Hon. Mae A. D'Agostino
U.S. District Judge

Mae Avila D'Agostino is a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York. At the time of her appointment in 2011, she was a trial attorney with the law firm of D'Agostino, Krackeler, Maguire & Cardona, PC. Judge D'Agostino is a 1977 magna cum laude graduate of Siena College in Loudonville, New York. At Siena College Judge D'Agostino was a member of the women's basketball team. After graduating from College, she attended Syracuse University College of Law, receiving her Juris Doctor degree in May of 1980. At Syracuse University College of Law, she was awarded the International Academy of Trial Lawyers award for distinguished achievement in the art and science of advocacy.

After graduating from Law School, Judge D'Agostino began her career as a trial attorney. She has tried numerous civil cases including medical malpractice, products liability, negligence, and civil assault.

Judge D'Agostino is a past chair of the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association and is a member of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge D'Agostino has participated in numerous Continuing Legal Education programs. She is an Adjunct Professor at Albany Law School where she teaches Medical Malpractice. She is a past member of the Siena College Board of Trustees, and Albany Law School Board of Trustees. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association and Albany County Bar Association.

Jeffrey C. Gerson, Esq.
Vice President of Claims, Princeton-Northeast

Mr. Gerson has been licensed to practice law in New York and Connecticut since 1991 and is admitted in several federal courts in New York and Washington, D.C. He has been employed with the MedPro Group since 2018 and promoted to Vice President in February 2020. He was instrumental in helping to build MedPro's New York Division and National Covid Litigation Team. He sits on a national committee at MedPro that makes decisions on settlements v. trials for high exposure cases throughout the country. Prior to joining MedPro, Mr. Gerson was a medical malpractice defense Trial Partner for Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP and took many cases to verdict over the course of his career. He has lectured throughout the country to medical and legal groups on topics in Health Care Law and litigation, including at national ASHRM Conferences. Mr. Gerson authored multiple publications in journals and treatises on various topics in medical malpractice litigation and Health Law. When not advocating for health care professionals, Mr. Gerson volunteers his time as a community speaker and Mock Trial Judge for the Nassau County Bar Association. He spends his spare time as a Certified Baseball Umpire for collegiate, high school and youth leagues and tournaments throughout Long Island. Mr. Gerson grew up in New York City and currently resides in Suffolk County, NY.

Katherine A. Buckley, Esq.
Partner

Katherine A. Buckley, Esq. is a partner at Gale Gale & Hunt, LLC. Before becoming an attorney, she obtained dual B.S. degrees in Political Science and Business and Technology Management, *with distinction*, from Clarkson University. Katie was an Office Manager and registered lobbyist at the Adirondack Council for five years, where she assisted in efforts to educate New York State Legislators in decisions regarding the Adirondacks and the environment.

Katie obtained her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Vermont Law School in 2014 and served on the Vermont Law Review. She then joined Gale Gale & Hunt. Her areas of practice include general liability and medical malpractice defense. She is admitted to practice in New York State, the United States District Court, Northern District of New York, and United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, where she is co-chair of the Diversity Committee for the Trial Lawyers Section; the Onondaga County Bar Association; the Central New York Women's Bar Association; and the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers. She has published articles in health law in the Syracuse Law Review and contributed to the NYSBA Task Force on Racism, Social Equity, and the Law Report and Recommendations, adopted by the NYSBA House of Delegates on January 20, 2023. Katie resides in Syracuse.

Judy L. Klein
PA, CPHRM, FASHRM

Judy has over 30 years of experience as a physician assistant, risk manager, and working in professional liability insurance. Judy has clinical experience working as a physician assistant, practicing in both hospitals and physician offices, and has also worked as a hospital risk manager.

Judy is a passionate leader with extensive experience working for both physician and hospital medical malpractice insurance carriers. Her career in the insurance industry includes experience working for both small and large medical professional liability carriers in Claims, Risk Management and Business Development. This includes spending 10 years with OHA insurance Solutions, Inc. (OHAIS), where she developed the risk management program, directed the department, and worked closely with insured clients.

Judy contributes to risk management publications and is a well-recognized speaker in the industry. She presents on a regional, state, and national level for various organizations including: state hospital and medical associations, rural health associations, American Society for Healthcare Risk Management and affiliated chapters, Hospital Insurance Forum and Medical Professional Liability Association. Recent topics include: AI, Remote Patient Monitoring/Wearables, Virtual Care/Telehealth, Advance Practice Providers, Claims and Emerging Risks, Trends in the Marketplace and Physician "Side Hustles".

Judy holds a B.S. degree in medical science from Alderson-Broaddus College, is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management, and a Fellow of the American Society of Healthcare Risk Management. She is past President of the Indiana Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ISHRM), past President of the Ohio Society of Healthcare Risk Managers (OSHRM), and a board member on the Ohio Patient Safety Institute (OPSI). Judy has served as a committee chair for the American Society for Healthcare Risk Managers (ASHRM) and also serves on the education planning committee for the Hospital Insurance Forum. She is also a member of the Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Society of Healthcare Risk Managers, Indiana Society for Healthcare Risk Management, American Society of Healthcare Risk Managers, American Academy of Physician Assistants, and Hospital Insurance Forum.

