



Bernadette W. Catalana

Partner

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Bernadette Catalana is a partner in charge of the New York office. She focuses on toxic exposure cases, Child Victims Act claims, and other mass torts. For one of her Fortune 100 clients, she serves as National Coordinating Counsel, leading and collaborating with lawyers from all over the United States to tactically defend hundreds of cases each year. Her strong writing and editing skills are employed daily to prepare and edit briefs, other legal filings, and high-level client communications.

A substantial part of Bernadette's practice is devoted to the strategic negotiation of settlements. In this role, she has secured thousands of favorable resolutions in high-stakes matters. Continuing to expand her skill set, Bernadette recently completed the prestigious and rigorous mediation training program offered by the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law, "Mediating The Litigated Case."

Recognized as a *Super Lawyer* for nine consecutive years, Bernadette is also an active mentor, working with young lawyers to develop their skills and, ultimately, their careers. Her love of mentoring has inspired her *Mentoring Moment* posts on LinkedIn and *Candid Talk Women*, which she co-authored to educate and support women pursuing legal careers, encouraging them to "opt in" to the practice of law. CLE certified presentations are being made to lawyers across the country on a regular basis.

Background

Bernadette received her Bachelor of Science in business administration from Binghamton University. She earned her *juris doctor, cum laude*, at the University at Buffalo Law School. She was a member of the Buffalo Law Review and authored *The Battle for Baby Jessica: a Conflict of Best Interests*, which has been cited by numerous legal writings, including a brief filed with the US Supreme Court.

Bernadette is a board member of Precious Dreams Foundation, an organization committed to providing comfort to children in foster care and homeless shelters. She is also the former Board Chair of BOA Editions,

Ltd., a nationally recognized non-profit poetry publisher; she continues to serve on its National Advisory Board. She is a former board member of the Rochester chapters of the American Heart Association and American Red Cross, former trustee of the Evan Cummings Trust, and inaugural Chair of the Our Lady of Mercy Gala. In March 2023, Bernadette published the book *Daughter Lessons: Wise and Witty Reflections on Leading, Learning From, and Loving Our Daughters*. The book is a collection of inspiring, relatable, and soulful essays—many originally published on the website *daughterlessons.com*, founded by Bernadette and her daughters.

Awards & Recognition

NEW YORK SUPER LAWYERS

Listed for Class Action & Mass Torts, Products Liability
2015-2024

THE DAILY RECORD

Up and Coming Attorney
2004

THE ROCHESTER WOMEN'S NETWORK

Up and Coming Businesswoman

UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

Connelly Oral Advocacy Award

Related Services

Products Liability & Mass Torts

Publications & Speaking Engagements

Damages in Sexual Misconduct Cases

Sexual Abuse Litigation and Coverage Conference
October 2023

National Asbestos Litigation Conference

Women's Lunch
September 2023

Trends in Sexual Abuse Litigation and the Status of the Litigation

Sexual Abuse Litigation and Coverage Conference
October 2022

Settlement and Resolution

Sexual Abuse Litigation & Coverage Conference

October 2021

Looking Up and Looking Out For Each Other - Getting Past the Subtle Roadblocks of Anti-Woman Bias

National Association of Women Lawyers

July 2020

'Let Someone Else Make the Porridge'

New York Super Lawyers magazine

August 2018

Education, Admissions & Activities

EDUCATION

University of Buffalo Law School,

J.D., cum laude

Binghamton University

B.S.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Minnesota

New York

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States District Court of New York

Western District

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)

National Association of Women Lawyers

Product Liability Advisory Council

Precious Dreams Foundation

Board Member

BOA Editions, Ltd.

National Advisory Board Member, former Board Chair

American Heart Association

Rochester chapter, former board member

American Red Cross

Rochester chapter, former board member

Evan Cummings Trust

Former Trustee

Our Lady of Mercy Gala

Inaugural Chair

Candid Talk Women

Co-Founder

daughterlessons.com

Founder