

IVA BENSON

Iva Benson has more than 20 years of experience in all facets of public and media relations. She has broad client experience in the not-for-profit, education, government, and civic engagement fields as well as proven skill in event planning and promotion. She has strong media contacts with local, national, and international outlets and a wide variety of New York City civic and governmental institutions and agencies.

Iva has managed high-level strategy campaigns and crisis communications, and developed and executed aggressive, proactive media outreach campaigns, resulting in positive publicity for high profile clients in sectors including health care, media, travel and tourism, public policy and real estate development. Past projects include the NAACP, Ellis Island National Immigration Museum, Taxi of Tomorrow, and a variety of campaigns for non-profits, educational institutions, and corporations.

Prior to Rubenstein, Iva served as the international communications manager for NYC2012, the City's bid for the Olympics. She also served as director of communications at both SUNY/Stony Brook and New York University, where she spearheaded the public relations strategy for NYU Online. Iva holds a M.A. in Political Science from Columbia University.

ADAM POCKRISS

Adam Pockriss has more than 15 years of experience in non-profit, media, and medical/science public relations. He works with a range of clients in these sectors, including NYU Abu Dhabi, Seton Hall University, and the Child Mind Institute. Past clients have included Autism Speaks, Silver Hill Hospital, Sony, (RED), Stand Up To Cancer, Columbia University School of Nursing and Discover magazine. He has worked extensively in crisis planning and has deep expertise in message development, issues management, and the intersection of social and traditional media.

Prior to Rubenstein, he worked for five years in the media relations department of ABC News as the publicist for the news magazine Primetime and various documentary programs and series. He also spent five years at a boutique public relations firm working on health care and media accounts.

A graduate of Vassar College, Adam's first job was in politics, serving as the community liaison for a member of the New York State Assembly.

FRANK ILLUZZI, MD

Dr. Frank Illuzzi is a practicing board-certified Physician in Emergency Medicine, and is currently the Chief Medical Officer at CityMD, a regional urgent care group with 120 locations throughout the New York City metro area.

Prior to joining CityMD, Dr. Illuzzi was the Chairman of Emergency Medicine at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT, and held an academic appointment as Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Frank Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. During his tenure in hospital-based care he served in numerous clinical, academic, and leadership roles.

Dr. Illuzzi has published articles and textbook chapters in his various areas of academic interest, with his current focus on population health issues, specifically Public Health Screenings such as Tobacco cessation intervention, Hypertension awareness, Pediatric asthma, and Diabetes screening in alternative settings like the ER and the Urgent Care clinic.

He is also a sought after lecturer for national medical conferences on topics that include: Quality and Patient Safety, Antibiotic Stewardship, Physician Leadership, Patient Throughput and Workflow, and Delivering on the Patient Experience.

Dr. Illuzzi was born in Brooklyn, NY. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at Long Island Jewish/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he received the honor of Chief Resident. He completed a fellowship with AHA/NPSF in Patient Safety Leadership in 2009.

Dr. Illuzzi currently resides in Fairfield, CT, with his lovely wife, Laura, and two beautiful daughters, Julia and Cecilia. His interests include jazz music, gardening, fishing, and glass-blowing.

CLARE BELLO

Clare M. Bello, Esquire, Senior Vice President, CCMSI, Division Leader and founder of VCM. For 16 years VCM has been nationally recognized for its flexible and cutting edge claims management and consulting concepts for the management of professional liability claims. Clare focuses on keeping our clients compliant under ever changing State and Federal compliance rules. She assists clients in their transition from insured to insurer and works with the captive team to measure performance as the captive matures. She lectures in national and international programs and is published for her innovative approaches to claims management and consulting services.

ELIZABETH WILLING

Prior to joining VCM, Elizabeth Willing spent 17 years as a registered nurse in New York and another 14 years at a large physician's insurance company managing not only medical malpractice claims, but also as the Director of the Medical Malpractice Claims Department. Ms. Willing specialized in managing complex insurance programs and complex as well as large exposure medical malpractice cases. Ms. Willing is a valuable asset to the VCM team.

Ms. Willing holds a senior leadership role within the VCM Division of CCMSI. As an Account Manager, Ms. Willing works hand in hand with the Senior Vice President of the Division in the presentation, design and implementation of the client programs to which she is assigned. She is responsible for the staffing and overall management of each of her programs. She works continuously with each client to update processes, train staff and maintain the open communications needed to partner with our clients. Ms. Willing also works with each VCM client to develop and provide meaningful trending reports and information to work with our clients to manage their insurance program as a whole.

She holds a bachelor of science in Nursing from Molloy College.

JOHN W. BARKER

John W. Barker serves as General Counsel and as a Managing Partner at the firm of Vigorito, Barker, Patterson, Nichols & Porter, LLP. He has specialized in the defense of hospitals and physicians in medical malpractice trials since 1995. He has selected over 100 juries and has taken over 50 cases to verdict. John has practiced extensively throughout the New York metropolitan area, having secured defense verdicts in medical malpractice actions in the Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Queens, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester County Supreme Courts.

Mr. Barker has long engaged in general civil litigation as well as appellate practice, having prepared numerous appellate briefs and argued before the New York State Appellate Division. John has also represented physicians before the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, and has given lectures to health care professionals on the topic of risk management and to members of the legal community on products liability litigation.

Mr. Barker graduated from the St. John's University School of Law in 1991, having served as an Associate Editor for the St. John's Law Review. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Kings County District Attorney's Office, where he tried over a dozen felony cases to verdict. Mr. Barker's has specialized in the area of medical malpractice defense for the past 20 years with a significant focus on the defense of high-exposure claims.

