

# New Jersey Law Journal

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## Women and Minorities In the Legal Profession

The *Law Journals* annual report on the progress of women and minorities in New Jersey firms features lawyers who are leaders in their firms and in the legal community at large, and whose record of achievement represents some of the strongest progress made by women lawyers and minority lawyers in our state.

They were chosen with a view toward such criteria as length of practice, seniority and position in their firm or office, demonstrated acumen in their field, success in making law, recognition as an authority, peer recognition, merit-based memberships, bar-association leadership and a demonstrated record of public service and pro bono activities.

### Karen A. Giannelli

**Affiliation:** Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, P.C.

**Position:** Partner; chair, Insolvency Dept., co-chair, Financial Services Practice Group

**Born:** June 14, 1953, Paterson, N.J.



**Legal Education:** Rutgers-Newark, J.D., 1979

**Undergraduate Degree:** Skidmore College, Tufts Univ., B.A., 1975

**Career History:** Law secretary, Hon. D. Joseph De Vito, U. S. Bankruptcy Judge (DNJ) 1979-80; current firm, associate, 1980-86, partner, 1986-present

**Distinction:** Giannelli became a partner just six years after joining Gibbons, Del Deo and last year was elevated to two management positions, chairing the 14-lawyer Insolvency Department and co-chairing the newly expanded Financial Services Group. In her 23 years of practice, she has been immersed in all aspects of bankruptcy, representing each of the significant constituencies in insolvency proceedings, including debtors-in-possession, trustees and secured and unsecured creditors. She had a primary role in such notable Chapter 11 cases as *American Family Enterprises*, *Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.*, *Elsinore Shore Associates* and *Herman's Sporting Goods*. She has written on debtor-creditor issues and secured transactions, and lectured at educational programs sponsored by the Practising Law Institute, the New Jersey State Bar Association and other groups.

Giannelli is a current trustee and a past chair of the State Bar Association's Bankruptcy Law Section, a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy and a founding member and current trustee of Women in Federal Practice in New Jersey.

She was also a founding member of the Gibbons Women's Initiative, designed to contribute to the professional development of women at Gibbons, enhance their career advancement, and improve their business opportunities. In this capacity and as part of firm management, she serves as both a role model and a mentor.

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