



# GAIR GAIR CONASON | RUBINOWITZ BLOOM HERSHENHORN STEIGMAN & MACKAUF

**T**he trial lawyers of Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf (GGCRBHS&M) continued building the 100-year-old firm's longstanding legacy in 2020. Based in Manhattan but representing clients throughout New York and New Jersey, the firm has a reputation for successfully litigating the most serious and significant catastrophic injury, wrongful death, and general negligence cases.

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the firm secured notable verdicts and achievements on behalf of clients in 2020 and also filed a new high-profile suit that further demonstrates the firm's tireless advocacy.

In its 2020 edition, Best Lawyers® named partner Howard S. Hershenhorn the

"Lawyer of the Year" for Personal Injury Litigation—Plaintiffs in New York City. *Super Lawyers* also recognized managing partner Ben Rubinowitz as one of the "Top 10 Lawyers in New York City." These accolades and several others from esteemed legal organizations and peers are a testament to the firm's lasting presence in New York's legal community.

In 2019, Rubinowitz and partner Richard Steigman secured one of the largest awards for pain and suffering ever affirmed by a trial court in New York State—\$59.2 million—for a former New York City high school student who was disfigured during a botched chemistry experiment. In 2020, Rubinowitz and Steigman returned to court to ensure justice was upheld. The award was affirmed by Manhattan Supreme Court

Justice Alexander Tisch, who upheld the prior verdict for past and future pain and suffering.

"Our client was 16 years old when he suffered disfiguring burns to his neck and face that, unfortunately, will last for his entire life," Rubinowitz said. "We were gratified that the court acknowledged the magnitude of his injuries. We will continue to fight for him, as we have for all these years."

The firm is also revered for accomplishments representing victims of sexual abuse in high-profile cases. In September 2020, Rubinowitz and partner Peter Saghir filed a lawsuit against actor Kevin Spacey, under the NY Child Victims Act, on behalf of two people who alleged sexual abuse by the Oscar winner when they were teens. One plaintiff is Anthony





LEFT TO RIGHT SEATED: Rachel Jacobs, Diana M. A. Carnemolla, Ben B. Rubinowitz, Howard S. Hershenhorn, Marijo C. Adimey  
STANDING: Robert Sunshine, MD, David H. Larkin, James Rubinowitz, Christopher J. Donadio, Jeffrey B. Bloom, Peter J. Saghir,  
Anthony H. Gair, Richard M. Steigman, Stephen H. Mackauf, Michelle L. Levine

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Rapp, widely known for film and stage roles in "Rent." Rapp detailed his encounter in a 2017 interview, stating that he was 14 and Spacey was 26 at the time of the encounter in 1986. The other victim knew Spacey as his acting teacher and alleged being engaged in sexual intercourse with him several times in the early 1980s when he was only 14 years old.

"Both clients' credible allegations are helping to further usher an era of change," Saghir said. "Speaking out took incredible bravery and has inspired others to come forward against Spacey and other predators. We will continue to fight for our clients in court to secure justice and to hold the defendant accountable."

The plaintiffs were referred to GGCRBHS&M following the historic results

it achieved in a trailblazing abuse case in 2018. Rubinowitz and Saghir obtained a record-setting \$27.5 million settlement from the Diocese of Brooklyn on behalf of four boys who were sexually abused by a lay religion teacher. The settlement resulted in the largest ever awarded to an individual sexual abuse victim in New York.

These results extend the firm's successful track record of success achieved in and out of the courtroom. GGCRBHS&M's superior record of accomplishment includes more than 650 cases resulting in verdicts or settlements exceeding \$1 million in the past decade.

Legal media has also recognized the firm's impact. Ten GGCRBHS&M lawyers were listed in the 2021 New York Edition of *Best Lawyers*: Ben Rubinowitz, Jeffrey Bloom,

Howard Hershenhorn, Anthony Gair, Richard Steigman, Christopher Donadio, Marijo Adimey, Diana Carnemolla, Allan Zelikovic, and Stephen Mackauf. Rachel Jacobs, David H. Larkin, and James Rubinowitz were also listed as Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in 2021.

Rubinowitz also noted that the firm's shift to remote and in-person services during the COVID-19 pandemic further demonstrated their commitment to clients.

"We have fully adapted to the COVID environment and intend to move forward with the same dedication and zeal that we've had for more than 100 years," Rubinowitz said. "We will always make ourselves accessible to current and future clients through the medium that works best for them."