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## Members and Friends of IWIRC NY,

Fall is here! We are pleased to be welcoming back the season with not just pumpkin spice but a real live in-person event after more than 19 months since March 2020 when we last saw one another at IWIRC at the Shore (and plenty longer for some of us!) Look inside to see photos from that event, a preview of our upcoming virtual event, and much more.

In addition, it is election season — there are a number of opportunities to join, give back, and help chart IWIRC NY's future course!

Best,  
Jasmine Ball  
Shirley Luo  
IWIRC NY Co-Chairs

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### Become a Member

Joining IWIRC NY is easier than ever.  
[Sign up](#) and select New York as your primary network.

### Get Involved

Interested in joining an IWIRC NY subcommittee?  
Do you have member news to share? [Drop us a line.](#)

IWIRC • NY [www.iwirc.com/networks/new-york](http://www.iwirc.com/networks/new-york)



## Resilience for the Modern Professional in the New Normal

October 19, 2021

Sharmeen Khan and Alissa Nann—  
Substantive Events Co-Chairs

Join us, along with IWIRC Chicago for a virtual event! As we shift back to office schedules and juggle work-life balance in the "new normal," empathy, resilience and strategy help us navigate successfully in a virtual and hybrid world. As the former VP of Autodesk, [Minette Norman](#) brings decades of leadership experience from the software industry to consulting as a hands-on career coach to both individuals and companies with a focus on women in underrepresented roles. She also offers expertise on how to be a highly functional team member in a transformational environment.

[Register here by October 19.](#)

### Substantive Events

### Subcommittee Members

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- Nancy Bello
- Jessica K. Bonteque
- Katina Brountzas
- Uchechi Egeonuigwe
- Shanté George
- Charvi Gupta
- Sharmeen Khan (Co-Chair)
- Lilly Liang
- Samantha Martin
- Summer M. McKee
- Alissa Nann (Co-Chair)
- Carina Oriel
- Iva Qendro
- Jen Quinlan
- Daniela Raz
- Samantha Ruppenthal
- Lara Sheikh
- Jessica Weitzman

## Networking Event: Town Hall

September 29, 2021

Sophia Hephastou and Maeghan McLoughlin—  
Networking Events Co-Chairs

Reunited and it feels so good! We kicked off the fall with our first in-person event in well over a year with a night of pampering and reconnecting at the luxe Mia Wagner Salon. Guests enjoyed fabulous services offered by expert stylists while networking with colleagues and friends and enjoying the salon's spectacular art gallery room!



## Virtual Networking Event: Alcohol Ink Abstract Art Workshop

August 19, 2021

Sophia Hephastou and Maeghan McLoughlin—  
Networking Events Co-Chairs

Thanks to all who joined us and expressed some amazing creativity in our virtual alcohol ink art experience curated. We created one-of-a-kind paper and coaster designs using paint, air, alcohol, and some good vibes. Check out the works of some of our artists!



## Join the IWIRC NY Board!

It is election season, and we are soliciting candidates for the following open board positions:

- Co-Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Networking Events Co-Chair
- Substantive Events Co-Chair
- Communications Co-Chair
- Sponsorship & Membership Co-Chair

If you are interested in running for a position, **please send your indication of interest to [info@iwircny.com](mailto:info@iwircny.com) by October 18th at 12:00 p.m.**, and make sure to include your name, firm name, the board position you are interested in, and a brief summary of your bio and qualifications. Please reference the information linked below for more details.

**\*\*You must be an IWIRC NY member to run for a board position. You can become a member [here](#).\*\***



## Daniela Raz

### Omni Bridgeway — Investment Manager, Legal Counsel



The success of our Chapter is due in no small part to the contributions and enthusiasm of our incredible members. In celebration of that fact, each quarter, we recognize an “IWIRC NY Shining Star” to introduce you to exemplary members of the IWIRC NY community.

This issue we celebrate Daniela Raz. Congratulations, Daniela!

**Professional Background:** Daniela Raz is an Investment Manager, Legal Counsel in the New York office of Omni Bridgeway, a global leader in dispute finance. Dispute finance allows lawsuits to be decided on their merits, and not based on the size of the claimants’ wallets and can be used at any stage of a case to defray legal fees and expenses, or to hedge against an adverse judgment or ruling on appeal. It can also be used to satisfy working capital needs and to guarantee a minimum recovery to stakeholders. Omni was the first publicly listed dispute finance company (ASX:OBL) and is dedicated to building the industry in the U.S. with its foundational principles of simplicity, transparency and fairness. In her role, Daniela helps companies, individuals and law firms obtain financing to pursue commercial disputes, secure working capital, and monetize claims or judgments. She evaluates the merits and economics of proposed investment opportunities that will deliver fair and sustainable returns for claimants, their lawyers and Omni’s shareholders and, once financing is secured, monitors investments through resolution.

Prior to joining Omni, Daniela was a litigation partner with Kasowitz Benson Torres LLP, where she represented primarily plaintiffs in a wide range of complex commercial and bankruptcy-related matters. She then was General Counsel of a distressed asset investor, LightRay Companies, whose bankruptcy-related litigation docket she managed.