MAMIE STATHATOS-FULGIERI

Mamie Stathatos-Fulgieri is a seasoned trial attorney with over 20 years of legal experience. At the age of 16, she earned early admission into St. John's University, where she received a B.A. in Government & Politics with a minor in English. She continued her studies at St. John's University School of Law, earning her Juris Doctor in 1994. While in law school, Ms. Stathatos was published and served as the Editor of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review.

Following her graduation from law school, Ms. Stathatos proudly served as an Assistant District Attorney from 1994 to 1998 with the Queens County District Attorney's Office under District Attorney Richard A. Brown, where she prosecuted major criminal cases, including complex investigations and wiretaps involving high profile narcotics trafficking and gangs.

In 1998, Ms. Stathatos transitioned to civil litigation and has since represented physicians, nursing homes, and some of the largest medical institutions in New York. She has actively participated in Grand Rounds at numerous hospitals in the major metropolitan area, has organized various presentations for physicians, physician assistants, and nurses, including mock trials depicting significant issues in malpractice cases.

Since the formation of the New York State (NYS) Justice Center in 2013, Ms. Stathatos has been at the forefront in defending mental health professionals targeted by the Justice Center. Under Ms. Stathatos' leadership, VBP&P represents numerous mental health facilities throughout the New York metropolitan area in investigations and proceedings brought by the NYS Justice Center.

Ms. Stathatos is a past president of the Hellenic Lawyers Association (2009-2011), currently serving as Chair of the Advisory Board for the organization, legal counsel to the Hellenic Medical Society of New York, and Chairperson on the Board of Immigration Advocacy Services, an immigration outreach agency in New York. Ms. Stathatos also serves as Village Prosecutor in the Village of Roslyn Harbor, and has worked for several charitable organizations, including the DeRosa Foundation for Colon Cancer and the PKD (Polycystic Kidney Disease) Foundation. Mamie is married to Matthew Fulgieri and has two young boys.

IAN STEWART

As chair of Wilson Elser's Cannabis Law practice, Ian leverages his more than 20 years of legal experience to help clients navigate the challenging new risk management, business practices and insurance landscape presented by the rapidly developing area of Cannabis and Hemp Law. Ian works with licensed cannabis operators to comply with their obligations under the law and to develop risk management best practices. He advises companies on the rapidly evolving area of hemp-derived cannabidiol (CBD) and the interplay with U.S. food and drug laws. Ian regularly advises insurance companies on cannabis-related underwriting practices and the development of new policy forms. He also works with financial institutions and professional services firms on best practices for operating in a challenging regulatory environment.

Ian is chair of the National Cannabis Industry Association (NCIA) Finance and Insurance Committee, vice chair of the California Cannabis Industry Association (CCIA) Insurance Committee, and a member of the advisory board of the National Native American Cannabis Association. He is one of MG Magazine's "30 Powerful Cannabis Attorneys You Should Know," received a 2019 Readers' Choice Award by JD Supra for his publication on cannabis consumer class actions, and received National Law Review's award as "Go-To Thought Leader 2018" for his publications on cannabis law.

LORI ROSEN SEMLIES

Lori Semlies, a co-chair of Wilson Elser's Medical Malpractice & Health Care practice, focuses on the defense of medical and nursing home malpractice claims in state and federal courts, including all phases of litigation through trial. She has handled appeals in the New York Appellate Division, First and Second Departments, and before the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

As part of her risk management services for clients, Lori frequently lectures at conferences across the country on best practices in documentation in a medical institution. She also assists clients with drafting admission agreements and protocols and helps them manage crisis situations. Lori writes for Wilson Elser's blog "Professional Liability Advocate," available on the firm's website.

Lori currently serves as a member of the steering committee of Wilson Elser's Women Attorneys Valued & Empowered (WAVE) initiative, which exemplifies the firm's enlightened approach to advancing the professional and personal well-being of its women attorneys.

STAVROS MOUNTANTONAKIS, MD

Dr. Stavros Mountantonakis is currently Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology Training Program at Northwell Health and Associate Professor of Medicine at Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. He is also very active in the practice and performs invasive cardiac procedures including pacemakers, defibrillators and cardiac ablations.

As a director of training (fellowship) program Dr. Mountantonakis trains Cardiologist who want to specialize in treating heart rhythm problems.

Dr. Mountantonakis received his clinical training at numerous Hospitals including Cleveland Clinic, Montefiore Medical Center and University of Pennsylvania.

He is active with clinical research, has authored multiple scientific papers and presented numerous research projects at scientific meeting. He has also authored two book chapters.

When not practicing medicine, Dr. Mountantonakis enjoys swimming and won the National open water long distance championship in 2018.

CAROLINE BELL

Caroline's extensive experience includes leadership and execution in risk management and patient safety programs for healthcare risk consulting firms, medical malpractice insurance companies, large and mid-size health systems, and academic university medical centers. She assists healthcare organizations with clinical risk management program design and development; enterprise risk management program design, development and implementation; strategic risk management initiative; and strategy formation, implementation and evaluation. She also specializes in coaching/mentoring risk management professionals at all levels of healthcare organizations.

Caroline has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Juris Doctor degree. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM) and attained her DFASHRM. She currently serves as the 2019 President of Colorado Healthcare-Associated Risk Managers (CHARM) and is a faculty member for ASHRM's ERM Certificate Program