

THE LAW OFFICES OF JOEL B. RUDIN, P.C.

(<https://rudinlaw.com>)



JOEL B. RUDIN

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Joel B. Rudin is a veteran criminal defense and civil rights lawyer and the principal in his own six-attorney firm. He has been honored with the Thurgood S. Marshall Award for Outstanding Criminal Defense Practitioner by the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. His diverse practice over 45 years has included state and federal criminal trials, appeals, and post-

conviction motions as well as complex civil rights lawsuits obtaining monetary damages for victims of police misconduct and wrongful conviction.

Mr. Rudin has won nearly 40 seven-figure awards for wrongful convictions, including, in 2025, the largest jury verdict for wrongful conviction ever in the United States of \$80 million and a verdict of \$28 million in a related case (both in collaboration with WilmerHale and Buffalo attorney Spencer Durland). He has been uniquely successful in holding municipalities liable, under the Supreme Court's *Monell* doctrine, for the unlawful policies and practices of local district attorneys in allowing prosecutors to unconstitutionally withhold favorable evidence ("Brady material") and to engage in other trial-related misconduct, thereby overcoming the bar to recovery for prosecutorial misconduct of absolute immunity. In the Jabbar Collins case, in the course of overturning his client's false conviction for murder and recovering \$13 million in damages in 2013, Mr. Rudin uncovered evidence of systemic misconduct by the long-time Brooklyn District Attorney, Charles Hynes, helped bring about Hynes's electoral defeat, and inspired his successor to implement the Office's trailblazing Conviction Review Unit.

Mr. Rudin briefed and argued in the U.S. Supreme Court a leading federal criminal case limiting the authority of federal magistrate judges, *Gomez v. United States*, 490 U.S. 858 (1989) (<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1988/88-5014>). He has successfully handled numerous other state and federal criminal and civil appeals and collateral attacks on criminal convictions, many of which have involved misconduct by prosecutors. He has written about the failure of the courts and bar to discipline prosecutors and how to seek civil remedies for such misconduct in *The Supreme Court Assumes Errant Prosecutors Will Be Disciplined by Their Offices or the Bar: Three Case Studies that Prove that Assumption Wrong* (http://34.201.193.70/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Rudin_Fordham_L_Rev_article.pdf), 80 Fordham L. Rev. 537 (2011); *Suing for Prosecutorial Misconduct* (http://34.201.193.70/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Rudin_NACDL_article.pdf), The Champion, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2010); and *Reversing the Malcolm X Convictions: How It Happened, How Far We've Come, How Far We Need To Go* (<https://nysba.org/reversing-the-malcolm-x-convictions-how-it-happened-how-far-weve-come-how-far-we-need-to-go/>), New York State Bar Association (2021). He is vice chair of the *Amicus* Committee of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers ("NACDL") and has authored numerous briefs filed in the United States Supreme Court and other appellate courts on behalf of that and other public interest organizations. He lives in New York City with his wife, Naomi, a psychotherapist.

ADMISSIONS & EDUCATION

- New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit



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Ross Firsenbaum has a broad civil litigation and trial practice with an emphasis on bankruptcy, securities and other complex commercial litigation and arbitration. He has represented major investment banks, broker dealers, investment advisors and managers, and other entities and individuals in bankruptcy, district, and state court throughout the country, and has extensive experience in FINRA and other arbitrations.

Mr. Firsenbaum has played a leading role in some of the largest, most prominent bankruptcy-related litigation matters in recent years, including disputed plan confirmation and other highly contested matters, as well as adversary proceedings and other actions. These matters have arisen out of (among other leading bankruptcy related proceedings) the Diamond Sports, Lucky Bucks, Lyondell, Mallinckrodt, Orion, Refco, SPhinX, Sorrento, Suffolk, and Tribune Chapter 11 cases. Among other prominent cases, Mr. Firsenbaum successfully prosecuted, at trial and on appeal, claims for contempt arising out of an acquisition of substantially all of the assets of a leading data fusion company.

Mr. Firsenbaum maintains an active pro bono practice focused on wrongful convictions. In 2025, he secured an \$80 million verdict in a Section 1983 *Monell* action, the largest verdict in U.S. history for an individual seeking damages for a wrongful conviction. Earlier in 2025, he secured a \$28 million jury verdict for a different client. Mr. Firsenbaum's work also includes the representation of the ESPY's Arthur Ashe Award for Courage winner Dewey Bozella, which resulted in his release from prison after serving 26 years for a murder he did not commit, a \$7.5 million eve-of-trial settlement securing Mr. Bozella record-breaking compensation for his wrongful conviction, the exoneration of Jaythan Kendrick, who also served 26 years for a murder he did not commit. Mr. Firsenbaum has represented former US Attorney General Meese, the National Association of Criminal Defense

Lawyers, and other organizations in other wrongful conviction cases before the US Supreme Court, the Second Circuit and the New York Court of Appeals.

