



Commercial Litigation Alternative Dispute Resolution White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Appellate Law Strategies

973.451.8578 vashrafi@riker.com

VICTOR ASHRAFI

Victor Ashrafi is Of Counsel with the Firm's Commercial Litigation, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations Practices.

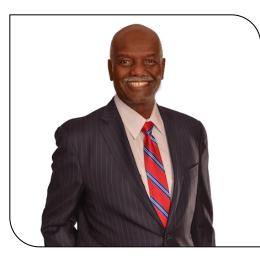
He joined Riker Danzig after serving for 20 years as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey in all divisions of that court and presiding over numerous jury and bench trials. Most recently, Judge Ashrafi served as a Judge of the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey.

While on the bench, Judge Ashrafi rendered decisions in cases involving insurance coverage, products liability, environmental remediation, professional malpractice, construction, employment and discrimination disputes, zoning and land use matters, and other civil and criminal litigation.

His hands-on experience provides Judge Ashrafi with keen insights into the resolution of disputes between parties, making him an effective mediator and arbitrator in even the most complex of matters. He is also well-positioned to serve as special master and discovery master in complex cases.

In addition to his judicial experience, Judge Ashrafi served in the United States Attorney's Office in Newark for 12 years, supervising all phases of federal criminal prosecutions as Chief of the Criminal Division and supervising federal criminal appeals as Chief of Appeals, positions he held during that time. This experience as a federal prosecutor adds depth to the Firm's White Collar Criminal Practice, to which clients regularly turn for representation in connection with compliance issues, government investigations, and criminal matters





Alternative Dispute Resolution Commercial Litigation Insurance and Reinsurance Law

973.451.8509

tfrancis@riker.com

TRAVIS L. FRANCIS

Travis L. Francis joined the Firm as Of Counsel after serving for 25 years as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey and as the Assignment Judge of Middlesex County. He is a member of Riker Danzig's Alternative Dispute Resolution, Commercial Litigation, and Insurance Groups. He is Co-Chair of the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Judge Francis's practice focuses on employment, restrictive covenants, contracts and complex discovery issues, general equity, complex commercial litigation, complex construction litigation, internal corporate and municipal investigations, and insurance coverage.

Prior to his appointment as Assignment Judge in 2007, Judge Francis was the Presiding Judge of the Chancery General Equity Court, where he tried complex commercial cases, forfeitures, shareholder oppression actions, orders to show cause, and specific performance actions.

After his appointment to the bench in 1992, Judge Francis was initially assigned to the Criminal Division and two years later assigned to the Family Division where he served as the Vicinage Juvenile Court Judge for two years. Following that, he was assigned to the Civil Division where he tried all types of civil cases including but not limited to personal injury, discrimination, medical malpractice, complex construction litigation, product liability, and insurance coverage cases.

Judge Francis served on numerous Supreme Court Committees, including Minority Concerns, Juvenile Justice and the Family, Supreme Court Bench-Bar-Media, Civil Practice, the Capital Punishment Advisory Committee, and the special Committee on Preemptory Challenges and Jury Voir Dire. Judge Francis served as Chair of the Conference of Wiretap Judges.

Judge Francis was recognized by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in 2009 with its Outstanding Volunteer Service Award.

Judge Francis is an adjunct professor at the Rutgers Law School – Newark, and he has presided over moot court competitions for several schools. He is a Visiting Associate for the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. He has been a lecturer for the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education and a guest lecturer at the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

Prior to serving on the bench, Judge Francis worked for the Public Advocate in the Middlesex County Public Defender's Office. He was a trial attorney at Prudential Insurance Company and a Senior Trial Attorney for Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.





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973.451.8490

spollock@riker.com

STEWART G. POLLOCK

Following two decades of distinguished service as an Associate Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, Stewart G. Pollock began Of Counsel for Riker Danzig.

Justice Pollock served from 1958 to 1960 as an Assistant United States Attorney. Leaving federal service, he joined a law firm, rising to partner. In 1974, he became a Commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. He later served as a member of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.

After returning to private practice, Justice Pollock served from 1978 through 1979 as Chief Counsel to Governor Brendan T. Byrne. In 1979, Governor Byrne nominated him to the Supreme Court for a seven-year term. He gained tenure on the high court following reappointment by Governor Thomas H. Kean.

Justice Pollock is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Law Center Foundation at New York University School of Law. He chaired both the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Professional Rules of Responsibility and the Supreme Court's Commission on the Rules of Professional Conduct. He also served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Restatement of Law Governing Lawyers of the American Law Institute. During 1991 to 1992, he was Chairman of the Appellate Judges' Conference of the American Bar Association.

Justice Pollock has served as a Federal Court Mediator, a CPR Neutral for the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution, and a commercial arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association. He is a Fellow of the American College of Commercial Arbitrators. He has served as an arbitrator or mediator in numerous matters involving a wide variety of tort or commercial claims, including claims concerning shareholder agreements, royalty agreements, franchises, and the sale of various products such as telecommunications or medical products. He has also heard civil rights claims and claims arising under employment, environmental, and insurance law.

In addition to many written opinions for the court, Justice Pollock is the author of numerous published articles on healthcare, public utilities, products liability, and constitutional law. He has taught or lectured at several law schools.





Alternative Dispute Resolution Commercial Litigation

973.451.8434 jrothschild@riker.com

JAMES S. ROTHSCHILD, JR.

James S. Rothschild, Jr., is a member of Riker Danzig's Alternative Dispute Resolution and Litigation Groups. He returned to Riker Danzig as Of Counsel after serving for 14 years as a Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey. The majority of his time on the bench was spent serving as a Civil Judge in Essex County. The Supreme Court selected him to be the Complex Civil Litigation Judge in Essex County for the last several years of his tenure.

Judge Rothschild was a member of the Supreme Court's Civil Jury Charges Committee. He has lectured extensively on developments in civil law, both for ICLE and at the Judicial College.

In addition to commercial litigation, he has experience in numerous areas including tort cases; coverage litigation; environmental matters; medical, legal, accounting, and engineering malpractice issues; zoning and land use battles; public bidding matters; contract interpretation; construction disputes; class action; and discrimination cases.

Prior to the bench, Judge Rothschild was a partner at Riker Danzig. His practice focused on litigation and insurance coverage matters.