



Mara D. Afzali

Associate

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Profile

Mara represents public and private sector clients in a variety of civil litigation matters in state and federal court and has successfully argued on behalf of clients through motions, at hearings, trials, administrative proceedings and on appeal. She also routinely advises clients in litigation prevention strategies and risk mitigation. Her experience includes handling business and commercial disputes, defending employers against allegations of discrimination, retaliation and civil rights violations, as well as representing health care and long term care facilities in administrative and legal proceedings.

Prior to joining the legal profession, Mara spent more than a decade working at an independent alternative elementary school specializing in self-directed learning and fostering student-led conflict resolution. This experience provided her with a unique perspective on problem-solving and a dynamic ability to negotiate and mediate disputes on behalf of her clients. In addition to her work at Bond, Mara serves as a Captain in the United States Army (Reserves) Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps.

Honors & Affiliations

- Listed in:
 - *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2022-2025
 - *New York Super Lawyers*® Rising Star, Civil Litigation - Defense, 2021-2024
- Women On The Rise, *Albany Business Review*, 2021
- Albany County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- Capital District Women's Bar Association
- Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association, CLE Committee Member, 2019-present
- Capital District Women's Bar Association, Outstanding New Lawyer Award, 2018
- Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trials Competition, Winner/Best Oral Advocate, Spring 2017

Education

- Albany Law School (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2017)
- Siena College (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2014)

Bar/Court Admissions

- New York
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Practices

- Litigation
- Labor and Employment
- Artificial Intelligence

- Domenick L. Gabrielli Appellate Advocacy Moot Court Competition, Winner, Fall 2015
- Judge Merle Fogg Jr. '45 Moot Court Prize, Recipient
- Thomson Reuters Award for Excellence in Evidence Law, Recipient
- Selma Mintz Memorial Prize, Recipient
- Judicial Intern for Hon. Mae A. D'Agostino, United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York
- Dean Thomas Sponsler Honors Teaching Fellow
- National Order of the Barristers

Representative Publications

- "Elevate Albany: A Career Path Isn't Always Direct," *Albany Business Review*, June 8, 2023
- "An Interview with Mara Afzali, Litigation and U.S. Army JAG Corps," Legally Bond Podcast, November 8, 2021
- "Letting Sleeping Dogmas Lie: A Response to Judge Posner's Call to Reform The Res Gestae Exceptions To The Rule Against Hearsay", 80 Alb. L. Rev. 595, 2017
- Excited Utterance, The Evidence and Proof Podcast, Episode 51: Mara Afzali, The Res Gestae Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay, available here.

Representative Presentations

- Panelist, Federal Practice and Judicial Clerkships: Perspectives from the Northern District of New York, Syracuse University College of Law, March 16, 2021

Other Activities

- Knox Fire Department, Volunteer
- The Albany Law School Dean's Leadership Council, Member, 2019-Present
- Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York's Private Attorney Involvement Program, Volunteer, 2019
- Albany Law School, Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trials Competition, Advisor, 2019
- United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, 2019 Youth Law Day, Volunteer
- Albany Law School Board of Trustees, Student Representative, 2016-2017