
Douglas K. Stern

PARTNER



Long Island

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This biography is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil Litigation
- Corporate Governance
- Criminal Defense, White Collar Criminal Defense & Government Investigations
- Guardianships
- Becoming a Guardian
- Health Law
- Hospital Representation
- Mental Health Law

Douglas K. Stern is a partner at Abrams Fensterman, LLP.

Mr. Stern has over twenty five years of experience in the field of mental health, criminal and elder law. He was previously a partner with Reinach Wolf, Stern and Associates, LLP, and employed as a Principal Attorney with the Mental Hygiene Legal Service.

Mr. Stern has a breadth and depth of knowledge relating to criminal, mental health and elder law issues and has lectured extensively on various topics including psychiatry and the law, trial advocacy, select disability and elder law issues. Since 1998, he has been an adjunct professor of law at the St. John's University School of Law. In addition, Mr. Stern is widely published in his fields of concentration. He has presented at several hospital based "Grand Rounds" lectures and performed numerous in-service training programs. He has argued and briefed cases before the Appellate Division and the Court of Appeals. He has been appointed as Counsel, Court Evaluator and Guardian by the Supreme Court in the metropolitan

area on well over 50 occasions. Throughout the course of his legal career, Mr. Stern has conducted and/or supervised well over 10,000 hearings and trials held pursuant to the Mental Hygiene Law. He has extensive experience in federal and state cases that involve mental health defenses, competency to stand trial and alternatives to incarceration and problem solving courts.

Mr. Stern holds a J.D. from New York Law School and a B.A. from Hofstra University. He is admitted to practice law in New York State.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- New York

EDUCATION

- New York Law School, New York, New York, J.D.
- Hofstra University, B.A.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- New York State Bar Association, Member
- Nassau County Bar Association, Member

PAST EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS

- Mental Hygiene Legal Service, Principal Attorney
- Reinach Wolf, Stern and Associates, LLP, Partner

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

- **Important Changes to New York's Mental Hygiene Law – What Behavioral Health Providers Need to Know** — 07/24/2025
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/news/important-changes-to-new-yorks-mental-hygiene-law-what-behavioral-health-providers-need-to-know>
- **Sarah Chussler & Douglas Stern Named Co-Chairs of NYSBA Mental Health Law Committee** — 06/30/2025
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/events/sarah-chussler-douglas-stern-named-co-chairs-of-nysba-mental-health-law-committee>
- **Mental Health Care Legal Challenges – Douglas Stern Quoted in The Gothamist** — 01/15/2025
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/news/mental-health-care-legal-challenges-douglas-stern-quoted-in-the-gothamist>
- **Abrams Fensterman Panelists for NYSBA Joint Meeting of Trusts & Estates and Elder Law & Special Needs Sections** — 08/27/2024
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/events/moriah-adamo-douglas-stern-sarah-chussler-panelists-nysba-joint-meeting-trusts-estates-elder-law-sections>
- **The Unique Role of the Guardian in Inpatient Psychiatric Care** — 02/10/2023
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/publications/the-unique-role-of-the-guardian-in-inpatient-psychiatric-care>
- **In Honor of Mental Health Awareness Month – Introducing Douglas K. Stern** — 05/10/2021
<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/in-honor-of-mental-health-awareness-month-introducing-douglas-k-stern>

- **Obama Administration Affirms The Rehabilitation Act's Requirement That Public Schools Must Provide Equal Access to Disabled Students Who Want to Play Sports** — 02/28/2013

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/obama-administration-affirms-the-rehabilitation-acts-requirement-that-public-schools-must-provide-equal-access-to-disabled-students-who-want-to-play-sports>

- **New Gun Legislation Impacts Mental Health Providers** — 01/17/2013

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/new-gun-legislation-impacts-mental-health-providers>

- **Governor Cuomo Authorizes Regulations That Drastically Limit An Acute Psychiatric Care Center's Ability to Discharge** — 01/16/2013

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/governor-cuomo-authorizes-regulations-that-drastically-limit-an-acute-psychiatric-care-centers-ability-to-discharge>

- **New Law Expands Health Insurance Coverage For Individuals With Autism** — 11/30/2011

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/new-law-expands-health-insurance-coverage-for-individuals-with-autism>

- **"Sexting", or Possessing Explicit Materials on One's Smartphone, Exposes Adolescents and Others to Criminal Liability** — 10/31/2011

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/sexting-or-possessing-explicit-materials-on-ones-smartphone-exposes-adolescents-and-others-to-criminal-liability>

- **New York's Highest Court Limits Access to Patient Records for Those Seeking Mandated Outpatient Psychiatric Treatment Under "Kendra's Law"** — 06/30/2011

<https://www.abramslaw.com/media/announcements/new-yorks-highest-court-limits-access-to-patient-records-for-those-seeking-mandated-outpatient-psychiatric-treatment-under-kendras-law>