



ONE-DAY LEGAL SYMPOSIUM

MAY 19, 2026 | NEW YORK, NY



Bird, Lester

Lester Bird is a senior manager for Pew’s courts and communities project, providing technical assistance to state courts and legal organizations throughout the U.S. to reform how millions of people, especially those without representation, navigate the legal system. His focus includes encouraging data-driven reforms of court policy by using research to identify problems and solutions in the legal system. Bird previously worked on the voting information project at Pew, where he helped voters find their polling place and ballot information. Before joining Pew, Bird worked in state and local governments in Florida and Washington, D.C., and he holds a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Florida.



Hon. Barday, Shireen

Shireen A. Barday was sworn in as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York on February 6, 2026.

Judge Barday received her J.D. from Stanford Law School, M.A. in Political Science from the City University of New York, and B.A. in Political Science from Barnard College. Prior to law school, Judge Barday served in various roles for the City of New York, including as a demographer for the New York City Districting Commission. She previously served as a law clerk for the Honorable Colleen McMahon, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, from 2009-2010, and as a law clerk for the Honorable Rosemary S. Pooler, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, from 2010-2011. Until she was appointed to the bench, Judge Barday was a litigation partner in private practice, first at Kirkland & Ellis LLP and later at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, and then at Pallas Partners (US) LLP, where she was resident until her appointment to the bench.



Calabrese, Gina

Gina M. Calabrese is a Professor of Clinical Education and the Associate Director of the Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic (“CJELC”) at St. John’s University School of Law. She is a Faculty Co-Advisor to the Public Interest Center and the Faculty Advisor to the St. John’s law student chapter of the National Association of Consumer Advocates. In the clinic, Professor Calabrese teaches legal skills and ethics and supervises law students in their representation of older, lower-income residents of the New York City borough of Queens. CJELC assists clients in a variety of consumer matters: foreclosure, deed and home equity theft, debt collection, home improvement contractor disputes, predatory lending, and deceptive practices in consumer transactions.



Since 2006, Calabrese has been active in creating and supporting policy initiatives to protect consumers entangled in debt litigation, including advocacy to lawmakers, regulators, and court officials, *amicus curiae* briefs, leadership in bar associations, and publishing op-eds. She was a key advocate for enactment of New York’s Exempt Income Protection Act (“EIPA”) (2008), which protects people receiving Social Security and other exempt income from having their bank accounts seized by judgment-creditors. In 2021, New York Governor Kathy Hochul presented Calabrese with a pen certificate for her advocacy that helped to enact the Consumer Credit Fairness Act (2021 (“CCFA”). CCFA made consumer debt courts more equitable for unrepresented consumers and served as a template for a model statute adopted by the Uniform Law Commission. Professor Calabrese helped to establish



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	<p>the Queens CLARO office, a weekly courthouse-based walk-in clinic that assists unrepresented consumers sued for debt. St. John's law students regularly provide <i>pro bono</i> service at CLARO.</p> <p>Gina Calabrese has served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Migration Services in Brooklyn and was Chair of the Civil Court Committee of New York City Bar Association from 2014-2017. Prior to teaching, she practiced law in Los Angeles – first as litigator at a commercial law firm and later, on behalf of a consumer advocacy group specializing in insurance issues. Professor Calabrese earned her B.A. from Columbia University (Columbia College) and her J.D. from Fordham University School of Law.</p>
 <p>Cohen, Kyle</p>	<p>Kyle Cohen is the managing partner of Cohen & Cohen Law, LLC, a collection law firm based out of New York City. Kyle is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. He has previously been a panelist at the Debt Collection Symposium and has been spoken on the industry leading podcast Receivables Roundtable on multiple occasions. For RMAI, he currently serves on the Certification Counsel, Emerging Assets Working Group, and Digital Communications Working Group and has previously volunteered for the Membership Committee and Editorial Committee. Kyle has previously lobbied on behalf of RMAI in Albany. He is also a member of the National Creditors Bar Association, New York State Creditors Bar Association, New Jersey Creditors Bar, Connecticut Creditors Bar, and the New York City Bar Consumer Affairs Committee. Lastly, Kyle is a New York Knicks season ticket holder.</p>
 <p>Hochheiser, Al</p>	<p>Alan Hochheiser is a leading practitioner in the areas of creditors' rights and bankruptcy law. He advises and represents businesses, regional and national banks, credit unions, equipment lessors and other lenders, as well as secured and unsecured creditors. Among his accomplishments, he has successfully resolved non-dischargeable claims based upon fraud conversion and breach of fiduciary issues and has successfully handled the assumption of leases in the bankruptcy of a major airline. Al has been named to ALM's list of Cleveland's Top-Rated Lawyers and is peer-rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell, the worldwide guide to lawyers. Al is the incoming Chair of the ABA Consumers Bankruptcy Committee, Consumer Committee member of the American Bankruptcy Institute, an associate member of the National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees and a Creditors Auxiliary member of the National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees. Al is also a member of the American Bankers Association, ACA International, the International Association of Privacy Professionals, the Mortgage Bankers Association, RMAI, the Northern Ohio Credit Association, the Ohio State Bar Association and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. In addition, Al actively volunteers for several civic associations in his community. He is a regular volunteer for the Montefiore Home-Fairmount Temple Mitzvah Corp., Past Vice President of ARMDI and Past President of the Fairmount Temple Brotherhood. Al earned his Bachelor of Arts cum laude from the State University of New York at Albany and his Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Ohio, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third,</p>



