

**SPEAKERS**



# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CLAIMS, SURVIVOR RIGHTS, AND BANKRUPTCY

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March 30, 2023

**CHILD USA**   
THE NATIONAL THINK TANK FOR CHILD PROTECTION

**LS** **Lowenstein  
Sandler**



**JASON P. AMALA**  
Partner  
Pfau Cochran Vertetis  
Amala



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Jason P. Amala has dedicated his law practice to representing people and businesses who have been victimized by others. The majority of his work is on behalf of survivors of childhood sexual abuse, but he continues to help people who have been severely injured and need an attorney and law firm who can navigate the most complex of cases and the most difficult of defense attorneys and insurance companies.

Jason began helping survivors of childhood sexual abuse after the clergy sexual abuse scandal came to light in Boston. At the time, Washington state was one of the only states in the country that had meaningfully reformed its statute of limitations so that adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse could bring civil claims for the abuse they suffered as children. Jason has represented hundreds of sexual abuse survivors in Washington state, including clients with claims against the Archdiocese of Seattle, the Boy Scouts of America, the Mormon Church, the State of Washington (foster system), Backpage.com, various schools, and many other youth-serving organizations.

Given his experience in Washington, Jason is often asked to help law firms in other states when their state's statute of limitations is reformed so that abuse survivors can seek justice. He has co-counseled with law firms around the country, including in California, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, North Carolina, and Oregon.



**JEFF ANDERSON**  
Trial Attorney  
Jeff Anderson  
& Associates



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Jeff Anderson is widely recognized as a pioneer in sexual abuse litigation and a champion of survivors of childhood sexual abuse. In nearly four decades as a litigator, Jeff has represented thousands of survivors and their families and has tried over two hundred and fifty jury trials to verdict across the country through the crucible of the courtroom. Known for his optimism, energy and compassion for his clients, Jeff is credited with being instrumental in exposing the large scale cover-up of pedophile priests in the early 1980's. As one of the first trial lawyers in America to publicly and aggressively initiate lawsuits against sexual predators—and focusing on bringing heat and light on the offenders and the institutions that conceal and protect them.

Jeff has received many awards and recognitions but his greatest honor is the trust reposed in him by survivors and their families. From them he draws strength, courage, and inspiration in the shared journey of hope and healing.

Anderson's tireless efforts extend beyond the courtroom where he is a frequent lecturer, survivor advocate, and author who advocates for legislative and judicial protection of children and the prevention of childhood sexual abuse.



### **JOHN W. BALDANTE**

Partner  
Levy, Baldante, Finney  
& Rubenstein, P.C.

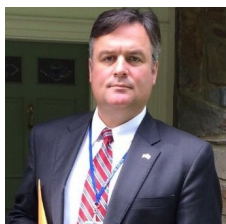


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John W. Baldante concentrates his practice representing victims of sexual abuse and handling severe personal injury cases, such as brain and spinal cord injuries, medical malpractice litigation, and product liability matters.

He is admitted to practice law in New Jersey and Pennsylvania and has received numerous honors for results he has obtained for clients. Among his achievements, his closing argument in a multi-million-dollar verdict was entered into the Association of Trial Lawyers of America's Professional Techniques Library for Multi-Million Dollar Arguments. He was recognized for obtaining the largest single personal injury award in the Tri-State region, only to top that effort a few years later by setting a new personal injury award threshold.

John has fought tenaciously for hundreds of victims of clergy sexual abuse and has served as a lead plaintiffs' liaison counsel against Catholic Church dioceses throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. His range as an attorney has also encompassed a large variety of catastrophic personal injury cases, ranging from sex abuse cases, severe brain injuries, amputations, quadriplegia, and much more. Virtually each year since the 1990s, John's verdicts and/or settlements have been among the largest personal injury awards both in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and he has been awarded the designation of both Philadelphia Super Lawyer and New Jersey Super Lawyer every year since the inception of these awards by *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Magazine*, *New Jersey Monthly* and *New Jersey Super Lawyers Magazine*.



