

CRAIN'S

NEW YORK BUSINESS

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That the right to counsel is enshrined in the Bill of Rights speaks to the centrality of legal representation in a free and fair society.

Attorneys sit between the law and the people it protects, wielding the former in service to the latter. That function has taken on increased importance of late, as a rare confluence of social, economic and health challenges have befallen society. But New York's lawyers—a legion of defenders and advocates like no other—have proved remarkably nimble and relentless.

It is in the spirit of that recognition that Crain's selected these 103 honorees for its 2021 list of Notable Women in Law. These impressive attorneys were chosen not only for their skills and accomplishments, but also for their efforts to shore up the edifice of justice. In the public

and private sectors, domestically and abroad, and across industries and sectors, these lawyers—litigators, dealmakers, prosecutors, defenders and investigators—work to uphold the law as Thomas Hobbes described it: “the public conscience.”

To find these honorees, Crain's consulted with trusted sources in the legal industry and in the general New York business world. The many nominations submitted by organizations and individuals in the metropolitan area were carefully vetted. Ultimately, each notable lawyer was selected for her professional achievements and her pro bono work or involvement in industry and community organizations.

Read on to learn how these outstanding lawyers are championing justice and bolstering commerce each day.

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NOTABLE WOMEN IN LAW

LAURIE GRASSO

Partner

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

Laurie Grasso is a well-rounded dealmaker. The co-chair of Hunton Andrews Kurth's global real estate practice represents real estate private-equity funds, companies, institutional REITs, and investors in acquisitions and dispositions, developments, financings, portfolio transactions and real estate joint ventures. That's done across asset classes, from office, multifamily and affordable housing to mixed-use, hospitality, retail and condominium. Grasso, whose professional insights are prized by industry publications, is involved in several organizations that seek to foster diversity in real estate. A worthy example: The partner leads her firm's alliance with Project Destined, which endeavors to help minority youth become property owners in their communities.

