Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

Installation Dinner 2026

Wednesday
October 28th, 2026
5:30pm - 8:30pm

Temple Beth Sholom
401 Roslyn Rd, Roslyn Heights

JLA

Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

THE HISTORY OF JEWISH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF NASSAU COUNTY

The Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County, commonly referred to as the JLA, was established in 1973 and continues to thrive as a vital component of the Nassau County legal community. The JLA was created by Jewish lawyers and judges and was born of a desire to gather members of the bench and bar around shared beliefs and promote the Jewish values of Torah tzedek u'mishpat (charity, justice, and learning). The JLA offers access to meaningful and exciting events, educational programs, and professional opportunities, all taking place in a cordial and welcoming atmosphere.

Neil T. Shayne was a former President and one of the founding members of the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County. Neil believed in the importance of having an organization for Jewish lawyers and judges. As a founder of the Jewish Lawyers Association, Neil paved the way to make the profession more accessible for his fellow Jews. Neil mentored many young lawyers in the Jewish Lawyers Association and always made himself available to help lawyers in Nassau County and all over the country solve their legal and personal problems. There was a time when Jews were discriminated against in the legal profession, and it is because of the leadership and commitment of outstanding Jewish lawyers such as Neil that the legal profession is as accessible to Jews as it is today. The Neil T. Shayne Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who have shown leadership and commitment to the ideals and values set forth in both secular and Jewish law.

Paul. J. Widlitz was the first Jewish Judge in Nassau County. He served in the District Court, the County Court, and then in the Supreme Court, where he was appointed the Administrative Judge overseeing all the judges in the county. After leaving the bench, Judge Widlitz devoted himself to the public good. Judge Widlitz was a jurist and philanthropist who is remembered for his love of the law and his love of the Jewish people. The Paul J. Widlitz Award honors judges who have served the legal and Jewish communities with distinction.

If you would like to find out more about the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County or become a member of the organization, please visit our website at www.jlanassau.com

Installation Dinner 2026

Masters of Ceremonies:
Hon. Gary F. Knobel & Daniella S. Pessah, Esq.

Cocktails & Buffet Dinner
Welcome *President Hon. Gary F. Knobel*
Invocation *Rabbi Dale Polakoff*
Performance of Star Spangled Banner and Hatikva (Israel National Anthem) *Cantor Yosef Karavani*
Moment of silence for past presidents *Judge Zelda Jonas and Judge Alan Schwartz, Esq.*
Introduction of Sponsors *President Daniella S. Pessah*
Introduction of Judges and Public Officials *President Hon. Gary F. Knobel*
Introductory Remarks *President Hon. Gary F. Knobel*
Induction of Officers and Board Members *Installing Officer Hon. Jeffrey Brown*
Induction of Co-Presidents Hon. Ariella Gasner and Joshua Liebman *Installing Officer Hon. Leonard B. Austin*
Introduction of Hon. Lisa A. Cairo *President Hon. Gary F. Knobel*
Remarks by Hon. Lisa A. Cairo
Presentation of the Paul J. Widlitz Award to Hon. Lisa A, Cairo *Co-Presidents Hon. Gary F. Knobel and Daniella S. Pessah*
Introduction of Jonathan Kroll, Esq. *President Hon. Gary F. Knobel*
Remarks by Jonathan Kroll, Esq.
Presentation of the Neil T. Shayne Award to Jonathan Kroll, Esq. *Co-Presidents Hon. Gary F. Knobel and Daniella S. Pessah*
Presentation of Law Student Orenstein Fund Recipient- Aaron Afrahim *President Daniella S. Pessah*
Closing Remarks *President Daniella S. Pessah*
Dessert

Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

Installation Dinner 2026

Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 · 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Temple Beth Sholom, 401 Roslyn Rd, Roslyn Heights

Honoring

Hon. Lisa A. Cairo
Paul J. Widlitz Award

Jonathan Kroll, Esq.
Neil T. Shayne Award

Special Attendees:

Hon. Norman St. George,
First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
New York State Unified Court

Hon. Vito M. DeStefano,
Administrative Judge
Nassau County Supreme Court

Hon. Francis Ricigliano,
Supervising Judge
Nassau County Supreme Court

Hon. Jeffrey A. Goodstein,
Supervising Judge,
Matrimonial Center
Nassau County Supreme Court

Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge
New York State Unified Court

Hon. Edwina G. Richardson,
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
Office for Justice Initiatives

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Hofstra Law School

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2026-27 JLA Installation

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Joshua Liebman, Co-President
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Jonathan Kroll, 2nd VP
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Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

Message From the Presidents





Hon. Gary F. Knobel & *Daniella S. Pessah, Esq.*

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
AND SUPPORT FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER!

