

Joette Katz

Partner

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Stamford

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Joette Katz is a partner in the firm's Business Litigation Practice Group. Her distinguished legal career and service to the State of Connecticut provide her with considerable knowledge and experience that make her a valuable resource to clients and lawyers throughout the state.

Joette focuses her practice on appellate work, mediation and investigations. She advises clients on the appellate process, positioning, and strategy at both the trial and appellate stages of a matter. Joette also serves as a mediator to resolve a wide range of conflicts for clients that do not require litigation. In addition, using skills from her government experience, Joette advises clients across a variety of industries on handling government, internal and other investigations.

During her 18+ years as an Associate Justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court, Joette heard approximately 2,500 cases and authored nearly 500 opinions. In addition, she served as an Administrative Judge for the State of Connecticut Appellate System and as a Judge for the Connecticut Superior Court. While serving as the Chief of Legal Services for the State of Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services, she co-authored *Connecticut Criminal Caselaw Handbook: A Practitioner's Guide* (published by *The Connecticut Law Tribune*). Her experience at the Superior Court level in all aspects of the law makes her an invaluable asset to her clients, particularly those navigating the complexities of the appellate process.

Prior to joining the firm, Joette served as Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families for eight years, where she was responsible for children in the Department's custody and under its guardianship, as well as overseeing the Department's services for children and families throughout the state in need of assistance. In addition, she was involved in all appellate matters related to the Department, including regularly advising on legal strategy. Joette also

demonstrates her long-standing commitment to supporting at-risk populations as a significant contributor to the firm's award-winning pro bono efforts, providing legal services on behalf of the underserved and underprivileged members of the community. For example, Joette successfully had the convictions vacated and the charges dismissed against George Gould, a Connecticut man wrongly imprisoned for nearly three decades. Joette's pro bono representation was historic, as it was the first case resulting in a dismissal following an investigation by the newly formed Conviction Integrity Unit of the Chief State's Attorney's Office.

Recently, on behalf of a nationwide organization of elected prosecutors, Joette co-authored an amicus brief raising arguments that the U.S. Supreme Court echoed in upholding laws disarming domestic abusers who are subject to judicial restraining orders.

Joette also recently assisted in a case where Shipman secured an order certifying a class of former residents of Barbour Gardens, once a publicly subsidized housing complex situated in Hartford's North End. After regulators shuttered the complex based on deficient inspection scores and associated safety violations, several tenants filed suit for the proposed class against the complex's owner, its manager, and certain of the owner's members. The case team also included Partners Eric Del Pozo (who argued the motion and preceding appeal), Mark Ostrowski, and Jim Bergenn, with Associates Sarah Dlugoszewski and Sarah Niemiroski.

Throughout her career, Joette has been a frequent speaker, both nationally and in Connecticut, at many events sponsored by legal and professional associations as well as symposia hosted by colleges and universities. She has lectured on a wide range of topics, including appellate advocacy and professional responsibility, and has been a presenter at national convenings on child welfare. Joette has also taught at all three of the state's law schools and is an Associate Fellow of Trumbull College at Yale University.

Distinctions

PARTIAL LISTING:

- Social Impact Award, *New England Legal Awards* (2023)
- Distinguished Leader Award, *Connecticut Law Tribune* (2020)
- Hartford County Bar Association John M. Bailey Award for Public Service
- Community Mediation: The 2012 Honorable Robert C. Zampano Award for Excellence in Mediation
- Family Children's Agency: Family Strengthening Award
- Casey Family Programs: Casey Excellence for Children Award
- The Lawyers Children for America: Outstanding Leadership Award
- Connecticut Voices for Children: State Policy Leadership Award

- *Governing* magazine: A Public Official of the Year
- Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame: Notable Women of Influence
- Yale University: Associate Fellow of Trumbull College (2009-present)
- Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association Women's Caucus: Trailblazer Award
- Quinnipiac University: Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws
- Connecticut Bar Association: Henry J. Naruk Award
- University of Connecticut School of Law: Distinguished Graduate Award
- National Organization for Women: Harriet Tubman Award

Teaching Positions

- Yale University School of Law: Ethics in Litigation; Children and the Law
- Quinnipiac University School of Law: Former Adjunct Professor, Criminal Law and Ethics
- University of Connecticut School of Law: Former Adjunct Professor, Appellate Advocacy; Criminal Appellate Clinic

Professional Affiliations

MEMBER, PAST AND PRESENT:

- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut – Federal Grievance Committee Member
- State of Connecticut Jury Selection Task Force: Drafted Practice Book Revisions Aimed at Attacking Implicit Bias in the Jury Selection Process
- Moving Justice Forward Advisory Board Member
- State of Connecticut Evidence Code Drafting Committee: Chair
- State of Connecticut Advisory Committee on the Appellate Rules: Chair
- State of Connecticut Law Revision Commission: Member
- State of Connecticut Public Defender Commission: Member
- American Law Institute: Member, Sentencing Advisory Committee
- Connecticut Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA): Advisory Council
- Connecticut Criminal Practice Commission: Member
- Connecticut Client Security Fund Committee: Chair
- Commission to Revise Connecticut Appellate Rules: Member
- Public Service and Trust Commission: Committee Chair
- Fairfield County Inns of Court: President

Community Involvement

- *The Connecticut Law Tribune*: Chair, Editorial Board
- Connecticut Bar Foundation, Board Member

- St. Joseph's College, Board of Trustees
- Trumbull College, Fellow
- Lawyers for Children America, Board Member
- Justice Education Center, Inc.
- Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund
- Hartford Boys and Girls Club
- Fairfield County's Community Foundation: Board Member

Credentials

Education

- University of Connecticut School of Law, J.D., with honors
- Brandeis University, B.A., with honors

Bar Admissions

- Connecticut

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of CT
- U.S. Supreme Court