



Eric Wrubel Profiled in *NY Law Journal* as Attorney of the Year Finalist in Professional Excellence Awards

Family Law partner Eric Wrubel was named one of just three finalists for 2017 Attorney of the Year by *The New York Law Journal*, which featured him in a [prominent profile](#) in its October 17 issue. The award covers New York-based lawyers from all practice areas combined.

The NYLJ, in its special Professional Excellence Awards supplement, cites Mr. Wrubel particularly for his role in winning a landmark ruling for same-sex couples that expanded the definition of parent in New York State. Mr. Wrubel and his team, including Warshaw Burstein partner Linda Genero Sklaren, successfully argued before the New York State Court of Appeals in the matter of *Brooke S.B. v. Elizabeth A.C.C.* that one does not have to be an adoptive parent or biologically related to be allowed visitation rights and custody of a child.

Mr. Wrubel took on the case *pro bono* with the full support of his firm. As Frederick Cummings Jr., managing partner of Warshaw Burstein, explained in the NYLJ feature, “When Eric approached me and our management committee about our taking on the case, we thought it was something that the firm should do. It seemed to us that it was time that the law should be corrected and brought up to date to reflect the significant cultural changes that have taken place over the past decade,” adding that “We would do it again because it was the right thing to do. Eric and the firm are totally committed to fairness.”

Mr. Wrubel, who focuses on complex family and matrimonial matters, says in his NYLJ profile that he was attracted to family law because “You have a direct impact on people. It's not a corporation, it's not something ephemeral. You're meeting with clients and you're handling something and you see the direct impact of what you're doing.”

He describes family law as not just one law but, instead, “a lot of different disciplines. You have to learn a little bit of trust and estates, you have to know tax, you have to know some corporate and you have to know a lot about child development, so you read up a lot on this and you learn

a lot. But what's also nice is it's always different. You're always dealing with people with different professions and families.... You get a lot of variety so it helps in terms of expanding your mind and learning how to see the world in ways that just don't fit into your normal vision."

He has dedicated much of practice to defining, expanding and protecting LGBTQ Marital and Familial Rights. He recently served as chair of the New York State Bar Association Committee on LGBT People and the Law and currently co-chairs the NYSBA's Family Law Section Marriage Equality Committee.

Mr. Wrubel and his team won another milestone case recently for same-sex couples, after his NYLJ article was completed, when a New York Appellate Court recognized that the "presumption of legitimacy" applies to a child born into a same-sex marriage. As a result, same-sex married couples are moving closer to being on equal footing with their heterosexual counterparts in the eyes of law in New York because the presumption of legitimacy now applies to same-sex couples.

Warshaw Burstein represents clients in the New York metropolitan area, across the United States and around the world.

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