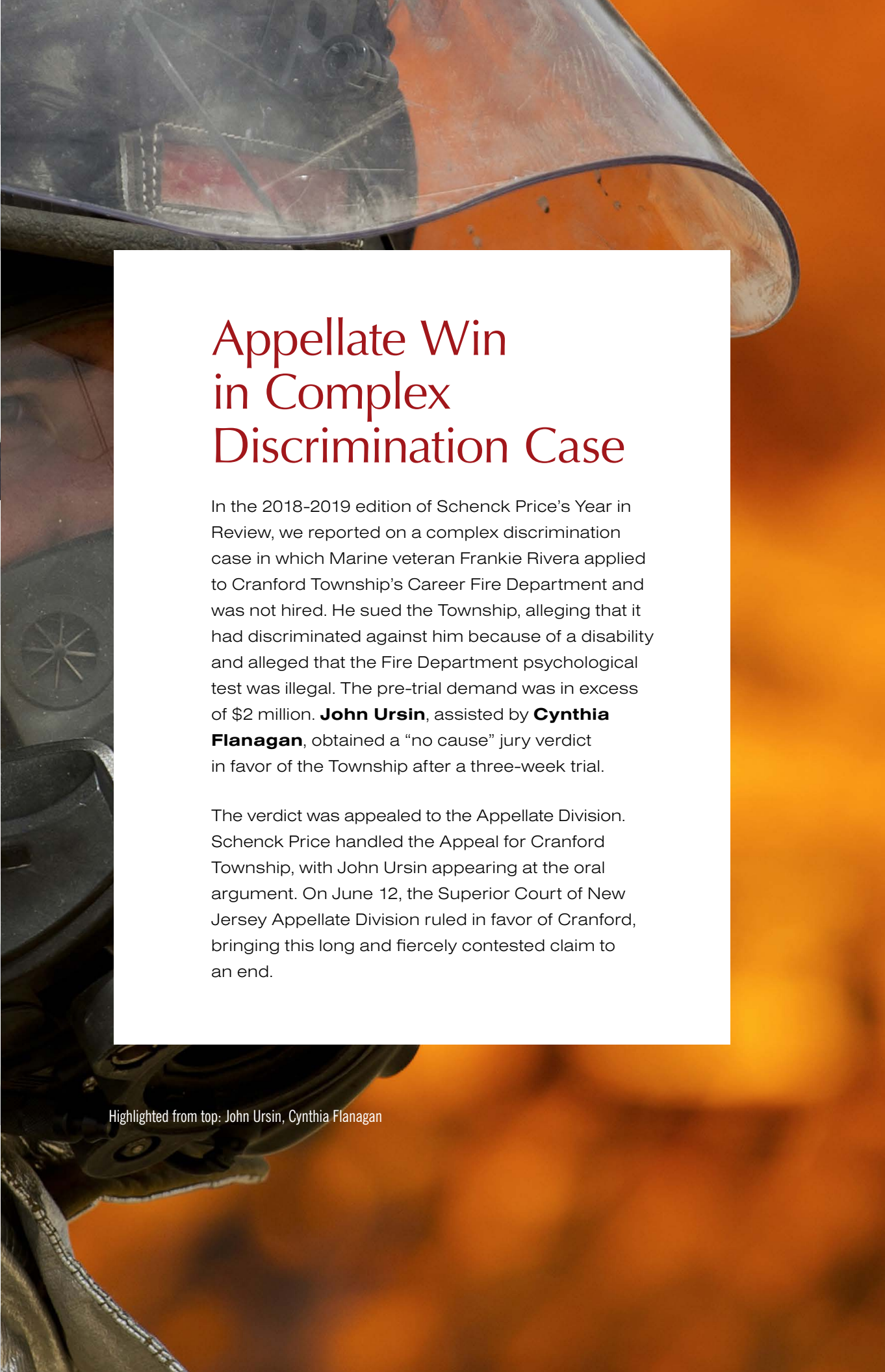
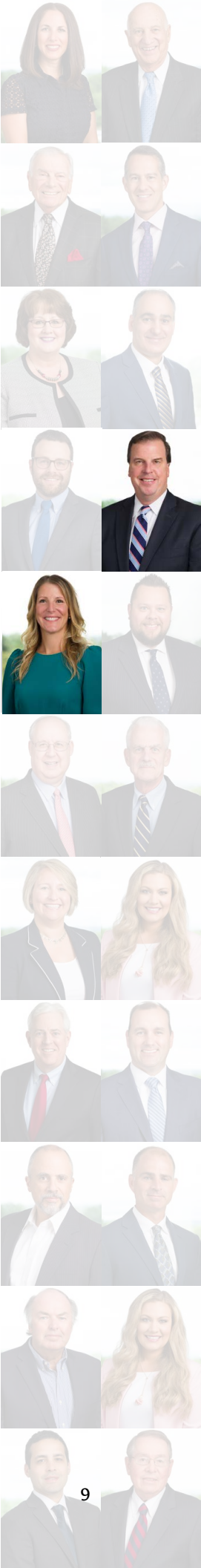
Eight-Figure Defect Litigation

