

WHO'S WHO | in Intellectual Property and Labor Law

By LISA MORRIS JOSEFAK

DEBRA WABNIK

Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnik, LLP

Debra Wabnik is a partner at Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnik, LLP in Garden City. Wabnik represents clients in federal and state courts in New York and New Jersey, as well as federal courts in Connecticut. She also represents clients in administrative forums including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the New York State Division of Human Rights.

Wabnik has handled numerous appellate matters before the Appellate Division, First and Second Departments. Her practice areas include general litigation, employment discrimination, Uniform Commercial Code, Truth In Lending, Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act and bank and credit card litigation.

Wabnik describes her philosophy for representing clients in cases is very much a “big picture” approach, while at the same time focusing on critical details.

“I first look at the needs, concerns and expectations of my client, Wabnik said. “I then balance those with the facts as I know them. Once that is done, I can assess the best way to efficiently and effectively resolve the issue, whether it be a quick resolution or a fight to the end.”

It is important in labor and employment cases to formulate a plan that is malleable — because the client’s needs and desires may change, as well as the facts that present themselves, Wabnik noted.

“My clients, whether they are busi-



nesses or individuals, know that I care about them and the outcome of their cases,” she said. “When the case is over, my firm will often continue the relationship by providing advice to avoid future litigation. And if issues do arise, I use my training as a mediator to try to resolve disputes before a case is filed. Each step of the way, we partner with the client to obtain the best results possible.”

Wabnik completed advanced commercial mediation training and is a member of the Southern District of New York Mediation Panel, as well as the New York State Commercial Division Mediation Panels in Nassau, Suffolk, New York and Westchester counties.

She earned a juris doctor from Hofstra University School of Law and a bachelor’s degree, with honors, from State Universi-

ty of New York at Binghamton.

Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnik, LLP practices in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The full service firm has achieved the highest peer review rating by Martindale-Hubbell, which rates legal ability and ethical standards.

Its practice areas include commercial and general liability litigation, bankruptcy and creditors rights, foreclosure, banking and consumer litigation, labor and employment, securities law, municipal law, real estate, zoning and land use, environmental law, and corporate transactions.

The firm’s clients include several of the largest companies in the world, including Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Simon Property Group, Bank of America, N.A., Masco Corporation, Capital One, N.A., and First American Title Insurance Company of New York. The firm also represents small companies, municipalities and individuals.

In addition to litigation, the firm acts as counsel to business clients and real estate developers in matters involving financing transactions, real estate and general commercial matters. In this area, we have structured a variety of loans and other financing transactions, including real estate and construction loans, asset-based loans, asset securitizations, stock purchase sale and leaseback transactions. Our firm provides guidance in choosing a business form and has organized corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, and other legal entities throughout the United States, as well as negotiated and prepared joint venture agreements and buy/sell agreements.