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In Memoriam: Alexander Marquardt

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of our friend and colleague **Alexander Marquardt**, who passed away on Friday, July 21, 2023.

Alexander studied law at the universities of Munich, Paris and Vienna and was a Fulbright Scholar at Columbia University, where he obtained his LL.M. in 1970. He joined Rogers & Wells in New York upon graduation, moving to its Paris office in 1974. Alexander was managing partner of the Paris office from 1976 to 2016 and the driving force behind the office's decision to join Kramer Levin in 2000.

We, the partners, lawyers and staff of Kramer Levin, extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to Alexander's wife, Laura; his children, Felix, Max, Charlotte and Josephine, and their partners; and his six grandchildren.

Donations in Alexander's memory can be made to the [International Rescue Committee](#).



Alumni Moves

Katrina Baker has moved from BlackRock to **Jane Street**, where she is focusing on global employment law.



What are you up to?

We track moves to in-house positions, government and nonprofits. If you have moved or would like to be included in a future Alumni Moves announcement, please email us at alumni@kramerlevin.com.

Kramer Levin Welcomes New Partner Arlene J. Ortiz-Leytte



Kramer Levin is pleased to announce that **Arlene J. Ortiz-Leytte** has joined the firm as a partner in the **Corporate department** in New York.

Arlene advises private equity funds, their portfolio companies, and public and private companies in mergers and acquisitions, capital-raising transactions, equity and debt investments, carve-out transactions, joint ventures, and other complex domestic and cross-border transactions. Her work spans a variety of industries, including chemicals, energy, entertainment, fashion, food and retail, health care, manufacturing, professional services, real estate, technology, and transportation.

Previously, Arlene was a partner at an Am Law 100 firm. She received her J.D. from Columbia Law School and her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame.

Andrew Otis Named Chair of Environmental Department



Kramer Levin is pleased to **announce** that **Andrew Otis** has been named chair of the firm's **Environmental department**.

As chair, Andrew will lead a distinguished team that helps developers, investors, miners, carbon market participants and companies across industries manage environmental issues so they can focus on improving properties, maintaining

efficient operations, building projects, closing transactions and planning their future.

Daniel M. Eggermann and Rachael Ringer Named Co-Heads of Distressed Investing Practice



Kramer Levin is pleased to **announce** that New York-based partners **Daniel M. Eggermann** and **Rachael Ringer** have been named co-heads of the firm's **Distressed Investing practice**.

Amy Caton Named Co-Chair of the Firm's Bankruptcy and Restructuring Practice



Kramer Levin is pleased to **announce** the promotion of **Amy Caton** to co-chair of the firm's **Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice**. Amy will co-lead the group along with current co-chair **Kenneth H. Eckstein**. **Thomas Moers Mayer** will step down from his co-chair position and continue as a senior partner in Kramer Levin's Bankruptcy and Restructuring practice.

Paris Office Elects Sébastien Pontillo Co-Managing Partner



Kramer Levin is pleased to **announce** that partner **Sébastien Pontillo** has been elected co-managing partner of the Paris office, effective Jan. 1. Sébastien shares the role with **Dana M. Anagnostou**, who has been elected to a third term as co-managing partner. Sébastien succeeds former co-managing partner **Renaud Dubois**, who will continue to practice in the firm's Real Estate group.

Don't miss out on learning about the firm's pro bono efforts! Read the latest issues of **Pro Bono News**.



Jeffrey W. Davis Assumes Position of Kramer Levin General Counsel



Litigation partner **Jeffrey W. Davis** now serves as Kramer Levin's general counsel, a position he assumed in September 2023. In this role, Jeff provides advice to the firm's lawyers in all departments and practice groups and to firm leadership on a wide variety of ethical, professional and compliance issues.