Gary Werner, Joseph Haftek, Jake McCarthy, Dana Ferrera, Thomas Cotton and **Thomas Gamarello** represented an international manager in an eight-figure defect litigation brought by the condominium association of a high-end multi-building development in Hoboken. After being a late addition to the case, our construction attorneys quickly digested an enormous amount of discovery in a short time frame, developed multiple defense theories, and quickly positioned our client as a party immune from liability in the matter. This position was eventually validated when the matter resolved at mediation with a very favorable settlement for our client.

Land Use Practice Growing by Leaps and Bounds

In the past year, Schenck Price's **Land Use and Redevelopment Practice Group** continued to grow, doubling the number of active projects under its direction and leadership, obtaining sought after land use approvals with significant financial incentives to developers, while adding **James Polles** as Counsel. The projects varied and included a range of residential, commercial and mixed-use projects in over a dozen counties in New Jersey, including: redevelopment approvals for the development of a 2.5 acre waterfront parcel in the City of Bayonne that is a ground-up, mixed-use improvement with 180 residential units; negotiating a thirty year tax abatement for a 27-unit residential project in the City of Linden; and securing numerous land use approvals for gasoline/convenience store improvements. Helping guide the Land Use and Redevelopment Practice Group is its combined depth and breadth of municipal zoning and planning requirements, as well as the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, by way of its past and current representation of municipalities and redevelopment agencies, as well as various planning and zoning boards.





Appellate Win in Complex Discrimination Case

In the 2018-2019 edition of Schenck Price’s Year in Review, we reported on a complex discrimination case in which Marine veteran Frankie Rivera applied to Cranford Township’s Career Fire Department and was not hired. He sued the Township, alleging that it had discriminated against him because of a disability and alleged that the Fire Department psychological test was illegal. The pre-trial demand was in excess of \$2 million. **John Ursin**, assisted by **Cynthia Flanagan**, obtained a “no cause” jury verdict in favor of the Township after a three-week trial.

The verdict was appealed to the Appellate Division. Schenck Price handled the Appeal for Cranford Township, with John Ursin appearing at the oral argument. On June 12, the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division ruled in favor of Cranford, bringing this long and fiercely contested claim to an end.

Highlighted from top: John Ursin, Cynthia Flanagan

Representing Health Care Systems in New Ventures

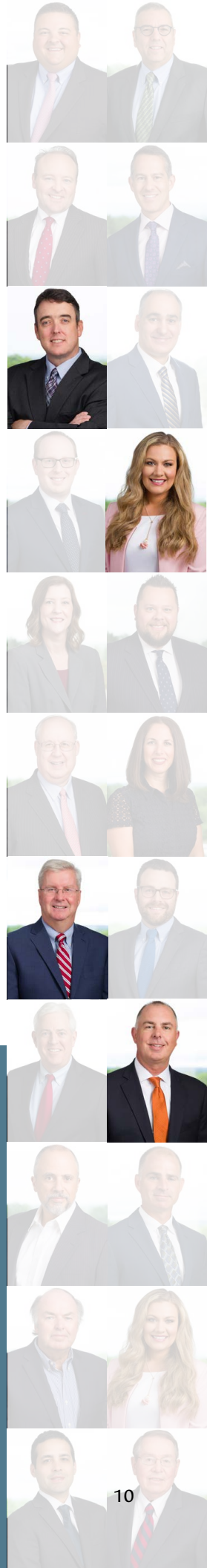
The Firm's Health Care Law Practice Group continues to represent health care clients seeking new ways to deliver health care services and solutions to the communities and patients they serve. **Daniel Carroll** and **Meghan Hoppe** represented a large New Jersey health care system in transactions to acquire existing health care service providers, including a surgery center, a home health agency, a hospice, a social adult day care and an urgent care center. These transactions further the client's mission of providing high quality and personalized health care services to improve the overall health and welfare of the communities it serves.

