

WNYers dominate 'Super Lawyers' list

BY MATT CHANDLER
mchandler@bizjournals.com | 716-541-1654

The 2013 edition of Super Lawyers was released this week and Western New York's legal community is well-represented.

More than 500 attorneys from the region were selected for inclusion in the annual peer evaluation of top U.S. attorneys.

The published list represents no more than 5 percent of the lawyers in New York state. Additionally, Super Lawyers breaks down those attorneys who were included to more exclusive listings such as the Top 50 Upstate Attorneys, the Top 10 Upstate Attorneys; and the Top 25 Women Attorneys in Upstate New York.

Thirty-six local professionals were included in the Top 50 listing: John Ballou of Ballou Law Firm; Robert Boreanaz, Richard Weisbeck, Barry Covert, Herbert Greenman, Laraine Kelley, James Scime, Christopher Mattingly, Paul Cambria and John Collins of Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria; Terrence Connors, Lawrence Vilardo and Michael Roach of Connors & Vilardo; Joel Daniels; and Thomas Drury, Peter Marlette and William Savino of Damon Morey.

Also, Ann Evanko, Andrea Schil-

laci, Michael Perley, Dan Kohane, Harry Mooney, Robert Fine, Lawrence Franco and Paul Suozzi of Hurwitz & Fine; Dennis Glascott of Goldberg Segalla; Garry Graber and Hugh Russ III of Hodgson Russ LLP; Joseph LaTona; John Lipsitz of Lipsitz & Ponterio; Christopher O'Brien of The O'Brien Law Firm; Timothy O'Connell of Gelber & O'Connell; Rodney Personius of Personius Melber; Ginger Schroder of Schroder Joseph & Associates; Kathleen Sweet of Gibson McAskill & Crosby; and Nelson Zakia of HoganWillig.

Of those, seven were selected for the Top 10 Attorneys list: Connors, Drury, Savino, Kohane, Mooney, Russ and Scime.

Named to the Top 25 Women Attorneys list were 15 from the Buffalo area. They are: Hilary Banker of Burgio Kita Curvin & Banker; Diane Bosse and Jody Briandi of Hurwitz & Fine; Regina Del Vecchio of Colucci & Gallaher; Melinda Disare of Jaekle Fleischmann & Mugel; Evanko; Kelley; Deborah Muhlbauer Weber of Andreozzi Bluestein Fickess Muhlbauer Weber Brown; Bonnie O'Connor of Smith Murphy & Schoepperle; Sharon Porcellio of Bond Schoeneck & King; Susan Roney of Nixon Peabody; Barbara Schifeling of Damon Morey; Schillaci;

Schröder; and Sweet.

"One of the great things, for me, is that on that list, I personally know many of the women who are there," said Briandi, a first-timer on the Top 25 list. "I consider all of them to be such top-notch attorneys and it is nice to be included in such an amazing group of talented women."



Briandi

Given the well-documented struggle of women for professional equality in the legal profession, does

inclusion on rankings such as Super Lawyers help the cause?

"It is still a very relevant discussion to be having because even though it may be 50-50 coming out of law school, it tends to be more of an uphill battle for women," Briandi said. "When it comes to children and having a career and a family, we have challenges that our male counterparts just don't. So I do think this is important, and I think a list like this shines a spotlight on the great women in this profession."