

Assemblymember John T. McDonald III

John T. McDonald III, RPh has served in the New York State Assembly representing the 108th Assembly District since 2013, which consists of parts of Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga counties, including the City of Cohoes, his hometown where he previously served as Mayor for 13 years, and the communities of Green Island, North Greenbush, East Greenbush, Rensselaer, Waterford, and the cities of Troy and Watervliet.

A life-long resident of Cohoes, John is a graduate of Keveny Memorial Academy and the Albany College of Pharmacy where he received a BS in Pharmaceutical Sciences in 1985 and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities. John is a practicing pharmacist and an experienced small businessman as the previous owner of Marra's Pharmacy, his family business now celebrating 92 years in downtown Cohoes and serving the Capital Region.

As Mayor of the City of Cohoes, John focused on financial accountability, improving quality of life, and expanding economic opportunity. He pursued an aggressive economic development agenda centered on downtown revitalization, adaptive reuse of historic buildings, Hudson and Mohawk Riverfront developments, and gateway improvements. John created a platform for a more transparent and open process for conducting city business, which increased the city's financial stability when he left office in 2012. Just as importantly during John's tenure, the City of Cohoes' population grew by more than 8% which was the first population increase for the City of Cohoes since 1930.

John has also been an active member of the New York State Conference of Mayors where he previously served as President of the statewide organization. He has also chaired the Capital District Transportation Committee, RiverSpark, the Cohoes Industrial Development Agency and the Cohoes Local Development Corporation. John has served on the boards of the New York State Heritage Areas Advisory Board, New York State Workforce Investment Board, State Comptroller's Local Advisory Team, the NYS Local Government Records Management Council and the Board of Governors for the New York State Municipal Insurance Reciprocal, and many other regional councils and commissions. John currently serves on the board of the Albany Convention Center Authority and is a member of the NYS Department of Financial Services Drug Accountability Board. John serves as an Executive Committee member for the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

As a member of the NYS Assembly, John serves as the Chair of the Governmental Operations Committee. John is a member of the following NYS Assembly Committees: Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Health, Higher Education, and Ways and Means. John focuses on his strengths in local government, health care, and small business. John has sponsored and passed legislation into law to reduce unfunded mandates to local governments, control the cost of property taxes, support job growth and workforce development, strengthen access to health care, and address the opioid crisis.

Lori Paine, DrPH, MS, RN

Lori Paine currently serves as the Vice President and Patient Safety Officer for Rochester Regional Health. She provides strategic and tactical oversight for the Patient Safety, Clinical Risk Management and Patient Experience. She was the former Senior Director of Patient Safety for the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality and The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She has spoken to audiences and consulted with hospitals nationally and internationally on the science of safety, high reliability, event reporting, safety culture, CUSP, and patient and family involvement in safety. She is an adjunct faculty member at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and associate faculty member at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is a former Labor and Delivery nurse, holds a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, a Master's degree in Applied Behavioral Science and Change Management and a Doctorate of Public Health.

Eileen Kasda, DrPH, MHS

Eileen Kasda, is a Cofounder, Inventor, and Vice President of Patient Safety for SafeTower, helping to improve safety practices and design analytic solutions for the healthcare. Eileen is the former Director of Patient Safety for Johns Hopkins Health System. She is passionate about applying the science of safety from high-risk industries to the structures and processes to make improvements in patient safety. Eileen led the development of Johns Hopkins event reporting software and supported the structures and processes in which it was used. She is familiar with the challenges of collecting and analyzing data across the continuum of care. She has presented nationally and internationally, speaking about how data can be used to improve culture and design better systems. She has a Masters of Health Science in Health Finance and Management and a Doctorate of Public Health in Healthcare Management and Leadership from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Andrea Crawford, Esq., CPHRM

Andrea Crawford has 30 years experience in healthcare defense. Her career began with Heidell, Pittoni Murphy & Bach where she rose to the level of Senior Associate. Andrea Joined NYC Corporation Counsel in the Medical Malpractice Division in 2004 which was then transferred directly to NYC Health+Hospitals Claims and Litigation in 2007. Andrea served in Claims and Litigation Division of the Office of Legal affairs, first as a litigator and then negotiated settlements in Kings and Queens Counties. Since 2015 Andrea, has served as Associate Executive Director Risk Management for NYCH+H/Queens.