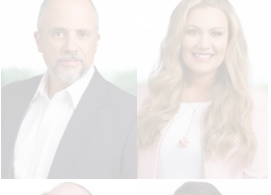
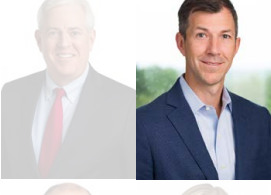
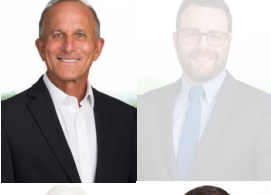
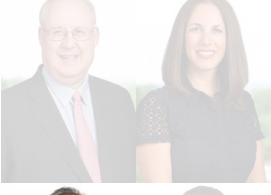
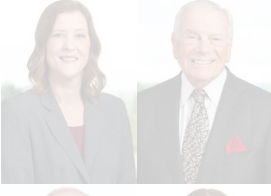
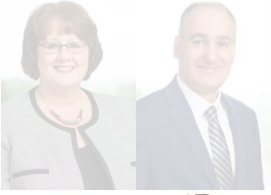
Defending Hospital in Medicaid Audit

In the area of provider reimbursement, the Health Care Law Practice Group successfully defended one of its hospital clients in an audit by a Medicaid Managed Care Organization, seeking the recovery of alleged overpayments amounting to \$1.2 million. **Brian Foley** defended the hospital and obtained a result of no liability for the hospital. The Group also successfully defended a number of physicians and their practices in similar audits where Managed Care Organizations alleged overpayments based on the level of care provided and challenges to the medical necessity of the services rendered.

Resolving Insurance Dispute Results in \$1.5 Million Savings

Brian Foley and **Jeffrey LaRosa** represented a statewide, nonprofit corporation in resolving an insurance dispute with one of the state's largest health insurance companies. Schenck Price once again combined the resources of its Health Care Law Practice Group and Litigation Group to achieve a very favorable result for our client. The matter was settled successfully, saving the client approximately \$1.5 million in insurance payments.

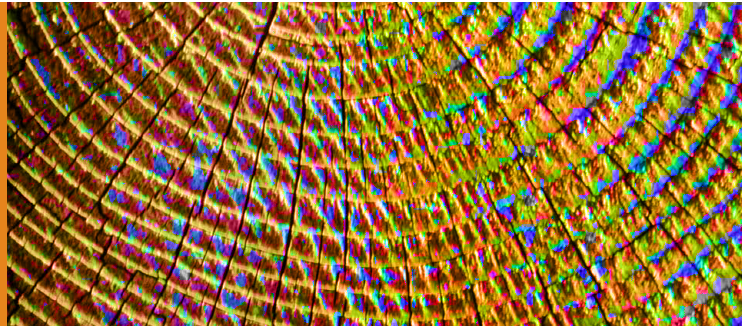




Seeking Consumer Fraud Act Damages Against Insurer

Brian Foley and **Eric Inglis** are partnering the Firm’s deep knowledge of health care reimbursement with its commercial litigation expertise to recover funds from one of the State’s largest health insurers. The Firm filed suit on behalf of one of the State’s largest hospitals and scored an early success in the case by defeating a summary judgment motion that will allow the hospital-plaintiff to seek Consumer Fraud Act damages against the health insurer. As the case enters the discovery phase, Foley and Inglis will be leveraging the Firm’s nearly 100 years of experience representing hospitals to cut through a jungle of reimbursement regulations and managed care contracts in order to recover the reimbursement owed to the hospital.

Defending Construction Defect Claims



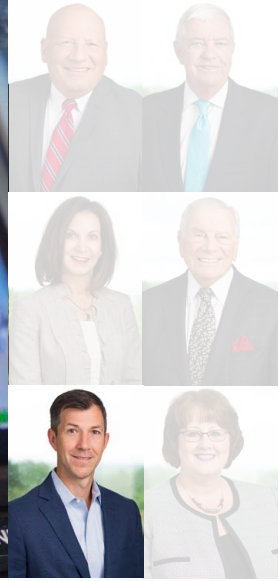
Gil Leeds and **John Campbell** continue to serve as National Coordinating Counsel for Pennsylvania Lumbermens Insurance Company, the country’s oldest and largest mutual insurance company dedicated to wood products and building material industries, providing advice and counsel for the resolution of construction defect claims across the country. Leeds and Campbell continue to also defend construction defect claims locally in New Jersey, working smartly and efficiently to secure early dismissals and settlements when possible. They were successful in securing the dismissal of a window

supplier and installer in a residential condominium construction defect case with approximately 50 defendants after supplying detailed discovery responses and securing important deposition testimony from the general contractor’s first witness. They secured a nuisance value settlement for another window supplier in a smaller residential construction defect case likely headed to trial as a result of Consumer Fraud Act violation claims and the pursuit of treble damages. Big or small, Leeds and Campbell focus their defense on the issues that matter to their clients in the pursuit of quick resolutions.