### **MATTHIAS CONATY**

Deputy Attorney  
General, PA



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Matt Conaty is an attorney and a dedicated survivor-advocate who helped to lead the Coalition to Pass the Child Victim's Act ([www.childvictimsvoice.com/](http://www.childvictimsvoice.com/)). The 2007 law successfully reformed Delaware's civil statute of limitations for victims of childhood sexual abuse in Delaware. Conaty served as the Co-Chair of the Creditors' Committee in the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The survivor-led Creditors' Committee negotiated landmark non-monetary provisions with the Debtor.

Matt has made numerous media appearances to discuss child sexual abuse prevention and institutional accountability, including with the Associated Press, in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, and on The Oprah Winfrey Show.

Matt served on the board of directors of the National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children and as the vice chair for the National Child Protection Training Center board of directors from 2007 to 2013. Matt served on the board of directors of the Prevent Child Abuse Delaware from November 2016 to December 2022. Conaty is a Deputy Attorney General in the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General's Public Protection Division.



## GREG GIANFORCARO

Gianforcaro Law



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Gregory Gianforcaro is one of the preeminent attorneys in New Jersey for litigating childhood sexual abuse cases. For 25 plus years, Greg has fought for those who have suffered from childhood sexual abuse, taking on the abusers, the Catholic Church, various private and public schools, and other institutions that have protected and/or covered up for perpetrators.

Greg truly understands the life-long damage childhood sexual abuse causes. Greg has represented hundreds of survivors of childhood sexual abuse, including many of Greg's childhood friends who were sexually abused by their parish priest. While Greg has been able to obtain many sizable settlements on behalf of his clients, his primary goal is to assist his clients in taking back the power and control that they lost as children and provide them with some closure.

With more than three decades of practicing law in New Jersey, Greg knows the make-up and how to best interact with judges, opposing attorneys, insurance companies, and other important parties in the legal system.

Greg's insights and commentary about childhood sexual abuse and other issues have been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The New Jersey Law Journal*, CNN, Fox News, *The Star Ledger*, *The Bergen Record*, 101.5 Radio, and many other news outlets.



## MARCI A. HAMILTON

Founder & CEO  
CHILD USA



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Professor Marci A. Hamilton is the Founder and CEO of CHILD USA, [www.childusa.org](http://www.childusa.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit academic think tank dedicated to interdisciplinary, evidence-based research to improve laws and public policy to end child abuse and neglect. She is also the Fels Institute of Government Professor of Practice and a Resident Senior Fellow in the Program for Research on Religion at the University of Pennsylvania. Before moving to Penn, Professor Hamilton held the Paul R. Verkuil Chair in Public Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University.

Professor Hamilton is the leading expert on clergy sex abuse and child sex abuse statutes of limitation ("SOL"). She has been invited to testify and advise legislators in every state where significant SOL reform has occurred. She is the author of *Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect Its Children* (Cambridge University Press), which advocates for the elimination of child sex abuse statutes of limitations. She has filed countless pro bono amicus briefs for the protection of children at the United States Supreme Court and the state supreme courts. She is the co-author of *Children and the Law* (Carolina Academic Press 2017).

Hamilton clerked for United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Judge Edward R. Becker of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.



### **TOM KRUMINS**

Social Impact  
Consultant



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Tom Krumins is a social impact consultant and entrepreneur. He has trained aspiring medical students, supported patients at behavioral health clinics, helped formerly incarcerated individuals reenter society and launch businesses, provided hospice care, joined innovative start-ups, built grassroots coalitions, contributed to political campaigns, developed cash relief pilot programs, and assisted in efforts to lobby for a child tax credit. He currently works in the fields of child abuse prevention and poverty reduction.

Tom is also a victim and survivor of child sexual abuse during his time in the Boy Scouts. He is one of ~80,000 claimants in the Boy Scouts Chapter 11 bankruptcy and has shared both his story and understanding of the bankruptcy process with national news outlets, documentarians, international training programs, and a Medium series. Tom is currently advancing legislation to reform the civil statute of limitations for child sexual abuse in his home state of South Carolina.



### **JAMES R. MARSH**

Founding Partner  
Marsh Law Firm



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

James Marsh is an American attorney who has been licensed to practice law for over thirty years. A University of Michigan Law School graduate, James represents victims and survivors of sex abuse in religious, educational, governmental, and military institutions; campus sexual assault and rape, online sexual exploitation; child pornography; sextortion and revenge porn.