Solutions

Bankruptcy and Creditors'
Rights Litigation
Securities Litigation

Commercial Litigation
Sports and Gaming

Litigation
Trials

- Obtained the dismissal of all claims brought by two relators in a *qui tam* action against a leading broker dealer. After successfully removing the action to federal court and moving to dismiss, the relators voluntarily dismissed the complaint.
- Obtained the dismissal of all claims against an investment advisor alleging violations of Section 36(b) of the Investment Company Act for allegedly excessive fees charged to mutual funds. Plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed the case after discovery showed that the investment advisor's investment management fee was reasonable.
- Represented a leading molecular diagnostics company in an international arbitration brought by a competitor alleging breach of contract and tortious interference with a contract, in which the competitor sought both a permanent injunction as well as more than \$60 million in damages. Following a 10-day evidentiary hearing, a three-member panel of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution rejected the competitor's claims and awarded attorneys' fees and costs to the company.

PRO BONO HIGHLIGHTS

- Pro bono representation of Darryl Boyd, one of the “Buffalo Five,” resulting in an \$80 million jury verdict in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York – the largest jury verdict to an individual on a wrongful conviction claim in U.S. history. Mr. Boyd served 27 years in prison and 18 years on parole for a 1976 murder in Buffalo that he did not commit. Ross’ team brought a section 1983 action seeking compensation from Erie County for Mr. Boyd’s wrongful conviction. The team proved that Erie County had unconstitutional Brady disclosure and summation policies, customs, and practices, which caused the violations of Mr. Boyd’s constitutional right to a fair trial during his 1977 criminal trial.
- Pro bono representation of John Walker, one of the “Buffalo Five,” resulting in a \$28 million jury verdict in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York. Mr. Walker served 22 years in prison and 17 years on parole for a 1976 murder in Buffalo that he did not commit. Ross’ team brought a section 1983 action seeking compensation from Erie County for Mr. Walker’s wrongful conviction. The team proved that Erie County had unconstitutional Brady disclosure and summation policies, customs, and practices, which caused the violations of Mr. Walker’s constitutional right to a fair trial during his 1977 criminal trial.
- Pro Bono representation of Dewey R. Bozella resulted in \$7.5 million eve-of-trial settlement in section 1983 action seeking compensation from Dutchess County for his wrongful conviction and 26-year incarceration. Developed a record showing that Dutchess County had an unconstitutional disclosure policy spanning more than three decades that caused the violation of Mr. Bozella's constitutional rights under *Brady v. Maryland* and its progeny. *New York Times*, Jan. 13, 2015, at A-24; Feb. 13, 2015 at A-23.
- Pro Bono representation of Dewey R. Bozella resulted in Mr. Bozella’s release after serving 26 years in New York state prison for a 1977 murder in Poughkeepsie, New York, a crime for which he was wrongfully convicted. Led a team of attorneys during a two-year investigation that uncovered four pieces of favorable evidence, all more than 30 years old, that was never disclosed by the prosecution. On October 14, 2009, state Supreme Court Justice James T. Rooney ruled that Mr. Bozella was wrongfully convicted due to the Dutchess County District Attorney's violation of Mr. Bozella's constitutional rights. *People v. Bozella*, 2009 WL 3364575 (N.Y. Co. Ct. Oct. 14, 2009); NYLJ, Oct. 22, 2009, at 1. On October 28, 2009, Mr. Bozella was released from state custody. *New York Times*, Oct. 29, 2009, at A-21.
- Pro bono representation of Jaythan Kendrick resulted in Mr. Kendrick’s release after serving 25 years in New York state prison for a 1995 murder in Queens, New York, a crime for which he was wrongfully convicted. Persuaded the Queens County Conviction Integrity Unit to file a joint motion to vacate Mr. Kendrick’s conviction based on newly discovered evidence establishing his innocence. When releasing Mr.

Kendrick, the Queens County Supreme Court referred to the work of Mr. Firsenbaum and his team as “a textbook example of how a terrible wrong can be made right.”

- Served as amicus counsel to the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, New York Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Innocence Project, and Innocence Network in support of Appellant in wrongful conviction appeal pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The Second Circuit adopted the analysis of amici, ruling for Appellant and vacating the District Court’s dismissal of the complaint. *Bellamy v. City of New York*, No. 17-0859 (2d Cir. Jan. 29, 2019).
- Representing the Israel Flying Disc Association in civil rights arbitration brought against the European Flying Disc Federation and European Ultimate Federation, arising out of the respondents’ decision to bar the IFDA from participating in an ultimate frisbee tournament.

Recognition

- Selected for inclusion in the 2026 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of commercial litigation.
- Received the 2019 Rising Star Award from the *New York Law Journal* and was recognized as a lawyer who has “wielded influence in his practice areas in New York and beyond.”
- Recipient of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' 2010 Gideon Champion of Justice Award for the pro bono representation of Dewey Bozella, which resulted in Mr. Bozella's release after serving 26 years in prison for a murder for which he was wrongfully convicted
- Named a 2012–2020 New York *Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" in *Metro Edition* magazine

Credentials

EDUCATION

JD, Boston College Law School,
2005

cum laude

BA, Law, Amherst College, 2002

magna cum laude

Recipient, John Woodruff

Simpson Fellowship 2002-2004

ADMISSIONS

New York

Massachusetts

CLERKSHIPS

The Hon. Susan Beck,
Massachusetts Appeals Court,
2005 - 2006