Highlighted from top: Brian Foley, Eric Inglis, Gil Leeds, John Campbell

A Settlement is a Settlement is a Settlement

Insurance clients often seek to settle cases early to save thousands of dollars in attorney's fees. Schenck Price's Insurance Defense Practice Group works to do just that on behalf of carriers who look to save defense costs. **John Campbell** secured an early settlement in a significant personal injury action in which the plaintiff alleged disc herniations requiring surgical intervention following a head-on collision caused by the defendant. Campbell was able to settle the case before serving discovery demands at 50% of the pre-suit demand issued directly to the insurance carrier. The settlement was memorialized with plaintiff's counsel... but the plaintiff had second thoughts. Nevertheless, the settlement was secured following motion practice and Court orders because New Jersey has a strong public policy in favor of the settlement of litigation and our courts strain to give effect to the terms of a settlement wherever possible. The plaintiff refused to accept the funds and they are now deposited into Court following additional motion practice.



Highlighted: John Campbell

Frivolous Litigation Caught on Film

New Jersey prohibits frivolous litigation, and those who violate the statute are subject to sanctions. **John Campbell** obtained a voluntary dismissal in a significant personal injury action in 2019 after serving plaintiff's counsel with a frivolous litigation letter threatening sanctions if the litigation was not immediately withdrawn. The letter was accompanied by video evidence of the incident pulled from a dashboard camera and a police report prepared shortly after the incident. The video clearly established that the plaintiff's claim lacked any good faith basis and the likelihood of sanctions was demonstrable. Schenck Price's Insurance Defense Practice Group is poised to utilize video evidence to persuasively demand early dismissals and threaten frivolous litigation sanctions when appropriate.





Expediting Medicaid Approval

When a family had been waiting for a year for an approval of their disabled adult daughter's Medicaid, the **Elder and Special Needs Law Practice Group** was able to facilitate the approval within a few days. With this, the family was able to start applying for residential programs for their daughter, where she would receive the services and support she so desperately needed in order to remain in the community.

A continuing care community presented a client with a life care agreement requiring a choice of several entry fees up to \$850,000 and varying refund options. We analyzed the options to help the client determine which was best for the client and the spouse, who needed care.

Highlighted from top: The Elder and Special Needs Law Practice Group, including Regina Spielberg, Shirley Whitenack, Meredith Grocott, Gary Mazart, Lauren Mechaly, Jordan Wassel



We met clients in parking lots and through Zoom to complete necessary documents.

We continued to serve our clients who needed planning documents, such as powers of attorney, health care directives, trusts and last wills and testaments, during the COVID-19 emergency by using a variety of means, including outside signings and new remote notarization laws in New York and New Jersey.



Facilitating Sale of Industrial Properties

Sean Monaghan served as environmental counsel for several affiliates of The Hampshire Companies, a broad-based national real estate operator, investor and fund manager, in a sale of a portfolio of industrial properties in Northern New Jersey. The \$174 million sale included 27 industrial buildings with more than 30 tenants in over one million square feet and several development sites in Essex and Middlesex Counties. The engagement included risk assessment, coordination of due diligence, negotiations with prior owners and other responsible parties, risk allocation, risk transfer, negotiation of environmental provisions for agreements of sale, ISRA compliance and post-closing compliance activities.