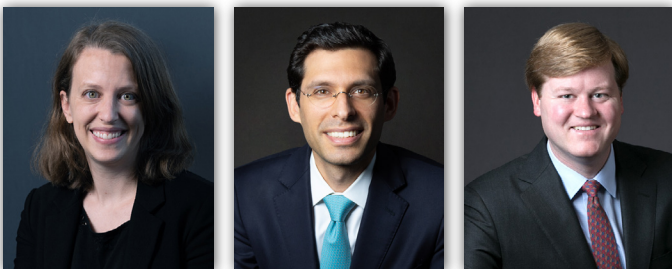
Robin Wilcox Retires



Robin Wilcox retired from the practice of law in September 2023. She joined Kramer Levin in 1999 and practiced litigation/white collar defense law while also serving as our general counsel from 2020 to 2023. Robin is currently pursuing an M.A. in psychology at the New School for Social Research.

Kramer Levin Elevates Mathilde Carle, Scott A. Gorski and Christian E. Witzke to Partner

Kramer Levin announced the elections of **Mathilde Carle**, **Scott A. Gorski** and **Christian E. Witzke** to partner positions in the firm. Mathilde is based in Paris, and Scott and Christian are based in New York.



Kramer Levin Announces Promotions to Counsel and Special Counsel

Kramer Levin is pleased to announce the promotions of (from left to right) **Tristan Bonneau**, **Elan Daniels**, **Allison D. Gray**, **Pauline Plancke** and **M. Mendel Trapedo** to counsel and **Michelle Ben-David**, **William Cavanagh** and **Ralph C. Mayrell** to special counsel. All promotions are effective Jan. 1.



In addition (from left to right) **Arthur H. Aufses III**, **Abbe L. Dienstag**, **Alan R. Friedman**, **Thomas E. Molner** and **Peter G. Smith** became counsel effective Jan. 1.





Gary P. Naftalis Receives *The American Lawyer's* Lifetime Achievement Award: Law Firm Distinguished Leader

Kramer Levin co-chair **Gary P. Naftalis** received the Lifetime Achievement Award: Law Firm Distinguished Leader, presented by *The American Lawyer* at the annual *The American Lawyer Industry Awards*, held at Cipriani in New York on Nov. 15, 2023. Presented annually, The American Lawyer's Industry Awards honor outstanding achievements in the legal profession, with winners selected after a rigorous submissions and judging process.

For more information, see Gary's [profile in *The American Lawyer*](#).

Other Significant Awards and Recognitions

For a complete look at all awards and recognitions, please visit our [website!](#)



Benchmark Litigation 2024 Recognizes Kramer Levin



Kramer Levin Has #2 Summer Associate Program in 2024 Vault Rankings



Kramer Levin Named New York Law Journal's Litigation Department of the Year for Real Estate



Kramer Levin's White Collar Defense and Government Investigations Practice Named One of Law360's Practice Groups of the Year for 2023



Kramer Levin's Pro Bono Program Lands in Top 2 for Midsized Firms by Law360 Pulse Annual Pro Bono Rankings



The National Law Journal Names Kramer Levin to 2023 Appellate Hot List



Kramer Levin Named Esoteric ABS Law Firm of the Year at 2023 GlobalCapital US Securitization Awards



Join the 2024 March Madness Women's NCAA Bracket Challenge

Following a Feb. 14 panel, "Getting Their Fair Shot: The Drive for Equity in Women's Basketball," which cast a spotlight on the continued gender inequities between women's and men's basketball, the Kramer Levin Women's Initiative is excited to announce the third annual Women's NCAA Bracket Challenge.

This fun charitable initiative kicks off in mid-March and serves to support charities focused on increasing equity and diversity in sports. This year, Kramer Levin has doubled the firm's donation and will be making a total of \$20,000 in contributions to the charities chosen by the top five winners.

Everyone is invited to join the bracket, including Kramer Levin alumni, so stay tuned for more information.



Reminder

Follow Us



Alumni LinkedIn Group

Join our official [alumni network](#) on LinkedIn, where former Kramer Levin lawyers and staff can stay in touch with the firm, connect with each other and learn about professional development opportunities.