



LEFT TO RIGHT, BACK ROW: Michelle Levin, Daniel Brook, James Rubinowitz, Conor Cassidy, Christopher Donadio, Peter Saghir, Jeffrey Bloom, Richard Soldano, LEFT TO RIGHT, FRONT ROW: Diana Carnemolla, Marijo Adimey, Howard Hershenhorn, Ben Rubinowitz, Rachel Jacobs And Richard Steigman

Allan Zelikovic, Anthony Gair, David Larkin, Alea Roberts.

Gair, Gair, Conason, Rubinowitz, Bloom, Hershenhorn, Steigman & Mackauf (GGCRBHS&M) is revered as leaders in the legal community, and for more than 100 years, individuals and their families in New York and New Jersey continually turn to the Manhattan-based firm to secure justice after suffering catastrophic and long-term injuries

Amid an incredibly challenging time for the legal profession in 2021 and 2022, the firm continued its tradition of excellence by securing record-setting results that improve the lives of clients and keep the public safer.

Making History in New York State

Despite the added challenges of the pandemic, the firm's advocacy strengthened New York law to better protect the local community.

Thanks to their relentless advocacy, managing partner Ben Rubinowitz and partner Richard Steigman made history in November 2021 when the Appellate Division of New York allowed the largest-ever award for pain and suffering in New York State. In the case, a New York City high school student was severely burned in his 10th grade chemistry class due to the negligence of his teacher and the New York City Board of Education.

The City of New York challenged the award, but the Appeals court allowed \$29 million – the largest award ever in New York State history. That result marked an increase of nearly 50% over the next-highest award, which was a recent decision from the same Appellate Court.

"The court recognized the severity of the case, making clear that Alonzo Yanes suffered catastrophic physical, psychological and emotional injuries," Rubinowitz said. "We appreciated the careful decision rendered by the Appellate Division."

The resolution in *Yanes v. City of New York* was achieved on the heels of another significant milestone for the firm and the plaintiffs' bar. The firm's advocacy in *Greene v. Esplanade Venture Partnership, et al.*, also received national attention and inspired the New York Court of Appeals to expand existing law. *Greene* stemmed from the tragic passing of a two-year-old who was crushed to death in front of her grandmother by a falling cement façade in New York City.

Rubinowitz and Steigman successfully challenged New York State's doctrine of law known as "zone of danger" damages. Formerly, only "immediate" family members could receive compensation for the emotional harm suffered in witnessing the death of a relative – a grandmother was not considered to be an "immediate" family member. The firm's pursuit of justice helped the grandmother's claim to be reinstated and a jury will now be able to decide on the damages that should be awarded for such a horrific injury.

"This successful appeal made it possible for relatives who are often caretakers, like grandparents, to file claims if they suffer a similar tragedy," Steigman noted. "We strongly believe that non-relatives and even strangers who witness such an unfortunate horror should be able to file a claim against a negligent party."

The firm also continues to litigate a wide range of malpractice and injury matters, including many pending under the New York Child Victims Act.

Firm and Individual Awards, in NYC and Nationally

The firm has been recognized locally and nationally for outstanding client service and influential results. GGCRBHS&M maintained a National Tier 1 ranking in 2023 from *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*® "Best Law Firms" in Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Plaintiffs and Tier 1 rankings in New York City for representing plaintiffs in the areas of Legal Malpractice, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions, Medical Malpractice, Product Liability Litigation and Personal Injury Litigation. Among its various additional honors, GGCRBHS&M was named "Law Firm Of The Year" for Personal Injury Litigation in 2013 by *U.S. News - Best Lawyers*.®

Nine of the firm's lawyers have been included in the 2023 edition of *New York's Best Lawyers*: Ben Rubinowitz¹²⁵⁶, Jeffrey Bloom¹²³⁵, Howard Hershenhorn¹², Anthony Gair¹²⁴⁶, Richard Steigman¹², Christopher Donadio², Marijo Adimey¹², Diana Carnemolla² and Allan Zelikovic²⁴.

The publication recognized them for exceptional representation of plaintiffs in the areas of Medical Malpractice¹, Personal Injury Litigation², Professional Malpractice³, Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions⁴, Legal Malpractice⁵ and Product Liability Litigation⁶.

Four of the firm's partners have been named "Lawyer of the Year" in New York by *Best Lawyers*®:

- **Richard Steigman, Partner** – Medical Malpractice-Plaintiffs (2022)
- **Howard Hershenhorn, Partner** – Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs (2020)
- **Ben Rubinowitz, Partner** – Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs (2013, 2017); Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs (2016); Legal Malpractice Law - Plaintiffs (2018)
- **Anthony Gair, Partner** – Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs (2011, 2018)

Furthermore, Rachel Jacobs¹², James Rubinowitz¹²³, David H. Larkin² and Richard Soldano² were also recognized in the 2023 edition of *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch™* in America for Medical Malpractice Law¹, Personal Injury Litigation² and Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs³.

The recognition of GGCRBHS&M's seasoned lawyers and its rising stars are a testament to the firm's commitment to excellence.

"We are proud of the resolutions we've achieved in recent years, and are as committed as ever to securing justice for the injured and holding well-funded defendants accountable," Rubinowitz said. "The recognition of our younger lawyers demonstrates that we do not rest on our laurels, and we will continue building on the firm's legacy."

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