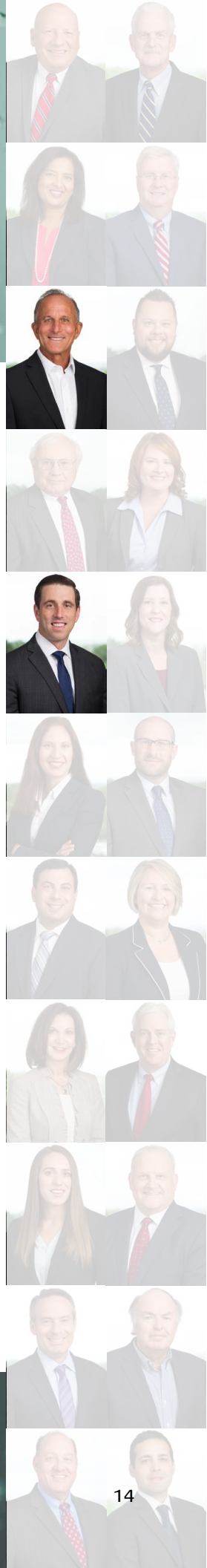
Highlighted: Sean Monaghan

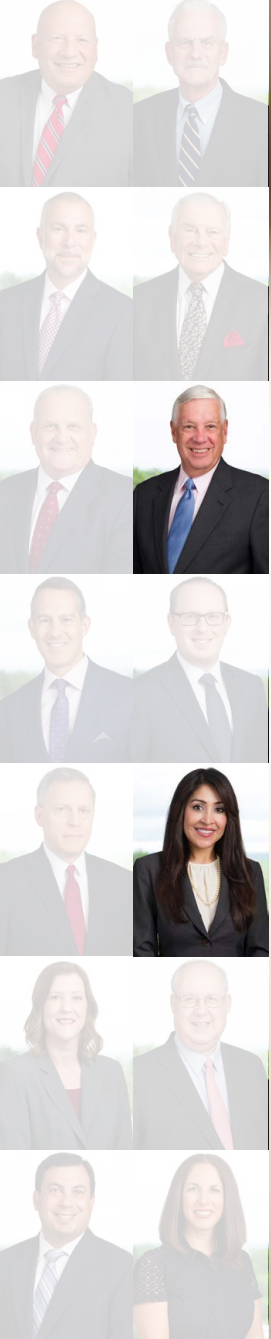
Defending Insurance Agencies in Coverage Issues

The surge in at-home food deliveries has been one of the many changes to daily life wrought by COVID-19. But when ordering food, one does not usually contemplate the complex insurance machinations implicated by delivery operations – much less what happens when the delivery driver is involved in an accident. **Gil Leeds** and **Thomas Cotton** recently defended an insurance agency accused of malpractice in its procurement of coverage for a New Jersey restaurant. The restaurant alleged that the agent never discussed the risk posed by its delivery drivers using their personal vehicles, and one of those vehicles was later involved in a serious accident. Leeds and Cotton challenged those allegations on multiple fronts, through multiple means, at multiple points in the litigation. Their strategy included extensive document discovery, scrutinizing questioning of the restaurant owners at their depositions, and an intensive round of expert discovery. The parties settled soon after discovery closed, without the need for trial or for Schenck Price to even file pre-trial motions.

COVID-19 has led to a flood of litigation initiated by hospitality and entertainment enterprises regarding insurance coverage, implicating both the insurance carriers and the brokers who procured the insurance policies. **Gil Leeds** and **Thomas Cotton** recently defended an insurance agency that found itself pulled into a more primal, pre-coronavirus fight between a bar and its carrier – a legal fight that began because of a knife fight among numerous patrons.

When the insurance carrier denied the bar's claim for coverage arising from the catastrophic brawl, the bar sued the carrier and the agency. The bar alleged that the agency had committed malpractice in its handling of the policy. Leeds and Cotton zealously defended the case, establishing through documents and deposition testimony that the agency could not be blamed for the coverage dispute. The parties reached an amicable settlement soon after the close of discovery.

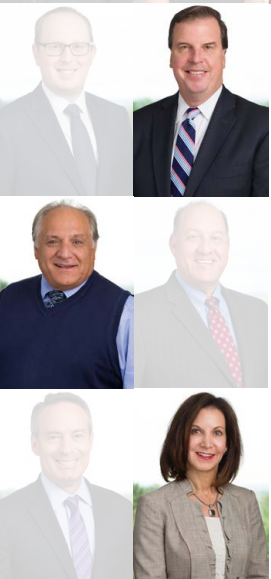




Serving Wide-Ranging Needs of Non-Profits

Farah Ansari serves as outside general counsel to a New York private foundation that is involved in international grant making in several countries. In this role, she counsels on governance-related issues, grant agreements, tax issues, and certain private foundation operational rules. This includes assistance with foreign equivalency determinations.

During 2019, our Nonprofit Organizations Practice Group continued to grow. **Edward Ahart** assumed the role of general counsel to The Council of Fashion Designers of America, Inc., a national trade association, and deals with matters as varied as governance, organizational structure, taxes, event production, and scholarships and grants.



Helping the Senior Care Community

John Ursin, Joseph Maddaloni and **Deborah Cmielewski** worked with LeadingAge New Jersey (n/k/a LeadingAge New Jersey & Delaware), the statewide association of not-for-profit senior care organizations, to evaluate issues relating to the Proposed New Earned Sick Leave Rules promulgated by the Department of Labor & Workforce Development under the New Jersey Earned Sick Leave Act. On behalf of LeadingAge New Jersey, the attorneys submitted comments to the regulatory proposal, which was ultimately adopted in October of 2019 and became effective in January of 2020.