This year's theme is building bridges with friends that share the values of the Old and New Testament and the continued existence of Israel as a sovereign Jewish state.

Each year at our dinner we lament the scourge of antisemitism and its increasing virulence in New York City, in the United States and throughout the world. One way to combat this hatred towards Jews and Israel is to join forces with attorneys and other bar associations, large and small, who are willing to stand up and push back against hate.

One such organization and person is the former president of Catholic Lawyers Association and the recipient of our judicial award, the Honorable Lisa A. Cairo. Justice Cairo quietly, without self-promotion, heals the world through acts of justice (see Deuteronomy 16:20) in her wise decisions, and through her acts of kindness and charity with her family and the Pat Cairo Foundation in raising millions of dollars to find a cure for breast cancer and to assist Calvary Hospital in comfortably taking care of terminally ill individuals. At one time the JLA and the Catholic Lawyers of Nassau County had an annual

dinner together, like the Jewish and Catholic lawyers in Queens County still do; perhaps our board members and officers can meet for lunch sometime soon.

Our attorney honoree, Jonathan Kroll, tries to create bridges between Jewish religious denominations to try to work together for the common good of the Jewish people. Jonathan is an unsung hero of our organization, the person who at board meetings provides historical context, always has common sense advice and is always there when a president needs help with an important task for any of our events. He is not afraid to be proudly Jewish in this antisemitic climate. Jonathan is a doer and embodies the maxim from Pirkei Avot, Ethics of Our Fathers, to "say little and do much."

Together we can fight the good fight against religious, racial and ethnic hatred. In sum – "chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek" – be strong, be strong, and let us be strengthened! "Am Yisroel chai!" – the people of Israel live!

Sincerely,

Hon. Gary F. Knobel, J.S.C. *Daniella Pessah, Esq.*

עם ישראל חי



Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County



Honorable Lisa A. Cairo

Paul J. Widlitz Award

Hon. Lisa A. Cairo was elected to the Nassau County Supreme Court in November 2022 after serving as a Family Court Judge for two years. Prior to her election to the Family Court in 2020, Judge Cairo practiced law for nearly two decades with a focus on municipal law and litigation. Judge Cairo recently concluded her tenure as Co-Chair of the Nassau County Women in the Courts Committee. She is a Past President of both the Nassau County Women's Bar Association and the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Nassau County. Additionally, she is a past member of the Nassau County Bar Association Board of Directors and previously served as the Vice President of the Nassau County Women's Bar Foundation. Judge Cairo also proudly volunteers for her family's not-for-profit, The Pat Cairo Family Foundation, Inc., for those struggling with cancer, an organization dedicated to cancer research and providing palliative care. The Foundation was established in 1995 in memory of Judge Cairo's mother.

Judge Cairo was the 2025 recipient of the Court Officers Benevolent Association of Nassau County Person of the Year Award and the 2026 recipient of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association Virginia C. Duncombe, Esq, Scholarship Award. During Judge Cairo's time as an attorney in private practice she was recognized with various awards including New York Magazine's Women Leaders in the Law, Hofstra Law School's Outstanding Women in the Law and Long Island Business News 40 Under 40 Award. Judge Cairo is a graduate of Loyola University Maryland and Hofstra School of Law.

Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County



Jonathan E. Kroll, Esq.

Neil T. Shayne Award

Jonathan E. Kroll, ESQ. is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association and serves on the Nassau County Bar Association Judiciary Committee. His commitment to the legal profession extends beyond his practice.

He has lectured at various educational institutions, and is often consulted by other lawyers, clergy, and health care professionals regarding issues affecting institutions, individuals and their families.

His community involvement includes service on the board of Great Neck Synagogue and prior board member at North Shore Hebrew Academy. He is a recipient of the Leadership Award from Chabad of Mineola and an Alumni Award from Yeshivot B'nei Akiva. Jonathan has also pursued public service through participation in civic life in his community and beyond.

Jonathan is the adoring husband of Ilana, father of three young men - Daniel, Samuel and Joseph. Jonathan brings to his professional and communal responsibilities an appreciation for family, education, and service to others.

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and

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS

To My Daughter

HON. LISA A. CAIRO, J.S.C.