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	<p>Fourth and Sixth Circuits and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio, the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin.</p>
 <p>Maurice, Don</p>	<p>Don Maurice is a partner at Maurice Wutscher LLP representing the financial services industry in bench trials and jury trials of individual and class actions as well as appeals. He is admitted to the Bars of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia and has practiced law since 1988. Don has been inducted into the American College of Consumer Financial Services Lawyers where he serves as Regent. He is outside counsel to the Receivables Management Association International. He is a fellow at the American Bar Foundation and chairs the Consumer Affairs Committee of the New York City Bar Association. He formerly chaired the Debt Collection Practices and Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the American Bar Association. He is certified as a Leadership Professional in Ethics and Compliance by the Ethics Compliance Initiative. He is editor of the Consumer Financial Services Blog (cfsblog.com). A frequent speaker and author on ethics, financial services, and privacy law, his many articles on these topics have been published in law reviews and trade publications.</p>
 <p>Morris, Scott</p>	<p>Scott Morris is a Managing Member of Tromberg, Miller, Morris & Partners, PLLC, a leading creditors' rights firm specializing in consumer collections and foreclosure. With over two decades of experience, Scott has built a reputation for combining deep legal expertise with operational innovation. He previously served as Treasurer of the National Creditors Bar Association and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the New York State Creditors Bar Association, where he contributes to shaping industry standards and advancing best practices through leading the government affairs committee. Scott's work spans complex regulatory matters involving the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), State Attorneys General, and federal, state, and local compliance frameworks. He has successfully implemented Compliance Management Systems, enhanced technological and operational processes, and provided strategic leadership to large teams of professionals. He earned his J.D., cum laude, from New York Law School (2004) and his B.L.A. from the University of Maryland, College Park (1998). Scott is admitted to practice law in New Jersey, New York, and Virginia.</p>
 <p>Namm, Susan</p>	<p>Susan Namm joined Velocity Portfolio Group in June 2023 and has been the Chief Compliance Officer since May 2024 and has been in the credit and collection industry since 1985 and has held prior positions with nationally known Fortune 500 credit issuers and collection and BPO organizations. Prior to joining Velocity, she was responsible for establishing a successful collection Vendor Oversight Program for a student loan lender/servicer that met the expectations of the CFPB and oversaw all aspects of the program, including call monitoring, audit and risk assessment functions. Susan obtained her B.S. in Business Administration, Management from Western Governors University and is currently enrolled in a Masters (Studies in Law) program at Samford University, Cumberland School of Law, with a concentration in Financial Services Regulatory Compliance. She holds industry certifications from the Receivables Management Association, Intl. (RMAI) and the</p>



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	<p>Association of Credit and Collection Professionals (ACA) to be a Chief Compliance Officer in the A.R.M. industry.</p>
 <p>Reid, David</p>	<p>David Reid serves as General Counsel & Senior Director of Government Affairs for the Receivables Management Association International (RMAI). In this capacity, David manages the legal, state legislative, regulatory, and advocacy activities of the association. David also serves as staff liaison to the RMAI Certification Council and its Standards and Remediation Committees. David is a graduate of Canisius University and Albany Law School. He is admitted to the California, New Jersey, and New York bars.</p>
 <p>Sen. Thomas, Kevin</p>	<p>Senator Kevin Thomas represented the 6th Senatorial District in the New York State Senate from 2019 to 2024, where he served as Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Consumer Protection. In this capacity, he spearheaded landmark initiatives to safeguard consumers from predatory practices, including lowering the statute of limitations on consumer debt and reducing judgment interest rates. Over his tenure, he collaborated across chambers and with the Governor to draft, debate, and pass more than 70 bills into law, legislation addressing consumer rights, housing, public safety, and economic justice.</p> <p>Beyond his legislative service, Kevin has contributed his expertise to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, New York State Advisory Committee, co-chaired hearings on housing discrimination, and played a leading role on the LIPA Commission, exploring critical issues in public power models for Long Island. His earlier career as a Staff Attorney with the New York Legal Assistance Group's Consumer Protection Unit further underscores his lifelong dedication to helping individuals navigate complex systems, advocating for fairness, and building stronger communities.</p> <p>Kevin's leadership, vision, and dedication to equity and justice will be instrumental as HCP continues to advance the mission of supporting and strengthening home care providers across New York State. We are confident his experience in governance, policy, and advocacy will bring new opportunities for growth and impact to our association.</p>
 <p>Yarborough, Brent</p>	<p>Brent Yarborough is a principal with Maurice Wutscher LLP and is based in the firm's Birmingham, Alabama office. Brent advises banks, credit unions, fintech lenders, debt buyers, collection agencies, and law firms on matters related to compliance with federal and state consumer financial laws.</p>



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Yudenfreund, Tamar

Tamar Yudenfreund is the Senior Director of Public Policy at Encore Capital Group, where she has worked since 2008. Leading the public policy team, her focus is on shaping federal and state policy that supports industry growth while promoting positive outcomes for consumers. Based in San Diego, Tamar enjoys playing tennis, walking her dog with friends, reading, cooking and, above all, spending time with her husband and two teenage sons. She holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

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