His case on compensation for victims of child pornography in federal criminal restitution proceedings was decided by the United States Supreme Court in 2014. That case, *United States v. Paroline*, led to the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018, which passed the House and Senate by unanimous consent and was signed into law on December 7, 2018.

James founded the nationally recognized Children's Law Center in Washington, DC, and is an experienced trial attorney, and frequent commentator, lecturer, and author on legal issues affecting children and victims of sex abuse and exploitation. He founded the Marsh Law Firm in New York, which is recognized worldwide for its work helping sexually abused victims and survivors obtain justice and rebuild their lives with dignity and respect.



**JEFFREY D. PROL**  
Partner, Vice Chair  
Bankruptcy Department  
Lowenstein Sandler

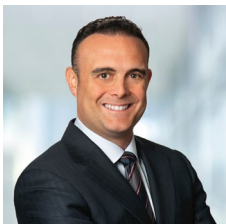


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Jeffrey provides strategic guidance and cutting-edge solutions to clients in crisis. He brings over 30 years of experience to his work in matters involving debtor/creditor rights, including complex business transactions and litigation, corporate restructuring, business consulting, out-of-court workouts, and foreclosures. With extensive experience in mass tort bankruptcies, Jeffrey represents the interests of claimants in matters involving asbestos exposure, sexual abuse, and other mass torts. He advises clients on all aspects of mass-tort bankruptcy proceedings and settlement trusts, from estimating claims and litigating causes of action to negotiating Chapter 11 plans and ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of assets to claimants over the life of a trust.

Jeffrey has served as counsel to the Official Committees of Asbestos Claimants in the Chapter 11 bankruptcies of GI Holdings Inc., f/k/a GAF Corp., Burns & Roe Enterprises, The Muralo Company, and Hercules Chemical Corp. He also served as counsel to the creditors' committee in Blitz Manufacturing, a manufacturer of gas cans with more than 100 claims by burn victims.

Most recently, in the Diocese of Camden, New Jersey case, Jeffrey represented the Official Committee of Tort Claimant Creditors in negotiating a settlement on behalf of more than 300 survivors of childhood sexual abuse, where the Diocese agreed to pay \$87.5 million in cash—the largest cash payment by any Catholic diocese in bankruptcy to date—and assign its insurance rights to a trust for the benefit of survivors.



**ADAM P. SLATER**  
Managing Partner  
Slater Slater Schulman



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Adam P. Slater is the Managing Partner of Slater Slater Schulman, a rapidly growing and prominent full-service law firm with nine national locations. For twenty years, Adam has built a reputation as one of the nation's leading attorneys fighting for the rights of survivors of catastrophic and traumatic events in the practice areas of child sexual abuse, adult sexual abuse, mass torts, environmental toxic torts, general personal injury, 9/11 litigation, and employment law. Adam spares no expense when it comes to seeking justice. His commitment and aggressive litigation tactics have allowed him to secure over one billion dollars for his clients. His recent work advocating for survivors of sexual abuse has gained national media attention, including lawsuits filed under New York's Adult Survivors Act and both New York and California's Child Victims Acts.

Adam and the firm's success has been recognized by U.S. News & Reports in its inclusion as one of the "Best Law Firms" of 2023. Additionally, Adam has earned recognition by the National Trial Lawyers Association as one of the Top 10 Women's Rights Trial Lawyers, Top 100 Trial Lawyers, Top 25 Mass Torts Trial Lawyers, and Top 25 Brain Injury Trial Lawyers. He has been selected as a member of the Million Dollar and Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Adam has also been honored as one of America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators and selected to the NY Metro Super Lawyers since 2014.



**THE HONORABLE  
CHRISTOPHER  
SONTCHI (RET.)**



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

Christopher S. Sontchi is an International Judge of the Singapore International Commercial Court and is the former Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (from which he recently retired). He is a frequent speaker in the United States and abroad on issues relating to corporate reorganizations. He is a Lecturer in Law at The University of Chicago Law School and has taught restructuring to international judges through the auspices of the World Bank and INSOL International. He was recently selected as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and to the Panel of Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. He is also a member of the International Insolvency Institute, Judicial Insolvency Network, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, American Bankruptcy Institute, and INSOL International.

