

**Jennifer Mara
Managing Partner, Baldassare & Mara, LLC**

Jennifer Mara is the managing partner and majority shareholder of Baldassare & Mara, LLC in Roseland, NJ.

Her practice concentrates on complex business litigation and criminal defense matters. Ms. Mara's experience ranges from high profile federal criminal trials to quickly negotiated, discreet business settlements.

Jennifer's civil practice is broad based, comprised of matters involving qui tam claims, shareholder disputes as well as breach of contract, fraud, intellectual property, antitrust and RICO and False Claims Act claims. Based upon her experience in that regard, Ms. Mara frequently acts as local counsel for large firms with high stakes matters pending in New Jersey's federal courts.

In her criminal practice, Jennifer represented individuals during lengthy federal trials in the "Bridgegate" matter and the prosecution of the former Bergen County Democratic Party Chairman. She has also represented the Treasurer of a sitting United States Congressperson's Campaign in connection with a federal investigation of that Congressperson, as well as the former Executive Director of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation and the former President of the Elizabeth New Jersey School Board.

Jennifer has conducted internal investigations on behalf of corporate clients involving potential civil or criminal exposure. Similarly, she has represented individuals in connection with such investigations.

Jennifer received a J.D. from Seton Hall School of Law and a B.A. and M.A. from Rutgers University. She clerked for United States District Judge Claire C. Cecchi.

Jennifer is the President Elect of the Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers of New Jersey.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

THE HONORABLE SUSAN D. WIGENTON, U.S.D.J.

Susan D. Wigenton serves as a United States District Judge, for the District of New Jersey, where she sits in Newark, New Jersey, hearing civil and criminal matters. She previously served as a United States Magistrate Judge from 1997 until her appointment in 2006, by President George W. Bush.

Judge Wigenton was a trial attorney engaged in private practice in her own firm, until she was appointed to the Bench.

Judge Wigenton holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence Degree from the College of William & Mary, Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Hon. Michael A. Hammer
United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey

Michael A. Hammer was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of New Jersey on August 12, 2011. Before becoming a Magistrate Judge, Judge Hammer was an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey for thirteen years. From May 2006 to August 2011, Judge Hammer served as Chief of the National Security Unit. In that position, Judge Hammer supervised and prosecuted a variety of counter-terrorism and counter-espionage investigations, including serving as co-trial counsel in a three-month trial against five men who were convicted of conspiracy to murder government personnel. Judge Hammer also served as a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division, supervising a wide variety of white-collar and other criminal prosecutions. From 2002 until 2006, Judge Hammer served in the Special Prosecutions Division, handling public corruption investigations and trials. From 1996 to 1998, Judge Hammer was an associate at McElroy, Deutsch & Mulvaney (now McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter) in Morristown, New Jersey, and worked on a variety of commercial litigation matters. Judge Hammer also clerked for former District Judge Garrett E. Brown and then-Magistrate Judge Stanley R. Chesler. Judge Hammer graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *Seton Hall Law Review*, and the University of Michigan.

K. Anthony Thomas
Federal Public Defender, Federal Public Defender's Office, District of New Jersey

K. Anthony Thomas is the Federal Public Defender at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of New Jersey. For nearly twenty-five years, Mr. Thomas has been a zealous advocate of persons charged with federal criminal offenses. Prior to being appointed to his present position, Mr. Thomas represented his client from pre-indictment proceedings through sentencing in the District Court, and in appeals in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Mr. Thomas is also an adjunct professor at his alma mater, Seton Hall University School of Law, where he teaches *Advanced Criminal Practice*, and *Persuasion and Advocacy*. He also teaches in the law school's Summer Institute for Pre-Legal Studies. At Seton Hall, he blends his trial skills with the courses he regularly teaches to ensure aspiring law students experience an engaging law school experience. Mr. Thomas is also a volunteer coach for several of the law school's mock trial teams. Mr. Thomas served several terms as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Character.

Mr. Thomas obtained his undergraduate degree from Providence College where he played on the school's football team and was active in student life. Mr. Thomas was a member of the school's Karate Club, an on-air personality at the school's radio station, and a member of the Friar Cheerleader Team. In all these activities, he learned the importance of teamwork, collaboration, and having fun with what you do, traits that continue to serve him well as a criminal defense practitioner.

In addition to practicing law and teaching, Mr. Thomas finds time to pursue his other interests.

Mr. Thomas is proud to share that he has competed in several half-marathons, and the 2019 and 2021 NYC Marathons. Mr. Thomas is looking forward to running the 2022 NYC Marathon along with his first ultra-marathon, the 2023 Zion Ultra-Marathon, a 100K race through the desert of Southern Utah. Last, but not least, Mr. Thomas is a proud member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, and a member of Peloton Nation.

Richard J. Ramsay
Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, Appeals Division

Richard J. Ramsay is an Assistant United States Attorney in the Appeals Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey. In this role Mr. Ramsay represents the United States in criminal matters before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and serves on his Office's Diversity Committee. Mr. Ramsay joined the Office in 2016 following clerkships with the Hon. Kenneth M. Hoyt, Senior District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, and the Hon. Consuelo M. Callahan, of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Before clerking, Mr. Ramsay worked as a litigation associate at Wiggin and Dana LLP and as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney's Office Appeals Bureau. Mr. Ramsay is a graduate of Yale University and Georgetown University Law Center and from 2021-2023 he taught Appellate Advocacy at Seton Hall University School of Law.

Professor Isis Misdary
Associate Professor of Law, Seton Hall University School of Law

Isis Misdary, born in Jersey City, will direct the criminal defense clinic and teach Criminal Law. Prior to Seton Hall, Professor Misdary was the Community Empowerment Supervisor at Beyond Legal Aid, a leader in community-directed lawyering and legal services. Professor Misdary is a former community organizer with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, the Union for the Homeless, and GALAEI (a queer Latin@ social justice organization). For over 13 years, Professor Misdary directed and developed new works by emerging BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and intersectional playwrights in San Francisco, San Diego, New York, Minneapolis, and Cairo, winning numerous awards and teaching in colleges and secondary schools in New York City and across the country.

Professor Misdary received an undergraduate degree from Villanova University, a Masters of Fine Arts from University of California San Diego, and a law degree from Georgetown. Professor Misdary is a Fulbright Scholar to Egypt, a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellow for New Americans and the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group grant for theatre directors.

Prior to Beyond, Professor Misdary was proud to work as a public defender for several years at the Defender Association of Philadelphia, in the Municipal Court, Children and Youth Justice, Felony Waivers, and Major Felonies/Jury Trial units. They worked as an appellate liaison for the Children and Youth Justice Unit, facilitating challenges to the incarceration of young people without proper notice and hearing and for alleged technical violations associated with medical and psychiatric diagnoses protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act. At the Defender Association, Professor Misdary also collaborated with nine-based community groups to implement “Participatory Defense,” a movement that empowers community members facing charges and their families, and friends to assist the public defender in case preparation and advocacy inside and outside the courtroom. Working with participatory defense organizers, volunteers, and facilitators, Professor Misdary created the Digital Defense Project to film the personal stories of community members facing charges to persuade judges, prosecutors, and other stakeholders. This led to several withdrawals of charges. Professor Misdary served as a Mentor Attorney for first year defenders and worked as a remote fellow with the International Legal Foundation to mentor local public defenders in the West Bank.