Highlighted from top: Edward Ahart, Farah Ansari, John Ursin, Joseph Maddaloni, Deborah Cmielewski



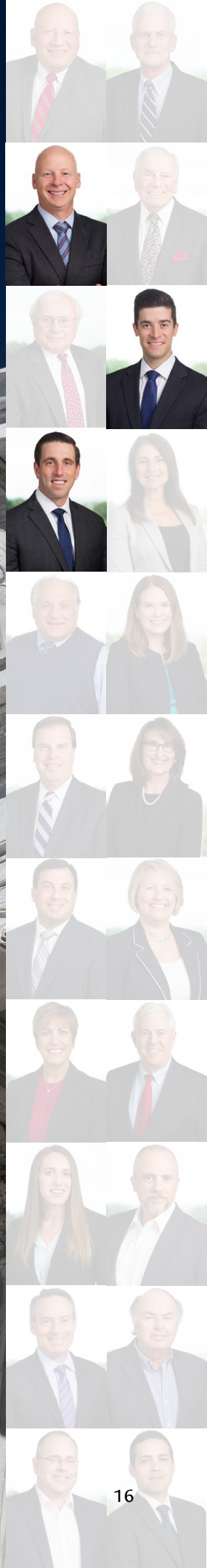
New Jersey Supreme Court Win on Invasion of Privacy

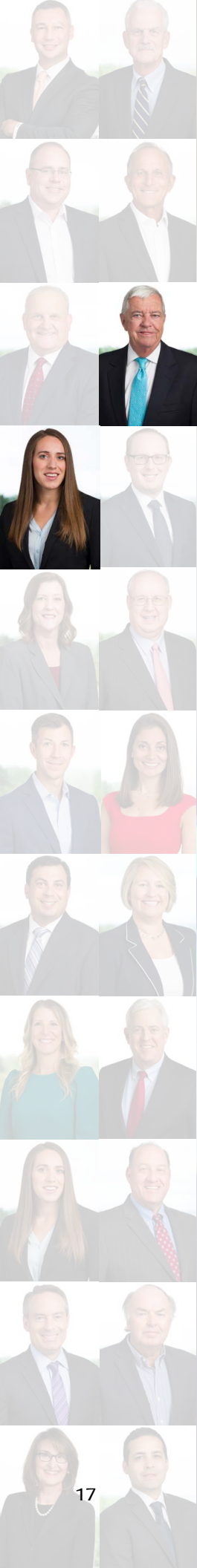
In a landmark ruling, the New Jersey Supreme Court held that property owners and managers cannot be subjected to invasion-of-privacy lawsuits unless plaintiffs present actual evidence of a privacy invasion.

This ruling marks a significant victory on behalf of New Jersey's real estate industry, resulting from years of litigation and effort undertaken by Schenck Price's **William Buckley, T.J. Hull** and **Thomas Cotton**. Schenck Price's clients, a collection of prestigious real estate and property management firms, had been sued by dozens of individuals after a rogue janitorial contractor was caught installing a camera in a women's restroom.

Schenck Price successfully persuaded the Supreme Court to review the case, after the Appellate Division had decided to let the claims proceed despite the lack of any evidence that their privacy had been invaded. Following multiple rounds of briefing, including an opposing brief from the ACLU of New Jersey, Schenck Price convinced the Supreme Court to reverse the Appellate Division decision and reinstate a dismissal originally entered by the trial court in 2014.

The Supreme Court's decision sends a message that, while invasion-of-privacy victims will be afforded the utmost respect and the opportunity to litigate their claims, property owners and managers will likewise be protected from speculative lawsuits.





Protecting Morris County from Death Responsibility

John Bowens and **Rebecca Rosen** protected the County of Morris from allegations that it was responsible for the death of a person resulting from a heart attack at a local police station. The estate brought claims against the County, alleging that it should be liable because prior to his death he attempted to make a phone call from a telephone within the police station but was unable to attain emergency assistance. Bowens obtained a dismissal of the case at trial by demonstrating that expert testimony was required in order to establish the claims against the County. Thereafter, the estate attempted to have the court reconsider the claims, which Bowens and Rosen successfully opposed.

Highlighted from top: John Bowens, Rebecca Rosen

Appellate Victory Upholds Will Contest Dismissal

Over the years of their collective experience, the members of the Schenck Price Estate and Trust Litigation Practice Group have just about seen it all in the fiduciary litigation legal arena. Recently, this included seeking to have a photocopy of a Last Will and Testament and holographic (handwritten) Wills admitted to probate, both of which require application to the Superior Court. In separate matters, both **Shirley Whitenack** and **Meredith Grocott** brought actions seeking to have holographic Wills admitted to probate. New Jersey is one of 26 states that recognize such Wills.

