

NEW YORK LEADERS IN LAW

Unwavering Defense

No matter how serious the criminal allegations, **David Jason Cohen** of Cohen Forman Barone, PC is ready to protect his clients' rights.



“We are here to help people through their darkest times,” says David Jason Cohen, head of the criminal defense department and managing partner at Cohen Forman Barone, PC. “As a former prosecutor, I’ve seen the government use its power to bully people into taking responsibility for things they didn’t do. Our job is to protect and enforce our clients’ rights by resolving matters before charges are filed, negotiating for the dismissal of charges, or fighting those charges in court.”

Early in his career, Cohen served as an assistant district attorney in Kings County. He worked with a team of investigators, often visiting crime scenes mere moments after the crime took place. While this experience gave him an intimate understanding of the criminal

investigations, it also opened his eyes to the fundamental inequalities in the criminal justice system.

“What I saw at the district attorney’s office bothered me so much that I left,” Cohen says. “I switched sides and became a public defender.”

After a nine-year stint with the public defender’s office, Cohen joined forces with longtime colleague, Cory Forman. Carla Barone joined the team as a partner nine years after the firm’s founding to become

head of matrimonial and family law. As the head of the firm’s criminal defense team, much of Cohen’s practice involves defending white-collar workers swept up in complex federal prosecutions—for many of whom it is their first run in with law enforcement.

“When someone is being investigated for a crime, their biggest concern is usually staying out of prison,” Cohen explains. “Many of my clients are highly respected professionals, executives, and entrepreneurs who have never been in trouble before. It can be an overwhelming ordeal, where even an innocent person can feel pressured to take a felony deal. I am not just defending the rights of my clients, but also their licenses, careers, and reputations, because their whole world is at stake. And it’s not just the client, I am defending their families, their futures, and their dignity.”

Experience And Excellence

“It doesn’t matter if I’m defending a blue-collar worker or a CEO, I’m helping the little guy every time,” Cohen says. “Everyone is the little guy when the U.S. government—or a local state governmental agency like the district attorney’s office—is coming after them. I’m never on the wrong side of a case, because I am defending my clients against the most powerful bureaucratic institutions in the world.”

By speaking directly to the concerns and priorities of investigators, Cohen can resolve cases before any charges are filed. When this isn’t possible, however, he’s ready to fight for his clients in the courtroom.

“I’ve been a trial attorney for over 30 years,” Cohen notes. “I’m always the most prepared person in the courtroom. If I need to be a bulldog and tear witness testimony apart in cross examination, I can do that. If the situation calls for a more docile approach and less confrontation, I am more than capable of handling it that way as well. I have access to a team of experts in fields ranging from forensic accounting to crime reconstruction. More importantly, I’ve seen it all. Whatever issues the client is facing, or how serious the charges are, I’ve handled it before.”



COHEN FORMAN BARONE, PC
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NEW YORK LEADERS IN LAW

Dedicated to Working Hard to Fight For Your Family’s Future

Carla A. Barone of Cohen Forman Barone, PC helps clients with divorce, custody, and other family law matters by taking a practical and empathetic approach.

“Divorce is one of the most stressful and emotionally intense experiences a person can go through,” says Carla A. Barone, head of matrimonial and family law and partner at Cohen Forman Barone, PC. “There’s a lot of anxiety, uncertainty, and anger. My work involves being a problem solver, working with my client to craft a solution that works for them, and then to execute on that plan to get a resolution.”

For over 20 years, Barone has helped clients in New York and Connecticut with their matrimonial and family law needs. Known for her work in complex divorce

and custody cases, she specializes in the more difficult areas, all the while never losing focus on what really matters to her clients and their families.

“When I meet with clients for the first time, I do a lot of listening,” Barone says. “It’s much like a counseling session, because they need someone to understand their story.” Barone utilizes the information she learns from her clients to strategically advocate for their goals. “It doesn’t matter if I am working with a school teacher, a stay-at-home parent, or a hedge fund manager, my clients all have the same fears. They are worried about separating the family unit, being able to see their kids, their finances, and starting the process of rebuilding their lives. My job is to create a plan that provides a solution for their anxieties.” Barone describes a meeting at

Cohen Forman Barone: “It’s not going to be a spa day, but clients leave confident and relaxed after talking with us.”

As a skilled negotiator, Barone understands that it takes patience, persistence, and creativity to craft a solution that everyone can live with. Both sides have a desired outcome, she notes, and they are not always so far apart. By taking a problem-solving approach, even the thorniest issues can be resolved. If not, Barone is ready to use her decades of trial experience to argue her client’s case in court.

“If you’re going to go to court, it can’t be a waste of time,” Barone says. “I try to be practical and fair as a negotiator. As a trial attorney, I’m described as an iron fist in a velvet glove. I know the law and the facts of the case, and I’m there to use those tools to achieve results for my clients.”

FOUNDING THE FIRM

Founded in 2006 by former New York City public defenders at the Legal Aid Society, Cohen Forman Barone, PC has helped countless clients with immigration, criminal defense, and family law needs. The firm has more than 100 years of combined legal expertise, including extensive negotiation and trial experience. As co-founder David Jason Cohen notes, the firm’s greatest strength is its culture of collaboration. Each partner is dedicated to making a positive impact in their clients’ lives during the most difficult times—when clients are facing a breakup of the family, threat of incarceration, or removal from this country.

“We always consult with each other to get fresh perspectives and outside opinions on our cases,” Cohen says. “We’re the hardest working and most prepared attorneys you’ll ever meet.”