Robert J. Panzer, MD, FACP

Robert Panzer, M.D. is Chief Quality Officer for the University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) and Strong Memorial Hospital. He is also Associate Vice President for Patient Care Quality and Safety for URMC and Associate Chief Medical Officer for Hospital Services at Strong Memorial Hospital. In these roles, he is responsible for overseeing and supporting quality, patient safety, and clinical improvement activities.

He is also Professor of Medicine, and of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. In October 2012 he was designated the first Georgia & Thomas Gosnell Professor in Quality and Safety and continued in that role into 2019. Based in the General Medicine Division, he practiced part-time as a board-certified general internist.

He graduated from Harvard College with a BA degree and from Albany Medical College with a MD degree Magna Cum Laude. He then completed a 3 year Medicine Residency and a 2 year Fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Strong Memorial Hospital, before joining the faculty of the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Dr. Panzer actively collaborates with national and NYS organizations and networks working to improve the state of the art of quality improvement. He was first author of the article "Increasing Demands for Quality Measurement" published in a special edition of JAMA in November 2013.

He chaired the New York Patient Occurrence Reporting & Tracking System (NYPORTS) Council from 1995-2005. He chaired the HANYS Quality Initiatives Committee from 2013-2021. He has been a long term member of the MCIC Vermont (captive malpractice insurance company owned by Johns Hopkins, New York Presbyterian, University of Rochester, and Yale) Patient Safety & Loss Prevention Committee, and a Past Chair of the committee.

Bob Worden, Esq, Mediator (NAMS)
Shareholder, Lawrence Worden Rainis & Bard, PC

Bob Worden, Esq. is an award-winning Mediator who helps to settle high value lawsuits throughout New York State. Born and raised in the Finger Lakes, Bob has practiced in the New York Metro Area since 1980. He has handled cases in many upstate Courts, including defending professional liability claims against health care providers and health care facilities, as well as construction and premises accidents. His lecture topics including Early Identification and Resolution of High Exposure Claims; Professional Liability and Medical Causation Issues; Defense Strategy for Litigating Construction Accidents under New York's Labor Law, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy/Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, Analysis of Medical Records in High Exposure Claims, and the Ethics and Art of Settlement at Mediation. Bob has a particular interest in helping to achieve early settlements, significantly reducing indemnity paid and defense spend.

Barbara McCarthy RN, MPH, CPHQ, CPHRM, DFASHRM

Barb is Enterprise Risk Officer at Beverly Hospital, a member of Beth Israel Lahey Health, in Beverly Massachusetts. She is a resource for risk prevention and control for acute care, inpatient behavioral health, and insured physician practices. She is a resource for the compliance, privacy, & safety programs. Barb received a diploma in Nursing from New England Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Boston, a BSN from Northeastern University, and an MPH from Boston University. Past roles include critical care and inpatient nursing management; performance improvement, infection control, safety, privacy, & employee health leadership as well as Joint Commission coordination. Barb has been an active member of both state & national risk management associations for 19 years & was Massachusetts state chapter president in 2009. She was a member of the ASHRM board, is currently ASHRM Past-President, & is an ERM faculty member. Barb was ASHRM Risk Manager of the Year 2020 & Massachusetts Risk Manager of the Year 2021. She is a member of the Human Rights Committee at Melmark New England & received the Vision of Hope award in 2022. Barb is currently chair of the Rockport Board of Health.

Melissa A. Dziak, Esq.
Shareholder

Melissa is a Shareholder in Marshall Dennehey's Health Care Department. For almost 15 years, she has defended physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, registered nurses, home health aides, physical therapists, psychologists, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, physician practice groups, long-term care facilities, and home health and medical device manufacturers in Pennsylvania and New York. Melissa has successfully defended clients through trial in several state and federal court jurisdictions, as well as negotiating favorable settlements in high-exposure cases. Melissa has also represented health care professionals before various licensing boards in New York State relating to professional licensing matters.

Matthew P. Keris, Esq.
Shareholder, Chair, Electronic Medical Record and Audit Trail Practice Group

Matthew is a shareholder of Marshall Dennehey and is the Chair of the Electronic Medical Record and Audit Trail Practice Group. He has written and spoken nationally on litigation issues associated with audit trails, EMR discovery and AI for several years for organizations including NBC News, Thomson Reuters, The Legal Intelligencer, Law 360, ASHRM, Medical Professional Liability Association and Becker's Hospital Review. Matt also serves as an editor of Patient Safety, a journal published by the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority. Matt is active with the Defense Research Institute, previously serving on the Board of Directors and currently as DRI Foundation President. He is a former President of the Pennsylvania Defense Institute and serves as co-chair of the Medical Professional Liability Committee. He twice served as President of the Pennsylvania Association for Health Care Risk Management and is an active member of the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance and American Legal Connections.

