



Rosanne E. Felicello

Managing Partner, Felicello Law P.C.

www.felicellolaw.com

Tell us about your firm or business including history, specialization, and years in business.

Felicello Law P.C. is a New York City-based firm that handles complex business matters and disputes involving high-value claims. Banks, private equity firms, real estate companies, boutique investment banks, and international corporations are often parties to cases handled by the firm. The firm serves a diverse clientele, with clients in various industries including fashion, investment banking, private equity, non-profit, tech, and crypto.

Firm litigators are seasoned practitioners in federal courts and government agency investigations, often involving the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Justice, the Department of Labor, and U.S. Immigration. The firm regularly represents both individuals and corporations in matters such as business litigation, commercial general liability, directors and officers liability, securities litigation, employment, professional malpractice, and trademark/copyright litigation.

I bring more than 20 years of experience to the firm's clients. The firm's team of attorneys reflects gender, cultural, and language diversity to bring novel perspectives to each case and lead to innovative solutions for clients. We are known for our meticulous and client-focused approach, helping both small businesses and large corporations resolve legal disputes efficiently.

Tell us an interesting fact about you.

I have hosted over 20 episodes of a podcast called *Success in Brief* that focuses on successful women in the law and how they achieved their success. The key learning is that you can define your own success, and success itself looks different for each person and even sometimes in each season of life. Working on the podcast has reaffirmed my belief that the legal profession can be a great fit for women, and women can be successful in law on their own terms.

What's a favorite moment of your career so far?

I have practiced law for more than 20 years and there have been many great moments! As a very junior attorney (my first year) I was one of a handful of attorneys from my Boston-based law firm chosen to work in New York during the trial about the insurance on the World Trade Center after 9/11. The trial lasted more than two months, during which I essentially lived at the hotel across from the then-construction site for the new tower. I did not get to appear in court at that trial, but I did get to witness some amazing attorneys during a very intense and arduous trial.

Twenty-plus years in, being able to practice in a law firm that I have built with my good friends and former colleagues—Michael Maloney and Kristie Blase— as my partners, is my favorite *moment* of my career.

What challenge are you most proud of overcoming?

With zero clients and two young kids, I left Biglaw in 2011 to hang up my shingle. I knew how to practice law, but I had no idea how to find clients! It did not happen overnight! But I forged ahead, continued to learn and network. Along the way, I joined with others. It took a few missteps to find the right group of attorneys working together. Sometimes, in litigation, it can feel like you are in the trenches, and it helps to like and respect the people in there with you! Finding the right mix leads to better work product and a thriving firm.

Tell us about a recent professional accomplishment of yours.

In November 2023, the firm was recognized by Chambers & Partners, the leading professional legal research company delivering rankings and insight into the world's leading lawyers and law firms. It was named to the inaugural Chambers USA Regional Spotlight: New York as a leading small- or mid-sized firm offering an effective and efficient alternative to Big Law. The firm is one of 37 New York City-based firms to be honored for its Dispute Resolution work in state and federal trial and appellate courts, as well as arbitration and arbitration award enforcement.

Tell us about a recent personal accomplishment of yours.

I recently became a certified mediator. I initially took the class because I often find myself working with mediators in my practice and I wanted to understand better the philosophy and methods of mediation.

What advice would you offer new business owners?

Make sure you have a support system in place before you take the leap. It is unlikely that the phones will start ringing on day one and you don't want to be in the position where you are desperate to take on clients. That leads directly to my second piece of advice: not all clients are for you and you are not for all clients. Be discerning when you decide who you choose to represent. Third, don't take yourself too seriously. You do not need to and should not be working all the time. Take time for you family and friends. Laugh when you hit an obstacle (you will). It makes it easier to find a solution if you can find a way to smile!

How can you help other Women Owned Law members improve their businesses?

For me, the key to business growth has been continuing to improve and grow my relationships. I am always open to meeting with members of Women Owned Law to find ways that we can engage and collaborate. Also, I'd love to have members join me on my podcast, *Success in Brief*. Please reach out!

How has Women Owned Law been of value to you and your career?

It is always helpful to know that there are others like you doing the work and finding success. I always return from Women Owned Law events feeling reinvigorated and re-aligned with my goals.

About Women Owned Law

Women Owned Law is a ground-breaking group created to connect and advance women legal entrepreneurs. WOL supports its members and other women entrepreneurs in the law in their business endeavors at every point in the business lifecycle. We advocate on behalf of women legal entrepreneurs and have been instrumental in raising the profile of women entrepreneurs in the law.

For additional information about Women Owned Law visit <http://www.womenownedlaw.org>