Recipient of the

★ PAUL J. WILDITZ AWARD ★

★ ★ ★

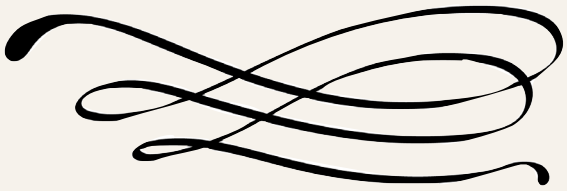
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Chairman

NASSAU COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE

In recognition of the
Jewish Lawyers Association
of Nassau County's
meaningful contributions
to the legal profession

Best Wishes,
Hon. Lisa A. Cairo, J.S.C.



Mazel Tov

to our dear and long-time friend,

JONATHAN KROLL,
ON RECEIVING
THE NEIL T. SHAYNE AWARD.

We are inspired by your professional ethics and moral compass that guides your client services.

We are also inspired by your hard work, dedication and kindness in your professional and personal life.
We value and cherish our close friendship and wish you continued success and accomplishment in the future.

With much love,
David and Diane Rein

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Proudly Congratulate

PAUL J. WIDLITZ AWARD RECIPIENT

Honorable Lisa A. Cairo

&

NEIL T. SHAYNE AWARD RECIPIENT

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&

the newly installed Officers and Board Members of the Nassau County Jewish Lawyer's Association.

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We extend our warmest congratulations to the

Honorable Lisa A. Cairo,

Supreme Court of the State of New York 10th Judicial District – Nassau County, on this well-deserved recognition.



We further acknowledge Hon. Edwina G. Richardson, whose participation adds meaning to this special celebration. We also congratulate the newly installed Officers and Board Members and we wish them great success in the year ahead.

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The law firm of
Rosenberg Calica Birney Liebman & Ross, LLP
has followed a simple
Old Testament instruction since its founding:

"Justice, justice you shall pursue,"
Deuteronomy 16:20

Welcoming our esteemed members of the judiciary, we offer our congratulations to fellow members of the legal community being honored by the **Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County.**

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Congratulations to **Hon. Lisa A. Cairo** upon receiving the Paul J. Widlitz Award and **Jonathan Kroll, Esq.** upon receiving the Neil T. Shayne Award at the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County Installation Dinner 2026.

Mazel Tov to the Newly Installed Officers and Board Members of the JLA.
May You All Go From Strength to Strength in Serving the
Legal and Jewish Communities.

JEFFREY S. SCHECTER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

The Law Firm of Jeffrey S. Schecter & Associates, P.C.
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JLA of Nassau County and congratulates
Justice Lisa A. Cairo, Jonathan Kroll, Esq.
and all Honorees.
Their loyalty, integrity and commitment are unparalleled
and greatly appreciated

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Congratulations to

Honorable Lisa A. Cairo

Jonathan Kroll, Esq.

and all incoming Officers & Board Members

* * *

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The **Brandeis Association of Queens County** and the attorneys and staff of **Forspan Klear LLP** proudly extend our warmest congratulations to the outstanding honorees of the 2025 Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County Installation Dinner!

Congratulations to

Hon. Lisa A. Cairo

Jonathan Kroll, Esq.

for your exceptional contributions to the legal community and the Jewish world. We are beyond honored to be celebrating you.

Keep up the amazing work!

Elizabeth Forspan, Esq.
President of the Brandeis Association of Queens County
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HPM&B congratulates
Honorable Lisa A. Cairo
& Jonathan Kroll, Esq.
on their well-deserved recognition.

HPM&B also congratulates the JLA's newly
installed Officers and Board Members,
including its own Partner, Rachel S. Bloom,
incoming First VP!

CONGRATULATIONS!

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ARON LAW, PLLC is a proud sponsor of The Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

Wishing continued success to the newly installed Officers and Board Members

Warm Congratulations to

Hon. Lisa A. Cairo
recipient of the Paul J. Wilditz Award

&

Jonathan Kroll, Esq.
recipient of the Neil T. Shayne Award



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Hon. Lisa A. Cairo

With our congratulations and best wishes for continued success

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and congratulates this year's honoree:

The Honorable Lisa A. Cairo

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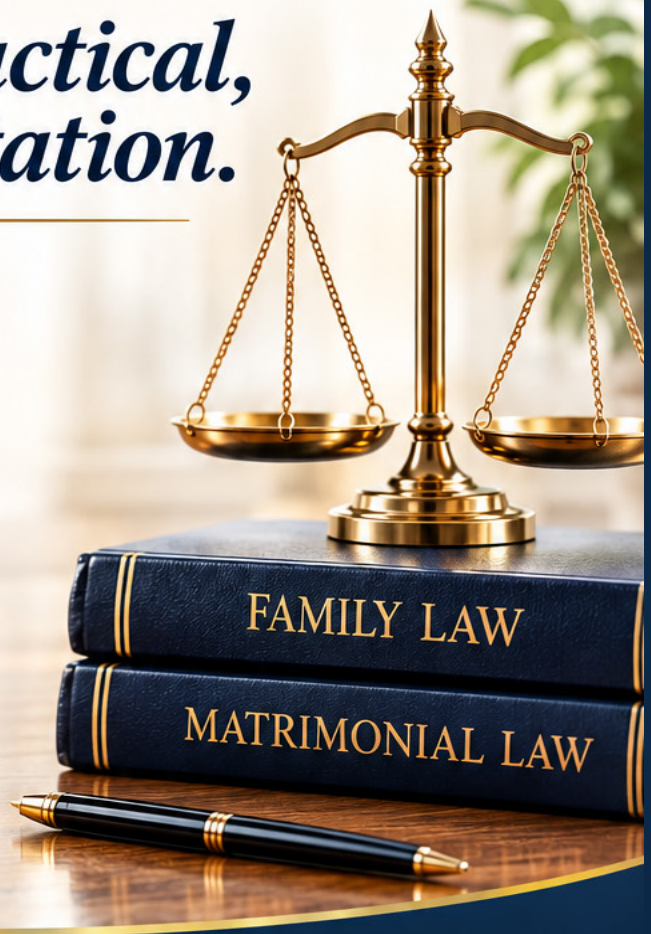
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Congratulations to

the Honorable Lisa A. Cairo,

on receiving the *Paul J. Willditz Award*.

&

Jonathan Kroll, Esq.

recipient of the

Neil T. Shayne Award

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Honorable Alan J. Schwartz z'l
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Congratulations

Honoree Jonathan Kroll, Esq

for receiving

The Neil T. Shayne Award

Aaron Hasson

Mazel tov Jonathan
on this well deserved honor!

Michelle and Norman Rutta

Mazal tov,

Jonathan,

on receiving the

Neil T. Shayne Award,

a fitting tribute to your many years of service,
leadership and devotion to the legal community.

We are so proud to celebrate
this well-deserved honor with you.

May you continue to go from strength to strength,

מחיל אל חיל

Rona and Andrew Steinerman

Mazal Tov,
Jonathan,

on being honored at the
2026-2027 JLA Installation!

May you go from strength to strength,
and continue to infuse Mishpat with Tzedek

Marc & Shiffy Hasson

In Loving Memory

The JLA mourns the loss
of former Presidents

Hon. Zelda Jones
and
Hon. Alan Schwartz.

May their memories be a blessing.

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The Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University
is proud to join the

Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

in celebrating its

Annual Installation Dinner

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Hon. Leonard Austin '77 (RET)
Hon. Lisa Cairo '02
David Carl '07
Ariella Gasner '09
Jonathan Kroll '93
Daniella Pessah '98
Candice Ratner '05
Hon. Denise Sher '78

Congratulations to Aaron Afrahim, recipient of the Orenstein Law Student Scholarship!

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THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

HATIKVA – הַתִּקְוָה

Kol od balevav penimah	כל עוד בַּלֵּבָב פְּנִימָה
Nefesh Yehudi homiyah,	נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדִי הוֹמִיָּה
Ul(e)fa'atei mizrach kadimah,	וּלְפַאֲתֵי מִזְרָח קָדִימָה
Ayin leTziyon tzofiyah;	עַיִן לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפִיָּה
Od lo avdah tikvateinu,	עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוָתֵנוּ
Hatikvah bat sh(e)not alpayim,	הַתִּקְוָה בַּת שְׁנוֹת אַלְפַּיִם
Lihyot am chofshi b(e)'artzeinu,	לִהְיוֹת עַם חָפְשִׁי בְּאַרְצֵנוּ
Eretz-Tziyon viY(e)rushalayim.	אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלָיִם.

Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County

Yearly Membership from Sept. 2026 - Aug. 2027

General Membership: $72.00

Law School Membership: $10.00*

*Currently enrolled in law school or out of law school for 2 years

Membership Includes:

- Networking Opportunities
- Hanukkah Party
- Spring BBQ
- Discount to Annual Installation dinner

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