

Porzio's Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr. and William A. Kraiss Inducted as Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers

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By: Vito Gagliardi, Jr., William Kraiss

Porzio, Bromberg & Newman is proud to announce that Managing Principal Vito A. Gagliardi, Jr. and Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Principal William A. Kraiss have been inducted as Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America.

The 2023 Induction Ceremony took place at the 2023 Spring Meeting in Miami, Florida. Mr. Gagliardi and Mr. Kraiss bear this distinction along with fellow Porzio attorneys Timothy L. Barnes, Thomas R. Chesson, Lauren E. Handler, Maurice J. Gallipoli, Henry E. Klingeman and Alvin Weiss.

Founded in 1950, the College is composed of the best of the trial bar from the United States and Canada. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only and only after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers of diverse backgrounds, who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility and collegiality. Lawyers must have a minimum of fifteen years trial experience before they can be considered for Fellowship.

Membership in the College cannot exceed 1% of the total lawyer population of any state or province. There are currently more than 5,800 members in the United States and Canada, including active Fellows, Emeritus Fellows, Judicial Fellows (those who ascended to the bench after their induction) and Honorary Fellows. The College maintains and seeks to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics and the administration of justice through education and public statements on independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. The College is thus able to speak with a balanced voice on important issues affecting the legal profession and the administration of justice.

In addition to his role as Managing Principal of Porzio, Mr. Gagliardi serves as President and CEO of the firm's subsidiaries, Porzio Governmental Affairs and Porzio Compliance Services. He also co-chairs the firm's Litigation Practice Group and the Education and Employment Team. Mr. Gagliardi represents schools in numerous matters and handles a variety of employment law matters for public and private sector clients in state and federal courts and agencies, and before arbitrators. He litigates and counsels clients in every area of labor and employment law, including issues of restrictive covenants, harassment, discrimination and whistleblowing. Mr. Gagliardi serves as the Chairman of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission, which is tasked by the Legislature with identifying areas of the law that require revision for clarification and simplification. He is certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey Board on Trial Certification as a Civil Trial Attorney.

Mr. Kraus handles a wide variety of medical malpractice and serious personal injury cases, including cases involving babies injured during childbirth, orthopedic injuries, delayed diagnosis of cancer, surgical errors, traumatic brain injuries, wrongful death, and those injured in accidents. In addition to representing victims of serious personal injuries, he also counsels attorneys in respect to issues of legal ethics. Given his experience as former chair of the District X attorney ethics committee, multiple appointments by the New Jersey Supreme Court to serve as a Special Ethics Master and Hearing Chair, and as a speaker at seminars addressing attorney ethics, Mr. Kraus counsels attorneys to avoid ethics transgressions and represents them when faced with an ethics grievance or complaint.

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