Louise Derevlany, Esq.

Louise Derevlany has 40 years experience in healthcare defense at Heidell, Pitonni, Murphy & Bach where she was a Senior Partner for 30 years. As an esteemed trial Attorney, Louise represented many of the most premier health care systems in New York City, including NYC Health+Hospitals. Louise joined NYCH+H/Elmhurst in the role of Associate Executive Director Risk Management in 2013.

Ann Y. Teng, DO, MPH, FACOEM

Dr. Ann Teng holds many positions within the United Health Services system. As the Chief Wellness Officer, she prioritizes the holistic well-being of the healthcare system's team. Simultaneously, she serves as the Medical Director of the Medical Command Center and the Medical Director of Occupational Medicine and Employee Health Department. Before her medical career, Dr. Teng spent 14 years in EMS and Fire services, earning recognition as the EMS leader of the year in Suffolk County, NY in 2003. Her emergency services background laid the foundation for her current roles. She has taken the values of innovation, scarcity, and her understanding of disaster management to building collaborative teams to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. She attributes many of her successes today with her ability to take on multiple perspectives, but at the same time keeping mission focused. Dr. Teng enjoys being a lifelong learner. She holds a MPH from Yale University School of Public Health, an MBA on Organizational Leadership from Eastern University, a MALS concentration on Society and Medicine from Stony Brook University, and her Doctor of Osteopathy from New York College of Osteopathic medicine. She completed her Family Residency in UHS and her fellowship in Occupational and Environmental Medicine at Yale, where she also served as Chief Fellow. Today, she holds board certification in Family Medicine, Preventative- Occupational Medicine, and Obesity medicine, demonstrating her commitment to patient care and ongoing professional growth.

Kayla Velie

Kayla Velie has worked in a health and wellness related field for many years. She has been with UHS for over a decade. Kayla is a progressive leader in the areas of employee wellness. She leads the team in the UHS Medical Command Center and serves as chair of the Employee Wellness Committee. She is also responsible for coordinating the UHS Peer Support Debrief teams. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from SUNY Binghamton in December of 2009. From there, she went on to pursue her Master's Degree in Exercise Science with a concentration in Sport and Exercise Psychology from Ithaca College. Kayla most recently became a Certified Health Coach through the American Council on Exercise and is currently pursuing a certification for Personal Training. Kayla enjoys spending time with her family and has three young daughters who keep her very busy at home.

Tom Stebbins

Prior to joining LRANY in 2011, Tom was a project manager for Horizon Wind Energy, where he developed multiple commercial-scale wind farms in New York and the Northeast United States. Earlier in his career, Tom worked for PBS flagship station WGBH-TV, where he coordinated the national marketing and promotion efforts for programs such as NOVA, Masterpiece Theatre, and Antiques Roadshow.

Tom has been published or quoted in over one hundred publications, including The New York Times, NY Daily News, the Wall Street Journal, and The Economist, and Tom has been interviewed on numerous broadcast radio and TV shows, including NPR, Fox News, and 1010 WINS. He is also a sought-after speaker who has spoken to dozens of organizations across New York -- from Buffalo to Brooklyn, from Rotaries to multi-national business conferences.

Tom is currently on the advisory board of the Progressive Policy Institute and is a previous board member of the Empire State Society of Association Executives.

In his spare time, Tom is an accomplished benefit auctioneer, emcee, and fundraiser who has helped raise millions of dollars for charities all over the world. Tom is personally devoted to the issue of head injury and has worked with his family to build four homes dedicated to the care of people affected by head injuries. Tom has a bachelor's degree from Vassar College and an MBA from Cornell University.

