

Ex-NY Judge's Counsel Joins Abrams Fensterman Partnership

By Sameer Rao

Law360 (November 9, 2021, 4:03 PM EST) -- New York- and Connecticut-admitted attorney Lisa Colosi Florio has jumped from a role with New York's judiciary, where she spent over three years as counsel to the state's chief appellate judges, to join Abrams Fensterman's office in White Plains as a partner, the law firm said this week.

Monday's announcement from Abrams Fensterman Fensterman Eisman Formato Ferrara Wolf & Carone LLP noted that Colosi Florio is now part of the multidisciplinary law firm's appellate law practice group. This affiliation corresponds with Colosi Florio's more than 20 years of experience in New York's state government, including her last position as counsel to Judge Janet DiFiore, the state appellate courts' chief judge.

Colosi Florio confirmed to Law360 Pulse on Tuesday that she completed that job on October 15 and joined Abrams Fensterman three days later.



Lisa Colosi Florio

The firm noted that she came into a practice group that includes other former staffers of the state Unified Court System's appellate division, including former senior principal law clerk David House and ex-assistant law clerk Mark Goreczny.

Colosi Florio described the opportunity to work with those lawyers — as well as former New York Appellate Justices Robert A. Spolzino and Jeffrey A. Cohen, now also Abrams Fensterman attorneys — as a primary reason for joining the firm.

"I learned that Abrams Fensterman was planning to expand its highly regarded appellate practice group and could not forgo the opportunity to join former Justices of the Appellate Division, Second Department Robert A. Spolzino and Jeffrey A. Cohen — two legal giants — and the team of top-notch appellate attorneys, including David House and Mark Goreczny, they have assembled at the firm," she told Law360 Pulse. "This group employs a dynamic and collaborative team approach in representing clients on appeal, and I am excited to roll up my sleeves and add my contributions to their excellent work."

Colosi Florio's LinkedIn profile says she started her position under Chief Judge DiFiore, who recently faced court employees' **ire over seeming COVID-19 vaccination double standards**, in September 2018. Before that, she worked as senior counsel for White Plains-based law firm Gaines Novick Ponzini Cossu & Venditti LLP, which is now known as Murtagh Cossu Venditti & Castro-Blanco LLP, for almost seven years.

Her LinkedIn profile also lists other experience with the Unified Court System, including about 17 years as a principal law clerk in the New York State Supreme Court and five more in the same position for late Associate Appellate Judge Vito J. Titone.

Abrams Fensterman name partner Howard Fensterman, in the firm's statement, praised Colosi Florio's government experience.

"We believe someone with her level of experience in appellate litigation, and her particular background serving New York state, will help Abrams Fensterman become the most successful

appellate practice in the county," he said.

Lucian Chalfen, public information director of the Office of Court Administration, congratulated Colosi Florio in a statement to Law360 Pulse.

"We wish Lisa all the best in the next phase of her distinguished legal career, and Abrams Fensterman is fortunate to have a new partner join their firm with the expertise and experience Lisa has shown in her many years with the Unified Court System," he said Tuesday via email.

Colosi Florio earned both law and master of public administration degrees from constituent schools of Pace University in 1992. She told Law360 Pulse that the latter degree has given her "invaluable insight into the need for government or health care organizations who I may represent as clients to meet their legal obligations — not only to the clients they serve, but also in their roles as employers."

Colosi Florio joins Abrams Fensterman soon after it **grew into a new Albany office**. The latest outpost in the state capital adds to offices in White Plains, Rochester, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Long Island where the firm's over 115 attorneys work.

--Additional reporting by Frank G. Runyeon and Adrian Cruz. Editing by Rich Mills.