Judge Sontchi has testified before Congress on the safe harbors for financial contracts. He has also published articles on creditors' committees, valuation, asset sales, and safe harbors.

Judge Sontchi attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and obtained a B.A. with distinction in Political Science. He received his J.D. from The University of Chicago Law School, after which he returned to his native Delaware to serve as a law clerk in the Delaware Supreme Court.



**BRENT WEISENBERG**  
Senior Counsel  
Bankruptcy Department  
Lowenstein Sandler

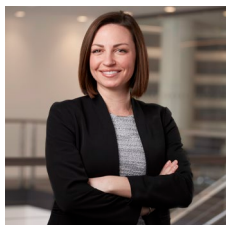


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In times of crisis, companies and their stakeholders turn to Brent Weisenberg to identify and implement innovative solutions in order to solve critical business problems. Brent regularly advises businesses and their constituencies throughout periods of financial challenge and other special situations such as the negotiation and implementation of complex commercial transactions, the acquisition and disposition of distressed assets, and the prosecution and defense of complex commercial litigation.

Since joining Lowenstein, Brent's practice has focused on assisting survivors of sexual abuse in Diocesan bankruptcy cases. In the Diocese of Camden case, Brent and the Lowenstein team assisted the Official Committee of Tort Claimant Creditors in negotiating a settlement on behalf of more than 300 survivors of childhood sexual abuse, where the Diocese agreed to pay \$87.5 million in cash—the largest cash payment by any Catholic diocese in bankruptcy to date—and assign its insurance rights to a trust for the benefit of survivors. This record-breaking settlement concluded a long fight to secure restitution and accountability for survivors who filed lawsuits against the Diocese and its parishes under the landmark New Jersey legislation that radically reformed the state's civil statute of limitations for survivors of sexual assault.

Brent serves as a key advisor to CHILD USA, the leading national nonprofit think tank fighting to protect children from future abuse and neglect and bring justice to survivors. He has quickly become a thought leader in this field and has spoken on the myriad issues raised in Diocesan bankruptcies.



## COLLEEN M. RESTEL

Counsel  
Bankruptcy Department  
Lowenstein Sandler

Colleen's practice focuses on representing creditors' committees, individual creditors, debtors, liquidating trustees, and other interested parties in complex Chapter 11 cases and related adversarial proceedings.

Colleen served as a member of the team in the Diocese of Camden case and assisted the Official Committee of Tort Claimant Creditors in negotiating a settlement on behalf of more than 300 survivors of childhood sexual abuse, where the Diocese agreed to pay \$87.5 million in cash—the largest cash payment by any Catholic diocese in bankruptcy to date—and assign its insurance rights to a trust for the benefit of survivors.

Colleen is a former term clerk to the Hon. Rosemary Gambardella of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey.

Prior to joining Lowenstein, she was an associate at a New Jersey-based law firm, where her practice included commercial litigation matters involving intellectual property issues, the Consumer Fraud Act, fraudulent transfers, breach of contract disputes, and emergent proceedings seeking temporary restraints and injunctions for clients in pharmaceuticals, real estate, retail, and other sectors.



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## CHILD USA

CHILD USA is the leading national nonprofit think tank fighting for the civil rights of children. Our mission is to employ in-depth legal analysis and cutting-edge social science research to protect children, prevent future abuse and neglect, and bring justice to survivors.

We achieve this mission through:

- Fighting for the rights of children to be free from child sex abuse through legal reform and holding institutions accountable.
- Fighting for the rights of children to medical care.
- Fighting to ensure every child's right to a quality education.

## LOWENSTEIN SANDLER BANKRUPTCY & RESTRUCTURING DEPARTMENT

As a crucial advisor to numerous Fortune 500 companies, Lowenstein Sandler's Bankruptcy & Restructuring attorneys have advised clients in many of the nation's largest Chapter 11 cases, out-of-court workouts, and financial restructurings. We have developed a national profile through our representation of unsecured creditors' committees as well as individual secured and unsecured creditors. We also represent debtors in Chapter 11 cases; investors in or purchasers of assets, securities or obligations of companies in Chapter 11; debtors in possession and exit lenders, indenture trustees, public debt holders, and others in the restructuring of publicly held debt and equity securities.