In 2020, Whitenack and Grocott obtained an appellate victory upholding the dismissal of a will contest at the first court hearing. The Order to Show Cause directed the parties

to personally appear on the return date. The probate judge dismissed the complaint with prejudice when the plaintiff failed to appear at the hearing and the plaintiff appealed. On behalf of the Executor, Schenck Price successfully argued that the trial court's order should be affirmed. Noting that dismissal with prejudice is a drastic remedy to be used sparingly, the Appellate Division ruled that dismissal with prejudice was warranted because the plaintiff had a history of invoking the court's jurisdiction but defying its orders.

As experienced fiduciary litigators, our team is able to advise our clients and represent them in all probate matters, which often can become hotly contested.

Highlighted from top: The Estate and Trust Litigation Practice Group, including Shirley Whitenack, Meredith Grocott, Basil O'Connor, Ryder Ulon, Thomas Gamarello



Six- and Seven-Figure Awards for Injured Clients

The Firm has represented individuals who have suffered severe and sometimes life-changing injuries. Our attorneys have consistently recovered high awards for our injured clients who have suffered disabilities, loss of income, and pain and suffering. Last year, the Firm successfully obtained a recovery of over one million dollars on behalf of a client who sustained life-altering permanent injuries after falling a significant distance on a residential property. The case involved several complex legal issues relating to premises liability and the duty owed by homeowners to guests, all of which were successfully navigated by our attorneys. The Firm is actively litigating various wrongful death cases, mass tort lawsuits and a multitude of other personal injury claims wherein the Firm's clients have suffered injuries as a result of the negligent conduct of others.

Additionally, in 2018 and 2019, our attorneys challenged the Social Security Administration after two clients were denied benefits. Following trials for each client, the Social Security Administration decisions were overturned and disability benefits were granted to both clients. Our attorneys are also active in recovering workers' compensation benefits for clients injured at their workplaces. In 2018 and in 2019, our attorneys negotiated benefits of 100% disability for clients whose work injuries prevented them from returning to the work force.

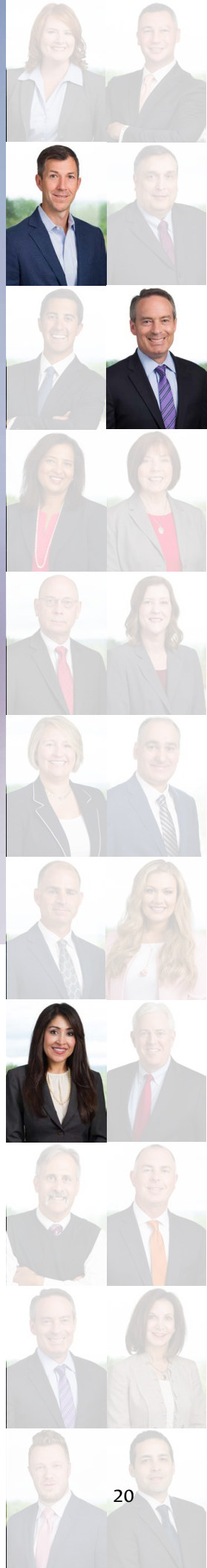
Highlighted from top: The Plaintiff's Personal Injury Practice Group including James Kassis, Steven Geffner, Richard Toniolo, T.J. Hull

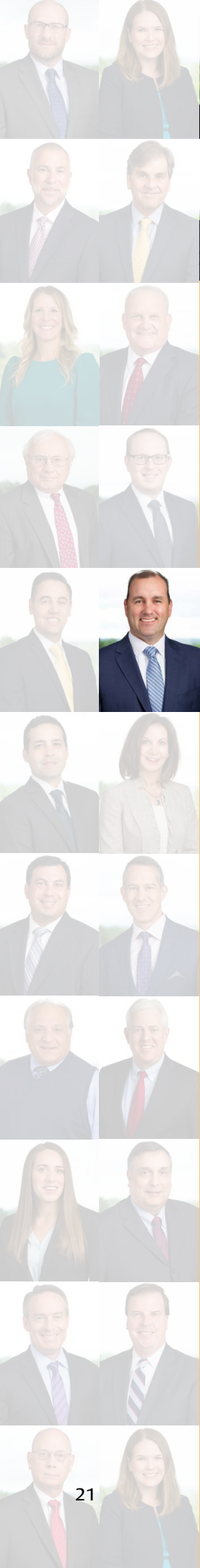
Timely Webinar Presented Regarding COVID-19 Impacts

John Campbell and **Eric Inglis** presented a webinar to insurance defense industry professionals in May 2020 addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on insurance defense litigation. The global pandemic caused Federal and State Courts across the country to close their doors, suspend or extend deadlines and begin virtual litigation practices. Thousands and thousands of litigation files have been impacted. Campbell and Inglis addressed the rapid changes and discussed strategies for moving forward including (a) Federal and State Court Orders & Directives; (b) COVID-19 impacts on litigation activity; (c) insurance defense settlement strategies during quarantine; and (d) virtual litigation best practices. The webinar is available on demand on the firm's website at the Insurance Defense Practice Group page.