Daniela earned her J.D. from Berkeley Law and received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Harvard College. She served as a law clerk to the Honorable I. Leo Glasser of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and as a Karpatkin Fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union. She is admitted to practice in New York and California and is a native speaker of Hebrew and Spanish. Daniela is recognized in the LawDragon Global Restructuring Advisors & Consultants Guide.

**IWIRC Involvement:** Daniela first became involved with IWIRC when she spoke on a panel about dispute finance in the bankruptcy space two years ago, and she currently serves on the substantive events committee.

**Most Memorable IWIRC event:** “My favorite IWIRC event was last year’s panel featuring women-owned small businesses. Starting your own business is impressive enough, but the grace and determination with which our panelists managed to overcome the many obstacles this past year and a half has placed before them are downright inspiring. The event celebrated what I like best about IWIRC: women promoting other women, while learning something new and having a really good time.”

**What are you looking forward to in the coming months?** “Omni is already in 18 cities around the world, and we announced our expansion into Latin America just last year. I’m looking forward to planning a trip there so I can visit family in Uruguay and hopefully meet some of the terrific women of IWIRC’s newest chapter, who I have been getting to know over Zoom recently.”

**What fad or trend do you hope comes back?** “Knitting. I have been obsessed since my daughter learned how to knit on pencils in second grade and then taught me. I used to do it in the mornings with my younger son while we waited for his classroom doors to open, and the kids were always curious about what I was working on, so eventually I bought supplies for his whole class and taught them. In New York, it’s one of those rare things that gives you license to have a conversation with a total stranger, and talking shop with another knitter on the subway can really improve your commute.”

Congratulate your fellow IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishment!

***Give yourself some shine! Email us your accomplishments for inclusion in our next newsletter.***

## Honors

Samantha Martin (Stroock) and Uchechi Egeonuigwe (Brown Rudnick) were recognized as "40 Under 40" Emerging Leaders in Insolvency by ABI.

Adeola Akinrinade (EisnerAmper) and Rachel Chesley (FTI Consulting) were recently recognized as "Emerging Leaders" by M&A Advisor.

Rachel Albanese and the DLA Piper team were selected as 2021 Cross-Border Turnaround Deal of the Year by the Global M&A Network, for the firm's work on Valeritas Holdings.

AlixPartners has once again been recognized amongst Consulting Magazine's "Best Firms to Work For." In addition to the recognition by Consulting magazine, for the fourth consecutive year AlixPartners earned a score of 100% in the Human Rights Campaign's 2021 Corporate Equality Index as a Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality.

Stretto was named Turnaround Product and Service of the Year in 15th Annual M&A Advisor Turnaround Awards.

FTI Consulting was honored in several categories by The M&A Advisor and TMA, including as Communications of the Year and for its work on several restructurings and transactions.

Freshfields' Nathan Greenberg was awarded the IFLR Rising Star Award for Restructuring and Insolvency.



Congratulate your fellow IWIRC NY members on their recent accomplishment!

## Promotions & New Roles

[Maeghan McLoughlin](#) was promoted to special counsel at Kelley Drye & Warren.

[Alicia E. Den Beste](#) has joined Epiq as a managing director for its Claims Administration and Corporate Restructuring group.

## Speaking Engagements & Publications

Lisa Donahue, Global Co-Lead and Managing Director at AlixPartners will participated in the webinar "Cross-border Insolvency Proceedings from a Learning Experience Point of View" hosted by Chambers and Partners on September 30, 2021.

Carrienne Basler, Managing Director at AlixPartners, participated in the 2021 Distressed Investing Summit in the panel "What's Happened to Restructuring?" on September 29, 2021, hosted by M&A Advisor.

Stretto's Michael A. Cohen and M3 Partners' Colin Adams examine the specific pitfalls and considerations that debtors, creditors, and their legal and financial advisors should be aware of and approach carefully when preference actions are involved in retail industry restructurings in the September edition of the [New York Law Journal](#).



Debevoise is pleased to support the **International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation**

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**DWR** DEBEVOISE WOMEN'S REVIEW To join the conversation about women in the workplace, visit the Debevoise Women's Review at [women.debevoise.com](https://www.women.debevoise.com)



# REACH FOR IT

We are proud to support the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation for its extraordinary work.

[freshfields.us](https://freshfields.us)

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**Jamila Justine Willis** is the Chair of the New York Office Restructuring practice, Co-Chair of the Consumer Goods and Retail sector, a member of the Policy Committee and Chair of the New York Office Diversity & Inclusion Committee at DLA Piper. She focuses her practice in the area of corporate and financial restructuring and has extensive experience representing distressed companies in complex restructurings across industries and borders, through chapter 11 cases, out of court restructurings and cross-border insolvency proceedings. Additionally, she represents debtors, sponsors, acquirers and distressed investors in distressed asset sales and distressed acquisitions.

