

## Moderator Biography

**Sheryl Giugliano**

*Partner,*  
Ruskin Moscou  
Faltischek, P.C

Sheryl P. Giugliano is a Partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., and a member of the Corporate Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice Group, Corporate and Securities Department, and the Commercial Litigation Department. Her experience includes restructuring, bankruptcy, and litigation. Sheryl works with companies facing solvency issues to identify a solution and implement a strategic response, which includes negotiating with interested parties, creditors, and shareholders, and may also include filing for bankruptcy protection, or facilitating an out-of-court wind down.

She represents middle-market companies facing operational or litigation issues, guiding them through the Chapter 11 or Chapter 7 process to a successful reorganization or liquidation. Sheryl also represents trustees and receivers by assisting in the analysis and recovery of assets and prosecution of litigation claims, as well as secured and unsecured creditors identifying and enforcing their rights, assisting in their efforts to extend financing or consent to the use of cash collateral. In addition, Sheryl has represented contract counterparties negotiating for the highest possible cure payment or claim, defendants in preference and fraudulent conveyance actions (both in bankruptcy litigation and negotiating settlements to avoid protracted litigation), and purchasers in bankruptcy auctions.

As a member of the Corporate & Securities Department, Sheryl represents both early stage and middle market businesses on a variety of financial and other legal issues, including mergers and acquisitions, financings and other complex business transactions and agreements. Sheryl also advises clients with respect to corporate governance issues and related matters.

Sheryl's litigation experience includes representing parties in bankruptcy litigation and general commercial matters. She has represented parties engaged in contract disputes in state and federal court, as well as arbitration matters before AAA and JAMS, and mediation, successfully and efficiently represents clients to achieve the optimal outcome.

Sheryl was selected as a New York Metro "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers from 2015-2022 and received the Turnaround Management Association Long Island Chapter 2016 "Spirit Award" for Outstanding Service.

She earned her LL.M. degree in Bankruptcy from St. John's University School of Law, and has utilized her extensive experience in bankruptcy to expand her practice as a business-oriented lawyer.

Sheryl is admitted to practice law in the state of New York.

## Panelist Biographies

**Eric Altstadter**

*Partner,*  
Eisner Advisory Group LLC  
& EisnerAmper LLP

Eric Altstadter is an Audit Partner and Chair of the firm's Cannabis and Hemp practice within the Manufacturing and Distribution Group. He has more than 30 years of experience working with public companies and privately held businesses throughout the country.

Eric has helped numerous clients through the complex financial reporting and compliance issues associated with the filing of registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and raising capital from other groups. He has significant experience with companies in the financial services, technology, manufacturing and distribution, and retail industries.

Eric is a frequent speaker on accounting, auditing, and business topics. Actively involved in cannabis industry events he was recently named New York Metro Cannabis Industry Power Player. He is regularly recognized by the Long Island Business News (LIBN) in their Who's Who in Accounting and Who's Who in Audits editions. Eric was previously named by LIBN as one of the "Around 50" honorees in recognition of his leadership and support of Long Island businesses and the community.

**Elizabeth Kase**

*Co-Chair,*  
Cannabis Law Practice  
Group, Ruskin Moscou  
Faltischek, P.C.

Elizabeth Kase is co-chair of RMF's Cannabis Law practice group. She counsels clients seeking licensure in the emerging adult-use cannabis space pursuant to NY's Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act. Since the inception of The Compassionate Care Act in 2014, Ms. Kase guided entrepreneurs, businesses, and social equity applicants seeking to navigate NY's ever-changing regulatory landscape. She lectures extensively about the status of the laws, legal ethics, and compliance in the cannabis space. She has published numerous articles pertaining to criminal law, cannabis law, and cannabis/derivative products. Ms. Kase is widely recognized for her distinguished experience and was named a "Trailblazer in Cannabis Law" in the National Law Journal. She began her career as Assistant District Attorney in New York County and defended clients in complex federal and state criminal matters for more than twenty years.

Ms. Kase is also well known for her tireless advocacy and commitment to her clients, defending large-scale federal and state criminal matters including public corruption cases, conspiracies, mortgage fraud, health fraud, immigration fraud, embezzlement schemes, sex crimes, and narcotics cases, as well as complex DWIs.

Recognized for her professional accomplishments and contributions to Long Island, Ms. Kase was awarded at the Long Island Business News' (LIBN) "Top 50 Influential Women on Long Island." She has been designated a New York Super Lawyer since 2016 and has been recognized by The Nassau County Bar Association for her zealous advocacy as pro bono staff attorney at The Safe Center of Long Island. She proudly serves as Village Justice of Baxter Estates in Port Washington, New York since 2011. Ms. Kase is a graduate of Smith College and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where she also teaches trial advocacy.

Ms. Kase is admitted to practice New York, Massachusetts, Supreme Court of the United States, and both the Southern District and Eastern District of New York. ***Learn more here.***



**Robert Zegarek**

*Director,*  
Insurance-Risk Transfer,  
HUB International

Bob “Zig” is Director of New Business Development & Risk Transfer, and helps emerging and established companies, and individuals, manage their risk, protect their assets, and insure against life’s “surprise” moments. As a seasoned relationship expert, Zig exhibits the ability to educate and service his clientele in a way that humanizes the ever-complex insurance landscape, with expert advice and guidance people can understand.

As a member of HUBs international cannabis, real estate, and transportation practices, he helps clients on matters such as P&C, management liability, D&O, E&O, EPL, Cyber, employee and executive benefits, and 401k. Additionally, he has structured insurance due diligence programs for businesses on the buy-sell side of M&A.

When not on the phone with his clients, Zig can be found hacking away on his acoustic and electric guitars, often with headphones on, so as not to disturb the peace at home.