

# RAWLE'S REPORTS

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## 2017 PENNSYLVANIA RISING STARS

Rawle & Henderson LLP is pleased to announce that **David R. Chludzinski**, **Kimberly A. House**, **Caroline S. Vahey**, **Jeffrey L. Oster** and **Christina A. Gonzales** have been selected as **2017 Pennsylvania Rising Stars** by Super Lawyers and *Law & Politics* Magazine. Rising Stars are the top 2.5 percent of attorneys in Pennsylvania who are 40 years old and younger or have been in practice for 10 years or less.



**David R. Chludzinski** is Of Counsel to the firm in our Pittsburgh office. He concentrates his practice on the defense of **commercial motor vehicle** companies and their insurers. David earned his J.D. from the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State University. While attending law school, he was a Comments Editor on the *International Law Review* and he received the C.A.L.I. Award for advanced pre-trial advocacy. He earned his B.A., *cum laude*, from Boston College. David is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and in the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Pennsylvania. He was elected to a three-year term on the Allegheny County Bar Association's Civil Litigation Section Council in June 2015. He is a member of the Trucking Industry Defense Association and the Pennsylvania Motor Truck Association. David was also recognized as a Pennsylvania Rising Star in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

*David can be reached directly at: (412) 261-5738 • [dchludzinski@rawle.com](mailto:dchludzinski@rawle.com)*



**Kimberly A. House**, an associate in the firm's Philadelphia office, focuses her practice on the defense of **catastrophic loss** matters, including product liability cases, construction and industrial accidents, premises liability, hotel liability, medical malpractice and other general casualty matters. Kim earned her J.D. from Wake Forest School of Law in 2008. She was a Student Trial Bar Member and co-chaired the Zelif Trial Competition in 2008. She earned her B.A., *cum laude*, in Political Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2004. Kim is admitted in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Carolina and South Carolina. Kim was also selected as a Rising Star in 2016.

*Kim can be reached directly at: (215) 575-4360 • [khouse@rawle.com](mailto:khouse@rawle.com)*



**Caroline S. Vahey**, Of Counsel to the firm in our Philadelphia office, focuses her practice in the areas of product liability, premises liability, construction law and **general casualty**. In 2006, she received a J.D., with honors, from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. She was selected by the student body in 2006 as a recipient of the prestigious Bar and Gavel Award for Excellence in Public Service. Caroline received a B.A., *cum laude*, from the Catholic University of America in 2003. She is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She was also selected as a Pennsylvania Rising Star in 2015 and 2016.

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## 2017 PENNSYLVANIA RISING STARS



**Jeffrey L. Oster** is Of Counsel to the firm in our Philadelphia office. He concentrates his practice on **general casualty**, premises liability, motor vehicle liability, trucking, professional liability, medical malpractice, employment law and toxic torts. Jeff earned his J.D. from Widener University School of Law in 2006 and his B.A. from the University of Delaware in 2003. He is licensed to practice in the state and federal courts of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. He has been specially admitted as trial counsel in several other states and also serves as an arbitrator for the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. Jeff performs pro bono services for the Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, representing indigent clients in matters involving Protection from Abuse and custody, as well as for the Superior Court of Burlington County, New Jersey, where he represents low-income individuals in defense of minor criminal infractions and family law matters.

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**Christina A. Gonzales** is an associate in the Philadelphia office of Rawle & Henderson LLP. She concentrates her law practice on environmental, toxic and **mass tort litigation** matters. Christina earned her J.D. from the evening division of the Widener University School of Law, Wilmington, Delaware, in 2008. While attending law school, she worked as a paralegal for a criminal and civil defense firm in Philadelphia from 2003 to 2008. In the Summer of 2007, she served as a legal intern for a law firm in Guatemala City, Guatemala. She earned a B.A. degree in Spanish Literature and Sociology from New York University in 2000. Christina participated in New York University's Study Abroad Program in Madrid, Spain, in the Spring of 1999. She is proficient in Spanish. Christina is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She is a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

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## CONSTITUTION PROGRAM



**Scott F. Griffith**, a partner in the Philadelphia office, presented a program on the U.S. Constitution to students and teachers at Philadelphia's **Holy Cross Parish School** in May. The **Constitution Program** is presented annually by Rawle & Henderson in partnership with the **Women for Greater Philadelphia** ([www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org](http://www.womenforgreaterphiladelphia.org)), stewards of Laurel Hill Mansion in East Fairmount Park.

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ABOVE: Rawle & Henderson partner Scott Griffith (standing) interacts with students at Philadelphia's Holy Cross Parish School. RIGHT: Students and teachers with Scott Griffith (center) at Constitution Program. Rawle & Henderson donated copies of the booklet *The United States Constitution: What It Says, What It Means* to the students. The booklet, produced by Oxford University Press, provides an explanation of each Article and Amendment.



## KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE

Rawle & Henderson LLP participated in the **2017 Philadelphia Komen Race for the Cure** in May and raised over \$6,700 to help find a cure for breast cancer. The firm won the race category “Law Firms for the Fight” by raising more funds than any other participating law firm. Over the last 10 years, Rawle & Henderson’s team has raised over \$78,200.

