Winners and finalists have been chosen for the Connecticut Law Tribune’s sixth annual Professional Excellence Awards. Award winners come from a broad range of backgrounds, including private-sector, government and non-profit work, and from varying career levels, from rookie to managing partner.

The three finalists for the 2020 Attorney of the Year include corporate environmental lawyer Franca DeRosa of Brown Rudnick; litigation and appellate pro Brenden Leydon of Wocl Leydon and winning municipal litigator Leslie King of Carlton Fields. The three finalists are among more than 70 individual attorneys and firms being recognized this year at an awards celebration in May at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville.

A complete list of this year's winners is as follows:

**Attorney of the Year finalists**
Franca DeRosa, partner, Brown Rudnick
Brenden Leydon, Wocl Leydon
Leslie King, partner, Carlton Fields

**Best Mentors**
Jonathan Olsson, Deputy General Counsel, Nielsen
John Mutchler, Partner, Murtha Cullina
James Sexton, Partner, Sexton & Company
Mark Carta, Partner, Carta, McAlister & Moore
Ed Doernberger, Partner, Saxe Doernberger and Vita
Robert Keane, Vice President & Associate Group General Counsel, Travelers
Glenn Carberry, Partner, TCORS
Victoria Woodin Chavey, Principal, Jackson Lewis

**Best Officiators**
Caroline Rowe, Judge of Probate, Connecticut Probate Court

**Distinguished Leaders**
Attorney General William Tong, Connecticut Office of the Attorney General
Todd Sharinn, Head of Intellectual Property and Commercial Litigation Practice Groups, Gilbride Tusa Last & Spellane
John Cordani, Partner, Robinson & Cole
Lawrence Adler, Managing Partner, Adler Law Group
Steven Katz, Partner, Rome Clifford Katz & Koerner
Renée Dailey, Head Partner of Hartford office, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld
Keith Trantolo, Managing Partner Trantolo & Trantolo
Barry Moller, Partner, Cramer & Anderson

**Jay Sicklick, Center for Children’s Advocacy**
Eric Stockman, Partner, Stockman O’Connor
Joette Katz, Partner, Shipman and Goodwin

**New Leaders in the Law**
Zachary Phillipps, Wofsey, Rosen, Kweskin & Kuriansky
Stephen Lebedevitch, The Lebedevitch Law Firm
Alex Taubes, Alexander T. Taubes
Emily Trudeau, Assistant State’s Attorney Fairfield State’s Attorney’s Office

**Stacy Schleif, Center for Children’s Advocacy**
Brittany Paz, Ruane Attorneys at Law
Jill Ruane, Ruane Attorneys at Law
Sebastian Lombardi, Day Pitney
Taylor Shea, Robinson & Cole
Kimberly Cohen, Shipman & Goodwin
Alexander Copp, Cohen and Wolf
Julia Camarco, Shipman & Goodwin
Martha Royston, Murtha Cullina
Benjamin Nissim, Murtha Cullina
Jonathan Schaefer, Robinson & Cole
Dan Brody, Robinson & Cole
David Lavery, Connecticut Fair Housing Center
Jody Erdfarb, Wiggin and Dana
Caroline Park, Wiggin and Dana
Richard Luedeman, Wiggin and Dana
Graham Moller, Cramer & Anderson
Blake Driscoll, Trantolo & Trantolo
Bridget D’Angelo, Murtha Cullina
Isis Irizarry, IMI Law

**Game Changers**

Mark Dendinger, Partner, Bracewell
Eileen Flug, Berchem Moses
Felice Duffy, Duffy Law
Sharad Samy, General Counsel, Commonfund

**GC Impact**
Lisa Proch, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, Talcott Resolution

**Giant Slayer**
Daniel Lage, Partner, Ruane Attorneys
Yazmin Rodriguez, Partner, Esperanza Law

**Law Firm Innovators**
Wolf & Shore Law Group

**Lifetime Achievement**
Robert Mitchell, Founding Principal, Mitchell & Sheahan
John A. Collins, III, Director, Suisman Shapiro Attorneys-at-Law
Frank Coulom, Partner, Robinson & Cole
Vincent Trantolo, Trantolo & Trantolo
Richard Meehan, MeehanLaw
Amado Vargas, former Partner, Vargas Chapman Woods
Maureen Weaver, Partner, Wiggin and Dana
Beverly Garofalo, Principal, Jackson Lewis

**In-House Legal Dept Diversity and Quality of Life**
Eversource Energy, General Counsel Gregory B. Butler

**Litigation Departments of the Year – General**
Wiggin and Dana

**Litigation Departments of the Year – Specialty Categories**
Cowdery & Murphy – Appellate
Murtha Cullina – Appellate
Wiggin and Dana – Product Liability/Mass Torts

**Unsung Hero**
Conrad Seifert, Seifert & Hogan
Barbara F. Green, Law Offices of Green and Gross
Cullen Guilmarin, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani
Ashleigh Backman, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center