Gina Kittek, MJ, CPHRM

Gina (Overpeck) Kittek, MJ, CPHRM has over 25 years of experience in the health care industry. She is an experienced health care risk manager managing corporate risk management functions. As the System Director of Risk Management and Corporate Compliance, Gina currently manages the risk management program and the corporate compliance functions. She manages the corporate insurance portfolio for the system including a captive insurance company, Southern New York Indemnity Co., LLC, a single parent captive writing professional and general liability coverage. She provides oversight to the management of all claims and litigation for all lines of coverage. Gina is a member of the American Society of Health Care Risk Management (ASHRM) and maintains her Certified Professional Healthcare Risk Management (CPHRM). She continues to serve on committees and task forces of ASHRM. She is also a Member of the Association for Healthcare Risk Management of New York.

Heather Miller, JD

Heather Miller has extensive legal experience, serving as Senior Associate General Counsel at United Health Services. Prior to that, Heather worked as an Assistant General Counsel at Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP and as an Associate Attorney at Jones Day. Heather also has a background in education, having taught at The Marvelwood School. Heather holds a JD from Syracuse University College of Law and a Bachelor's degree in History/Government from Clark University.

Samantha E. Quinn, Esq.

Samantha E. Quinn is a partner with the firm of Schiavetti, Corgan, DiEdwards, Weinberg & Nicholson, LLP, which specializes in the defense of hospitals, doctors and other health care providers. She heads the office's appellate practice, and has briefed and argued numerous appeals. She has also had significant success overturning unsuccessful verdicts, including dismissal of several multi-million dollar verdicts later upheld on appeal. Ms. Quinn has handled OPMC investigations for individual physicians, treatment over objection applications for hospital clients and has counseled hospital clients during the course of DOH investigations and other quality assurance matters. Ms. Quinn has a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in History from Brown University and a Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School, and has been a contributing author to the AHRMNY Journal since 2007.

Stephanie Campbell, Esq.

Stephanie Campbell is a partner at Schiavetti, Corgan, DiEdwards, Weinberg & Nicholson, LLP where she defends hospitals, health systems and individual practitioners in complex medical malpractice and general liability claims. In defense of hospitals and practitioners, she frequently drafts and argues complex motions and appeals before the Supreme and Appellate Courts of the State of New York. She is also licensed to practice law in Connecticut. Stephanie received a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in biology from Arizona State University, and following that, obtained her law degree from Pace Law School with a focus in environmental and animal law. She became a member of ASHRM and AHRMNY in 2018 and has attended several ASHRM conferences. She currently serves as Secretary of AHRMNY and is also Co-Chair of the AHRMNY Publications Committee.

Diana Free, BSN, CLCP, CPRHM

Diana Free is a founding partner of Clearview Partners Consulting, LLC, specializing in forensic life care planning and medical billing analysis. Life care planning is a multidisciplinary process that evaluates individuals with disability or chronic health conditions to outline the needs created by the disability. The life care planner develops a plan that includes required items and services, along with specific costs. Forensic life care planning involves performing evaluations for civil and federal litigation purposes as an aspect of economic damages. Clearview Partners Consulting, LLC assists attorneys across the country in estimating costs of projected healthcare economic damages for individuals involved in litigation. Before developing Clearview Partners Consulting, LLC, Ms. Free spent over 30 years in leadership roles in healthcare risk management, healthcare quality and patient safety, patient complaint and grievance process, and healthcare compliance. These prior career experiences and national certification in life care planning have equipped Ms. Free with a unique background for working in forensic life care planning.

Kathleen Shostek RN, ARM, MBA, DFASHRM, CPHRM, CPPS

Kathy Shostek is the Healthcare Loss Control Expert for Munich Re Specialty - North America where she supports the Excess & Surplus Healthcare portfolio and provides risk management and patient/resident safety expertise to clients and insureds. She is an industry recognized risk professional experienced in applying risk reduction techniques and innovative approaches to improve patient safety and reduce liability risks. Kathy's experience is extensive and includes leadership at the acute care level and a corporate multispecialty physician group practice. Kathy was a lead contributor to ASHRM's Patient Safety Playbook and FMEA Playbook, and past chair of ASHRM's Patient Safety Task Force. She serves as faculty for ASHRM's Patient Safety Certificate course and is a past board member of ASHRM. She has served as risk consultant and developer for ECRI's publications. ASHRM has awarded Kathy the Distinguished Service Award for her career contributions to healthcare risk management and patient safety.