Over the past 12 months, Jamila has worked on the wind down of Celadon Group, Inc., one of the largest truckload shipping companies in North America as well as the Chapter 11 representation of Comcar Industries Inc., one of the largest US transportation and logistics companies. Jamila also represented Otsuka America Pharmaceutical Inc. in connection with the acquisition of substantially all assets of Proteus Digital Health, Inc. and firm clients in connection with the distressed acquisitions of Town Sports International Holdings, Creative Hairdressers, Inc. and Rudy's Barbershop. In addition, she has represented well-known international clients and ushered them through the economic uncertainty from COVID-19.

Before starting her career as a restructuring lawyer, Jamila worked as a human rights attorney at an organization dedicated to ending criminal investigatory torture by building legal aid systems in developing nations. Jamila now focuses much of her pro bono work on human rights and the development of legal systems throughout the world. Recent pro bono initiatives include drafting a criminal law defense manual and criminal litigation training materials for International Bridges to Justice's Rwanda country program; drafting portions of a memorandum on post-conflict restorative justice mechanisms for a UNICEF sponsored transitional justice program in the Gambia; conducting research regarding international judicial ethics principles and relevant ethical rules and jurisprudence for International Association of Women Jurists; and representing Sunrise Cooperative Inc., a cooperative of mechanics displaced from their workplaces following the approval of a city redevelopment plan, as pro bono counsel in connection with their chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and multi-party negotiations to restructure their debt.

In Jamila's free time, she enjoys traveling, art and spending time with family and friends.

Jamila earned her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and has a B.A., Communications, Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a 2021 recipient of Bloomberg Law's "They've Got Next: The 40 Under 40" award.



**Jamila Justine Willis,**  
Partner, DLA Piper



## Women supporting women.

"May the world lift up women, may we lift each other up, and may we see and encourage the potential in each other, maybe even before we see it in ourselves."  
Sara Blakely – CEO, Spanx, Inc.



[dlapiper.com](http://dlapiper.com)

Rachel Albanese | DLA Piper LLP (US) | Attorney Advertising | MRS000177892

## 2021 TMA Annual

October 26-29

TMA

[Register Here](#)

## IWIRC New Member Virtual Receptions

October 28, November 2, November 3, November 4

IWIRC International

[Register Here](#)

## Blurred Lines in COVID: A Conversation About the Professional and Personal impacts of the Pandemic

November 9, 2021

New York Institute of Credit Women's Division

[Register Here](#)

## 20th Annual Advanced Restructuring & Plan of Reorganization Conference

November 15, 2021

AIRA


[Register Here](#)


## Winter Leadership Conference

December 9-11

ABI

[Register Here](#)

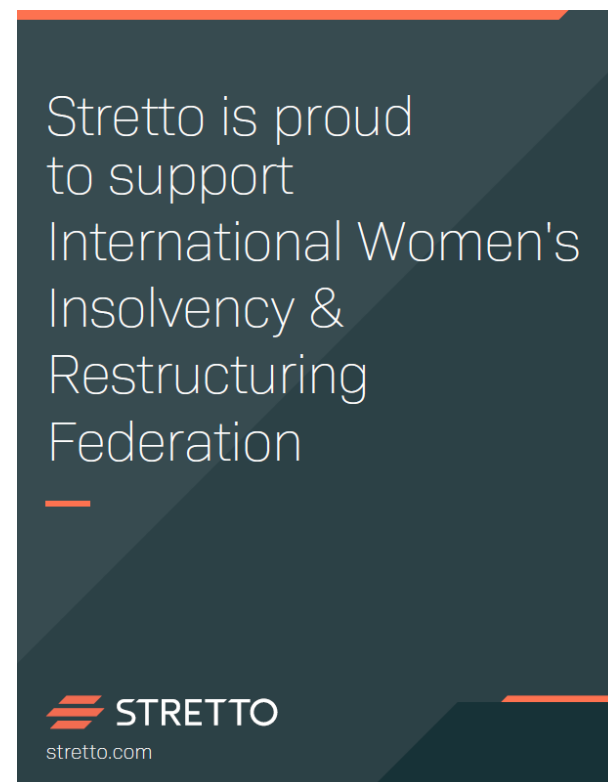


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## Connect with Us

We now have a combined total of 595 followers on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter, and it's not too late for you to join the fun. Being a "friend" of IWIRC NY on social media has become more rewarding than ever! Continue to look out for more giveaways to upcoming events on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter!



### Additional Facebook Networks

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- Rachel Chesley (Co-Chair)
- Erin Diers (Co-Chair)
- Jeanine Krattiger
- Kathleen Lauster
- Stephanie Randall

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Debevoise &  
Plimpton, LLP



Shirley Luo  
Shenkman Capital

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Samantha Martin  
Stroock & Stroock &  
Lavan, LLP

## Secretary



Samantha LeBlanc  
Ernst & Young LLP

## Treasurer



Gani Bardhi  
Alvarez & Marsal

## Communications



Erin Diers  
Hughes Hubbard

## Substantive Events



Sharmeen Khan  
FTI Consulting, Inc.

## Networking Events



Sophia Hepheastou



Rachel Chesley  
FTI Consulting, Inc.



Alissa M. Nann  
Foley & Lardner, LLP



Maeghan  
McLoughlin  
Kelley Drye &  
Warren, LLP

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de Uriate  
AlixPartners, LLP



Lily Liang  
AlixPartners, LLP