Terry O'Connor, Esquire
Partner

Terry O'Connor is Partner at O'Connor, O'Connor, Bresee & First and a 1980 graduate of St. Lawrence University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. In pursuing his undergraduate degree, he also studied in Copenhagen, Denmark. Terry received his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1983. Terry is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been voted by his peers on an annual basis as one of the Top 10 Upstate New York Attorneys recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine. In addition, Terry has been named the Best Lawyer, Lawyer of the Year for both Medical Malpractice Law (defendants) and Products Liability Law (defendants). In 2011 he was honored with the Albany County Bar Association's President's Award. In 2015 he was elected as a Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

Terry is a trial lawyer who defends physicians, dentists, nurses, hospitals and nursing homes throughout New York State and Vermont. Over the course of his career, Terry has tried upwards of 125 cases to verdict. In defending physicians, he has handled cases involving licensing issues, wrongful death and birth trauma claims. In addition, Terry has handled a wide variety of other civil litigation matters, including cases involving Labor Law violations, trucking accidents, motor vehicle accidents, products liability and premises liability.

Terry has been appointed by the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York as a mediator/arbitrator/early neutral evaluator. Over the past decade, Terry has mediated and arbitrated approximately 200 cases.

Gina E. Kittek, MJ, CPHRM
System Director, Risk Management & Corporate Compliance

Gina Kittek is System Director of Risk Management and Corporate Compliance for United Health Services, Inc. located in the Southern Tier of New York, Binghamton, and the surrounding area. Oversee the Risk Management program for four hospitals, a 400+ provider group, 42 practice sites, two nursing homes, assisted living facility, home care program, DME program and a captive insurance program. I hold a Master of Jurisprudence in Health Law from Loyola University. I am a member of the American Society of Healthcare Risk Managers (ASHRM) and a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM). I am a member of Association of Healthcare Risk Management of New York (AHRMNY).

Joyce McCormack, RN
Senior Risk Management Consultant

Joyce McCormack has been a Risk Management Consultant since 2014 with MLMIC Insurance Company. A registered professional nurse with experience in both the clinical and corporate worlds of healthcare, Joyce has a strong clinical background in both acute and intensive care, along with a dedication to staff education, project development and customer service.

Prior to joining MLMIC, Joyce held roles as the Talent Development Coordinator for a 160 bed long term care facility, and as the Director of the Patient Experience for a 360 bed hospital. She also spent many years as both a Nurse Educator, as well as the Chairperson of the Upstate New York chapter of the National Nursing Staff Development Organization. Joyce works out of our Latham office.

Cody Baldwin, MBA, MSN, RN, CNOR
AVP, Assistant Chief Nursing Officer

Cody Baldwin is an experienced executive healthcare leader with over a decade of operational and nursing leadership in academic health systems. Currently, Cody serves as the assistant vice president and assistant chief nursing officer for Cayuga Health System, where he oversees operations for the nursing and patient services division and the cardiovascular and pulmonary service line. Before this role, Cody served in various leadership positions over hospital operations, cardiovascular service lines, and procedural areas. Cody has his Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Masters of Science in Nursing, and Masters of Business Administration from Emory and Mercer University in Atlanta, GA, and is currently nearing the end of his Ph.D. in Organizational Development and Leadership journey with research focused on leadership resiliency and business outcomes.

Karen Tunis-Manny, Esq.
General Counsel

Karen Tunis-Manny is the Director of Quality/Risk Management and Legal Services of Buffalo Medical Group, one of the largest physician multi-specialty groups in Western New York. She is responsible for all of the quality, risk management, general legal matters and corporate compliance functions of the organization. She serves as the Administrative Chairperson of BMG's Quality Improvement, Risk Management and Legal Services Board Committee and the Safety Committee of the Board. Prior to her time at BMG, Karen was the Vice President and General Counsel of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center. Karen received her law degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law and Jurisprudence. She is a member of the New York State Bar Association, Erie County Bar and American Health Lawyers Association, and served on the American Heart Association Advisory Board, and the City of Buffalo, Department of Substance Abuse Board of Advisors.

Susan Starr

Susan Starr is the Director of Environmental Services and the Infection Preventionist for Adirondack Health, a health system which includes a 95-bed hospital located in Saranac Lake, New York, as well as numerous ambulatory clinics throughout the Adirondacks. With over 20 years of experience in healthcare, Sue began her career at Adirondack Health as an invaluable member of plant operations. Over time, she developed a passion for infection control, and became Adirondack Health's Infection Preventionist in 2022. As part of a comprehensive team, Sue worked to maintain the safety of staff and patients throughout the renovation of Adirondack Health's operating suites and the COVID 19 global pandemic. She serves on numerous committees for her organization, including the QAPI, Environment of Care, Safety, Infection Control, and Patient Care Executive Committees.