Anne Huben-Kearney, BSN, MPA, CPHQ, CPHRM, CPPS, DFASHRM

Anne Huben-Kearney, a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality, Healthcare Risk Management, and Patient Safety, is currently a Risk and Patient Safety Consultant providing independent consultation for health care organizations and providers, including psychiatry and psychology professionals. Anne has extensive clinical, managerial, and administrative experience, including tertiary care institutions, academic community hospitals, physician office practices and as a risk management consultant for medical professional liability insurance companies. She is a Distinguished Fellow in the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (DFASHRM), serves on the ASHRM Faculty for the Patient Safety Certificate Program, and was elected to the ASHRM Board for 2020-2022. Anne was editor of the ASHRM Failure Mode and Effect Analysis Playbook (2022) and co-author of the AHA/ASHRM White Paper series on Recognizing and Addressing Implicit Bias - in the Ambulatory Care Setting (2021), - in the Inpatient and Long Term Care Setting (2023) and - in Digital Health (pending publication).

Katelyn Cummings

Katelyn Cummings is a Vice President in the Northeast Zone for Marsh's National Errors and Omissions (E&O)/Cyber Practice. Katelyn has been a part of the Marsh since Fall of 2021 leading renewals for large risk management clients including hospitals and various healthcare organizations. Prior to this, for years Katelyn was an Underwriter with a commercial insurance firm where she headed a large book of business for National E&O/Cyber accounts. Katelyn also has some experience with property underwriting and actuarial science. Katelyn has a Bachelor of Science in actuarial science.

Jacqueline (Jacki) Goralczyk , Esq.

Jacki acts as data breach counsel for organizations across all industries. Jacki serves as a trusted advisor to businesses, helping them navigate the complexities of cyber incidents from initial intrusion through notification and recovery. She works hand in hand with organizations of all sizes to improve data security both pre incident and post recovery to help minimize risk and improve recovery outcomes. Her experience in incident response has made her an asset to Mergers and Acquisitions teams, helping them spot potential cybersecurity and data privacy risks both prior to sale and as part of acquisition due diligence.

She works with incident response vendors including IT, forensics, e-discovery, internal and external counsel, public relations and breach notification vendors to guide clients from initial intrusion through required notifications and post-incident recovery.

Jacki has extensive experience working with Mergers and Acquisitions teams advising on cybersecurity and data privacy, due diligence and preparing clients for both purchase and sale of businesses. She works closely with both M&A counsel and technology and risk management teams to advise clients on short term and long-term risk associated with cybersecurity hygiene and data privacy compliance.

In addition to her specialized roles, Jacki acts as outside general counsel and privacy counsel for small and mid-sized businesses. She provides strategic advice on corporate affairs, contract negotiations, governance, and privacy matters, ensuring robust compliance and effective management of internal legal issues. Jacki has successfully spearheaded the launch of multiple startups throughout her career, leveraging this hands-on experience to offer valuable insights and strategic guidance to businesses. Her deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in starting and scaling companies equips her to provide nuanced advice tailored to the unique needs of each business.

Carla Silva

Carla Silva has been with Sedgwick since 2015 where she is currently a Director. She was previously an attorney in private practice defending accountant and lawyer malpractice suits. Prior to that Carla was a NJ Deputy Attorney General for 6 years.

Joyce McCormack, RN

Joyce has been a Risk Management Consultant since 2014. 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 is a member and active supporter of the American Society for Health Care Risk Management, the Association for Healthcare Risk Management of New York, Inc., and the Medical Group Management Association of New York, as well as a member of its board. Joyce is a frequent program presenter for our company with our corporate partners, has authored articles on a range of medical malpractice hot topics and is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Risk Management. Joyce works out of our Colonie office.