Advancing Our Diversity Initiatives

Schenck Price's Diversity & Inclusion Committee, chaired by **Farah Ansari**, has been actively focusing on several initiatives, including plans for an anticipated diversity internship program and programs to educate and increase awareness of diversity and inclusion among attorneys and staff.





Highlighted: Robert McBriar

Defending Municipalities in Hundreds of Tax Appeals

In 2019, **Robert McBriar** defended more than 480 tax appeals on behalf of municipal clients. He is currently lead tax appeal attorney for six taxing districts in Sussex and Warren Counties. This past year, McBriar was named lead tax appeal counsel for a Fortune 100 company and is handling more than 100 tax appeals on its behalf throughout the State of New Jersey.

McBriar achieved numerous successful results for private clients, demonstrating the varied issues that arise in this niche practice – and their geographic scope. Building on prior year successes, this past year McBriar:

- Negotiated a two-year tax appeal settlement for a residential client in Essex County, saving the client more than \$34,000 in property taxes
- Negotiated a multi-year tax appeal settlement for a commercial client in Bergen County, resulting in a tax refund of more than \$28,000 per year
- Resolved a tax assessment and tax billing dispute for a client in Essex County, saving the client more than \$72,000
- Successfully negotiated removal of an added assessment in excess of \$243,000 imposed on commercial property in Sussex County
- Maintained farmland assessments for more than 120 acres in Sussex County

Continuing to Promote Women's Professional Development

The mission of the **Schenck Price Women's Initiative** is to promote the professional development of women through mentoring, education and advocacy.

- The Women's Initiative organizes events highlighting women, such as commemorating Women's History Month. These events have included a Jeopardy! night in which attorneys and staff participated in a fun evening while learning about pioneering women, as well as a "Post-It Wall" in our lobby allowing people to leave a note about a woman who inspired them.
- In May of 2019, the well-attended annual networking reception once again took place at the Park Savoy Estate in Florham Park. Unfortunately, the planned event for 2020 was put on hold due to health restrictions.
- On an informal basis, there were book club meetings, including one via Zoom, that offered camaraderie along with discourse.
- The Women's Initiative also spearheaded a fundraiser for the Jersey Battered Women's Service, a private, nonprofit agency that provides confidential services and support for those facing issues of domestic abuse.
- Finally, the Women's Initiative acknowledges the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment securing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote.

Highlighted from top, left to right: Robin Ballard, Erica Berman, Joanne Butler, Farah Ansari, Deborah Cmielewski, Dana Ferrera, Shirley Whitenack, Cynthia Flanagan, Rebecca Rosen, Wynne Whitman, Katherine Gilfillan, Meredith Grocott, Divya Srivastav-Seth, Heidi Hoffman-Shaloo, Meghan Hoppe, Valerie Vladyka, Alison Kenny, Lauren Mechaly, Regina Spielberg, Catherine O'Hern, Ilana Pearl





Expanding Our Social Action Footprint

Schenck Price takes great pride in its 100+ year history and the strong role the Firm – and the individual attorneys and staff members – plays in the communities in which we work and live. The Firm formalized this commitment by creating a Social Action Committee to create an ongoing program where we can give back to our communities in a variety of ways. Among our recent social action initiatives have been:

- **Market Street Mission** – Everyone was invited to donate gently used clothing, shoes and accessories. Every donation made to the thrift store, located in Morristown, means low-income families in the community have a place to shop. Every purchase at the store helps to fund the Market Street Mission's Life Change program.
- **Bridge of Books Foundation** – Attorneys and staff collected gently used books for children in New Jersey living at or below the poverty line.
- **St. Joseph's Children's Hospital** – We asked everyone to donate fun character adhesive bandages for the pediatric patients at St. Joseph's Children's Regional Medical Center in Paterson.
- **Interfaith Food Pantry** – A food drive for the Interfaith Food Pantry collected hundreds of food and grocery items that were provided to Morris County residents, primarily senior citizens living on fixed incomes and low-income working families.
- **New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection (NJCEED)** – The Firm sponsored "Wear Jeans to Work" Fridays, where attorneys and staff were asked to donate \$5 for the privilege of wearing jeans. Funds raised were donated to the NJCEED program, which provides comprehensive outreach, education and screening for breast cancer (as well as other types of cancer), for patients who fall at or below the poverty line.

Great People Focused
on Great Results...
Now More Than Ever

Schenck Price

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