Our 2017 race team, “Higgins & Sabo Present Harvan’s Heroes,” was captained by **Patrice S. O’Brien, Esq.** We honored for the third year in a row **Christine Harvan**, Rawle & Henderson’s long-time law librarian, who lost her battle against breast cancer in March 2015. They also honored, for the 10th year in a row, the firm’s former partner, **Ann-Michele Higgins**, who lost her struggle with breast cancer in September 2007, and for the fourth year in a row **Nancy J. Sabo**, wife of partner **Michael G. Sabo, Esq.**, who lost her courageous fight against breast cancer in January 2014.



## PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION 5K RUN

Attorneys from Rawle & Henderson LLP competed in the **38th Annual Philadelphia Bar Association 5K Run/Walk** in May at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park. The annual event raised funds for the **Support Center for Child Advocates**, which offers free legal and social services to abused and neglected children in Philadelphia. Rawle & Henderson attorneys have assisted the Support Center since the center’s founding in 1977. This is the 24th year in a row that the firm sponsored a team in the charity run. **Kim House**, **Richard Sexton** and **Philip Castagna** participated on the firm’s 2017 team. The Bar Association’s Run/Walk draws nearly 1,300 runners and walkers annually and spotlights its concern for the children of Philadelphia.



Kimberly A. House

Richard J. Sexton

Philip R. Castagna

# NEW ADDITIONS



**Paul J. Smyth**

**Paul J. Smyth** is Of Counsel to the firm in our **New Jersey and Philadelphia** offices. Paul concentrates his practice in the areas of environmental, toxic and mass torts, professional liability and construction. He earned his J.D. from the Rutgers School of Law, Camden, New Jersey, in 2005. He attended law school part-time while he was employed full-time as a Police Sergeant for Rutgers University. During his time at Rutgers law, he served as a representative for the Student Bar Association and was an extern for the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission. Paul earned his B.A. in Criminal Justice, *summa cum laude*, from Temple University in 1997. He is admitted to practice in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

*Paul can be reached directly at (856) 797-8929 • [psmyth@rawle.com](mailto:psmyth@rawle.com)*



**Diana Manakhimova**

**Diana Manakhimova** is an associate in our **New York City** office. She focuses her practice in the area of medical professional liability. Diana earned her J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 2015. While attending law school, she was a Full Time Fellow for the New York City Law Department, Tort Division, Brooklyn Borough Office as part of the Public Interest Public Service Fellowship (PIPS) and worked as a translator for the Brooklyn Law School Safe Harbor Clinic. She is proficient in Russian. Diana earned a B.S. in Legal Studies, *magna cum laude*, from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, in 2011. She was on the Dean's List every semester. Before joining the Firm, Diana was an attorney for the New York City Law Department, Tort Division, Manhattan Borough Unit. She is admitted to practice in New York.

*Diana can be reached directly at: (212) 323-7088 • [dmanakhimova@rawle.com](mailto:dmanakhimova@rawle.com)*



**Rachel L. McElroy**

**Rachel L. McElroy** is an associate in our **Pittsburgh** office. She concentrates her practice on environmental, mass and toxic torts and employment relations. Rachel earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2011. While in law school, Rachel served as Managing Editor for the Journal of Law, Technology and the Internet and won a CALI Award for Excellence in Copyright Law. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts in History, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Charleston in 2008. Rachel is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

*Rachel can be reached directly at: (412) 261-5707 • [rmcelroy@rawle.com](mailto:rmcelroy@rawle.com)*



**Inder Deep Paul**

**Inder Deep Paul** is an associate in our **Harrisburg** office. He focuses his practice in the area of commercial motor vehicle defense. Inder Deep earned his J.D. from the Widener University Commonwealth Law School, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 2016. He won the national award "The Order of Barristers" in 2016 at Widener Law for excellence in oral and written advocacy. He served as a student clerk in 2016 for the Honorable John F. Cherry, Dauphin County Court of Common Pleas in Harrisburg. He is fluent in English, Hindi and Urdu. Inder Deep earned his B.A., with honors, from the University Institute of Legal Studies, Panjab University in Chandigarh, India, in 2012. He majored in International Law. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania.

*Inder Deep can be reached directly at (717) 234-1056 • [ipaul@rawle.com](mailto:ipaul@rawle.com)*



**Anthony A. Skalski**

**Anthony A. Skalski** is an associate in our **Philadelphia and New Jersey** offices. He concentrates his practice on the defense of commercial motor vehicle companies and their insurers, commercial transactions and product liability. Anthony graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law *cum laude* in 2015 and earned his B.S. in Marketing from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009. Prior to joining the firm, Anthony served as a legal intern with TOTO, Ltd., a multinational corporation in Minato-Ku, Tokyo. He was selected for the State Court Honors Internship Program led by the Honorable Annette Rizzo of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and from January to December 2014 he was a judicial intern for the Honorable Patricia McInerney. He is proficient in Spanish. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

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