Victor R. Klein, MD, MBA, FACOG, FACMG

Victor R. Klein, MD, MBA is currently a Perinatologist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at North Shore University Hospital while serving as the Vice Chair of Obstetrics & Gynecology at North Shore University Hospital and the System Director of Quality & Patient Safety for the Ob Gyn Service Line at Northwell Health. Dr. Klein has been engaged in risk management and patient safety for over 30 years, and has lectured extensively on these fields throughout the country, including the ASHRM annual meeting. Dr. Klein received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Brooklyn/Downstate Medical School. He completed his internship at Kings County Hospital Center, residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Johns Hopkins Hospital, fellowships in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Medical Genetics at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, and his MBA in Quality Management at Hofstra University. He is board certified in medical genetics, general obstetrics & gynecology, and maternal fetal medicine, has obtained CPHRM certification, and is recognized as a Fellow of the American Society for Health Care Risk Management. Dr. Klein has been a member of the editorial board and past editor of the Journal of Healthcare Risk Management, is on the Board of Directors for AHRMNY, a past board member for ASHRM, and is on the AHA Maternal & Child Health Council. He is nationally recognized and has written over 75 articles and publications on obstetrics & gynecology, risk management and patient safety. Dr. Klein represents the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management for the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM).

Adriann J. Combs, DNP, NNP-BC

Adriann Combs is a doctorally prepared neonatal nurse practitioner with more than 40 years of practice in perinatal health. Her roles have included Clinical Nurse Educator, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner and her current role as the Clinical Director of a ten maternity hospital system within a large healthcare system in New York State.

Dr. Combs has published and presented on Perinatal Health Care Safety, Perinatal Ethics, Extrauterine Transition, Maternal Hemorrhage, Thermoregulation, Retinopathy of Prematurity and Maternal Morbidity and Mortality.

Most recently, she published two articles related to the impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy. The publications include, "Universal testing for coronavirus disease 2019 in pregnant women admitted for delivery: prevalence of peripartum infection and rate of asymptomatic carriers at four New York hospitals within an integrated healthcare system" and "The care of pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic - response of a large health system in metropolitan New York".

Christa Christakis

Christa Christakis is the Executive Director of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District II, a professional membership organization representing 4,000 board certified physicians and other women's health care providers who practice obstetrics and gynecology in New York State. Christa leads the NY office and works to further ACOG's mission to advance obstetric and gynecological care and the professional and socioeconomic interests of its members through continuing medical education and advocacy. Christa is responsible for all administrative and financial functions of the ACOG District II office, specializing in membership, medical education, and legislative relations.

Before joining ACOG District II, Christa served as the Senior Director of Quality and Research Initiatives at the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) where she formulated the advocacy agenda and strategies for quality-related regulatory and legislative initiatives that impact HANYS' member institutions.

Prior to her role at HANYS, Christa served as the Director of Government Affairs for ACOG District II and has served on several community boards, including the Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood Board of Directors. She received her Masters of Arts in Public Affairs and Policy (MPP) from the University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

Brittany Salmon, RN

Brittany Salmon, RN is the OB Nurse Manager at Lewis County Health System. Mrs. Salmon is responsible for oversight, operations, and staff who work in the OB Labor and Delivery Unit. The Maternity service offers prenatal care, labor and delivery, post-partum care and other women's health services.

Mrs. Salmon is a 2006 graduate of South Lewis Central School. She began her career as an LPN in the Lewis County Residential Health Care Facility after receiving her nursing education as a Licensed Practical Nurse from Howard G. Sackett Technical Center in 2009. She earned her associate degree as a Registered Nurse from Mohawk Valley Community College in 2012. After obtaining her license, she worked as an RN in the hospital's Maternity department until joining South Lewis Central School in 2020 as the Middle School Nurse for students in grades 5-8. While employed at South Lewis, Brittany also continued to work in the LCHS Emergency Department.

Mrs. Salmon has 15 years of clinical experience, including eight years in maternity and childbirth education. She has also worked in the medical-surgical and critical care units and performed charge nurse duties. Brittany maintains certifications in Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Neonatal Resuscitation. She also has phlebotomy experience and is a B-EMT with the Turin Volunteer Ambulance Service.