

Hon. John Michael Vazquez (Ret.)
Member, Chiesa Shahinian & Giantomaso PC

The Honorable John Michael Vazquez, a former United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, is a Member with the firm's Litigation and White Collar Defense & Investigations Groups. Judge Vazquez served as a United States District Judge from 2016, upon his appointment by President Barack Obama, to 2023.

Judge Vazquez brings his unique ability and decades of diverse experiences, including those from the federal judiciary to his practice at the firm, where he focuses on complex civil litigation, "bet-the-company" litigation, internal investigations, and criminal defense. He is also available as a special master and mediator in matters involving a broad range of industries.

Whether in litigation, risk avoidance, or alternative dispute resolution, Judge Vazquez's unique background at both the state and federal levels offers the firm's clients a strategic approach to an array of complex matters, which include the following:

- Healthcare and pharmaceutical industries, including *qui tam* and fraud matters;
- Intellectual property litigation involving patents (including ANDA matters), copyright, and trademark/trade dress issues;
- Securities litigation, including those arising under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act;
- Class actions;
- Antitrust and RICO matters;
- Products liability claims; and
- Employment disputes, including the defense of trade secrets and/or confidential information and non-solicitation disputes.

Much of Judge Vazquez's strategic approach draws upon his seven years of experience as a federal district judge, where he oversaw a docket including significant and complicated civil and criminal matters.

Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey from 2001 to 2006. During his time at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Judge Vazquez oversaw the Office's health care fraud matters as the Health Care Fraud Coordinator from 2004 to 2006.

In 2006, Judge Vazquez left the U.S. Attorney's Office to serve in the Office of the New Jersey Attorney General, first as Special Assistant Attorney General and then as First Assistant Attorney General. As First Assistant Attorney General, he was responsible for the daily operations of all divisions of the New Jersey Department of Law & Safety.

Notably, after leaving the Attorney General's Office, Judge Vazquez joined a North Jersey-law firm, where he represented, among others, Anthony R. Suarez, the then-Mayor of Ridgefield, in a 2010 trial regarding corruption charges. Ultimately, Judge

Vazquez helped win an acquittal for his client, which broke a government streak of more than 200 public corruption convictions. In addition, shortly before the joining the federal bench, Judge Vazquez was co-counsel in a federal civil trial in which he helped secure a jury verdict of more than \$100 million for his client in a breach of contract case stemming from a settlement in patent litigation.

Judge Vazquez earned his J.D., *summa cum laude*, from Seton Hall University School of Law, and his B.A. from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Herman D. Michels of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, before joining a North Jersey-based law firm as an associate until 2001.

Catherine A. Chiodo
Clerk to Hon. Sharon A. King, U.S.M.J.

Catherine A. Chiodo is a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Sharon A. King, Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey, Camden Vicinage. She received her Bachelor of Arts undergraduate degree in political science and humanitarian affairs from Fordham University in 2015. Catherine received her Juris Doctor from the George Washington University in 2022 where she served as Executive Board Treasurer of the Moot Court Association and the Cyberlaw Students Association and as a research assistant to Professor Daniel Solove. Before law school, Catherine worked as a public policy analyst at Van Ness Feldman in Washington, D.C. and served as a Senior Budget Analyst at the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington D.C. as well as a Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for the Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the United Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Aron Kaplan
Clerk to Hon. Stacey L. Meisel, United States Bankruptcy Court

Aron Kaplan currently serves as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Stacey L. Meisel of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. He received his undergraduate degree, *Cum Laude*, from Yeshiva University in 2011, and received his J.D., *Cum Laude*, from St. John's University School of Law in 2023. During law school, Aron served as an Articles and Notes Editor for the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review and as a Senior Staff Member of the Moot Court Honor Society. Recently, he volunteered as a judge for the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. Prior to law school, Aron worked as a research technician in a biochemistry laboratory at Weill Cornell Medicine. In his spare time, he enjoys practicing martial arts.

**Andrew Shi
Clerk to Chief Judge Michael A. Chagares, U.S Court of Appeals**

Andrew Shi serves as a law clerk to Chief Judge Michael Chagares on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Prior to this, he served as a law clerk to Judge Rudolph Contreras on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and was an associate attorney at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Andrew graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2020 and from Cornell University in 2017.

Megan L. Wiggins
Career Clerk to Hon. Katharine S. Hayden, U.S.D.J.

Megan L. Wiggins currently serves as the career law clerk to the Hon. Katharine S. Hayden, U.S.D.J. Previously, Megan was an attorney with the litigation and appellate practice groups at Sills, Cummis & Gross P.C., where she handled complex commercial litigation in a broad range of areas, including healthcare, banking, real estate, and business disputes. Megan served earlier in her career as a law clerk to the Hon. Maryanne Trump Barry of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and to the Hon. Edwin H. Stern of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, during the term when he was temporarily assigned to the Supreme Court of New Jersey. She also practiced complex commercial and intellectual property law at a large New York firm and a boutique intellectual property law firm.

Megan received her J.D., magna cum laude, from Seton Hall Law School with a concentration in intellectual property law, and her B.A., with high honors, from Rutgers University, having dual-majored in biological sciences and criminal justice.

She is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York, as well as before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fifth, and Federal Circuits, the District of New Jersey, and the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York.