

## UNSUNG HEROES

### CULTURE OF COLLABORATION IS KEY, ERIK CORLETT OF PASHMAN STEIN SAYS

**E**rik Corlett of Pashman Stein Walder Hayden has received a Law Journal Unsung Heroes honor.

*The below responses were provided by Corlett and edited lightly for style.*

**Law practice is often a team endeavor. What has been your experience with teamwork in the law?**

Working as a team is essential in every case, big and small. Having a sounding board for strategic decisions helps to flesh out strengths and weaknesses that you might not have considered or anticipated, and is essential to providing sound advice in any situation. I am fortunate to work with great colleagues in a culture where collaboration and teamwork are highly valued.

**What can professional groups, legal publications and others do to better shed light on lawyers and law practices doing important work that's under the radar?**

Keep organizing great events like the Professional Excellence Awards. I look forward to seeing who the nominees and honorees are each year and reading about the work they are doing.

**What must firms do to ensure that lawyers remain engaged with pro bono work, their communities and their families?**

Firms seem to have done a good job transitioning abruptly to a remote work environment, but maintaining the collegial environment and connections of a physical office space and promoting pro bono and community engagement appear especially challenging due to the pandemic. I believe the transition to remote work will ultimately help foster more family and community engagement with more flexible work hours. Firms that have had a good experience with remote work should continue to promote and allow remote work when the pandemic passes, even when people are allowed to return to the office. As far as pro bono work, I believe firms have to lead by example and encourage lawyers to take on pro bono work, as our firm has done in adopting pro bono policies and creating the Justice Gary S. Stein Public Interest Center.

**How are the business and profession of law changing, and are New Jersey lawyers well-positioned for the future?**



The profession of law has seen dramatic change over the last three months with the transition to remote work. The New Jersey bar and judiciary have adapted well, but balancing health concerns with existing physical office and courthouse setups certainly poses ongoing challenges for in person proceedings, especially depositions and jury trials. While New Jersey lawyers have successfully embraced video conferencing technology, with lawyers at our firm participating in a complete bench trial by Zoom, the technology does have its limitations. The pandemic will force a solution, which will position us better for the future. ■