

CLASS
OF 2017

Colleen M. Murphy

Company: Goldberg Segalla

Job title: Partner, leader of the firm's insurance agents and brokers practice, Professional Liability Practice Group

Career timeline:

2009: Partner, leader of the firm's insurance agents and brokers practice, Professional Liability Practice Group, Goldberg Segalla

1992: Partner, Lustig & Brown



Why did you choose to work in this industry?

My grandmother had five school-aged children at the time she attended law school, where she was the only woman in her graduating class. She was a beacon of light for me, as well as so many other women who followed her footsteps into the legal profession.

My legal career didn't begin in the insurance industry. At first I was defending physicians in medical malpractice cases. Before long, I got an offer from a firm that concentrated on defending insurance agents and brokers in errors and omissions matters and regulatory claims across New York State. They convinced me that insurance touches almost every facet of life, and that the claims are complex and varied, and would prove more interesting. As it turned out, they were right tenfold.

What has been the highlight of your career so far?

While there have been many highlights. Coming to Goldberg Segalla was a turning point in my career. The team approach that we pursue here really differentiates us within the legal industry. I've had the opportunity within this team framework to draw on all my experience handling E&O and regulatory matters to solve the problems of insurance agents and brokers and insurers locally, regionally and nationally.

I practise alongside Tom Segalla, co-author of the renowned insurance law treatise *Couch on Insurance 3d*, in his role as expert in insurance bad faith matters.

What has been the biggest challenge you have encountered?

The matters I handle are multilayered and complex, and require you to be at the top of your game. The challenge when working at this high level is to know when to step back from all this analysis and revitalise. When I do step

back from work in addition to meditation I enjoy doing some sort of physical activity: skiing, rowing crew, ballroom dancing. Most recently, I started playing the drums.

If you had chosen a different profession/career path, what would it have been?

Since I was very young I knew I was going to be a lawyer. I love helping professionals solve their problems and defend their reputations. If there had been a different career path, it certainly would have been another helping profession.

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