

# Pathways to Leadership

## From a Meet & Great Attendee to a Leadership Role: Women in Law Section Secretary Erica Youngerman

By Kim Wolf Price

*Erica Youngerman is an associate at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, where she helps clients as they navigate today's complex health law and health care business transactions landscape. She advises a wide range of health care entities, including physician and other provider practices, hospitals and other health systems, pharmacies and hospice and home care companies, and other participants in the health care industry, including private equity backed management services organizations. Erica advises clients from the beginning to the end of health care transactions and on more pure regulatory analyses. She is active in professional and public service communities. She also serves as a mentor for aspiring attorneys and other young professionals at Katten, as well as at Emory, where she obtained her undergraduate degree, and Brooklyn Law, where she received her J.D. degree. WILS Section Chair Kim Wolf Price recently sat down with Erica to discuss Erica's involvement in the Women in Law Section.*



Kim Wolf Price

Ask any member of the Women in Law Section Executive Committee why bar associations matter and they will respond with an answer about building networks, camaraderie, and support. Those who are more experienced will also talk about the importance of developing the next generation of leaders. Erica Youngerman is part of that next generation. I asked Erica to speak with me about the how and the why of her involvement with the NYSBA Women in Law Section.

**Q: Please share some background information about yourself, your legal practice and community engagement.**

A: I graduated from Emory University in 2008 and Brooklyn Law School in 2011. Professionally, I am a senior associate in the health care department of the New York City office of Katten Muchin Rosenman, where I work on a variety of transactions in the health care space and advise clients regarding regulatory compliance.

I enjoy serving as a mentor, which I do at Katten, Emory and Brooklyn Law. I also informally advise a number of undergraduate and law students. For the New York State Bar Association's Women in Law Section, I am a member of the Executive Committee and an officer, serving as Secretary of the Section. I also am the chair of the 2023 Women on the Move program and a member of the Programming Committee, which offers me more opportunities to tap into my longtime desire to give back and to help others.



Erica S. Youngerman

Giving back is an important part of my life. Outside of the legal space, I also volunteer for several community organizations, including as the president of the Emory University Alumni Association's New York chapter, as a member of the Board of Directors for Barrier Free Living, and as part of the Volunteer Engagement Committee for the New York City chapter of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Further, I am the national director of standards and a lead chapter advisor for Alpha Epsilon Phi National Sorority, and a team captain for a Cycle for Survival team, where I fundraise to support research for rare forms of cancer.

**Q: What prompted you to first attend a WILS event and what event was it?**

A: My first event with WILS was a virtual meet and greet in spring 2021 where I had the pleasure of meeting many WILS leaders and members. Everyone was incredibly welcoming to me, even as a first-time WILS participant. I decided to sign up for that event as I greatly enjoy meeting new people and was excited about the opportunity to network with other female attorneys practicing in New York.

**Q: Were there certain things about WILS that prompted you to join the section?**

A: Since the time of my introduction to WILS, it has been evident to me that this Section is made up of a diverse group

of women who are interested in supporting each other personally and professionally. I thoroughly enjoy working with and befriending so many incredible women with various specialties and career paths.

**Q: And how did you first get involved?**

A: During the virtual meet and greet, I indicated that I would be interested in supporting WILS. The section's leadership was proactive in following up and offering opportunities for me to volunteer. My first tasks were to review and edit program materials for the Annual Meeting and to review submissions for the section's magazine, *WILS Connect*. I enjoyed working on these projects with other WILS members and supporting these important WILS initiatives. I am grateful that the WILS leadership continued to reach out to solicit my feedback and determine where else I could assist. My interest in working on WILS events aligned with the section's needs, and I was able to join the Programming Committee, where I had the opportunity to help plan various events and to moderate a panel for last year's Women on the Move program. I am excited to continue my involvement with WILS by taking on the role of the Section's Secretary and chairing this year's Women on the Move event on October 18. Working with the collaborative, supportive, and welcoming team at WILS has been a great experience; everyone has been open to and excited about new members and ideas.

**Q: What is the value of bar association work to attorneys like you as they are building their careers?**

A: Bar association work is an incredible opportunity to network with other attorneys, learn from those with additional or different experiences, give back to the legal community and mentor others, contribute to important initiatives, and participate in informative programming.

**Q: You have plenty to do in your legal work and other volunteer activities—why did you say yes when I first talked to you about taking on an officer role in WILS? (And by the way, thank you!)**

A: I greatly enjoy volunteering for various community organizations where I have the opportunity to give back while also building my personal and professional networks. I am honored and excited to take on this officer role and in it, to contribute to the mission of WILS and support my fellow section leaders in their work.

**Q: Would you encourage junior attorneys to get involved? Any advice on taking that first step?**

A: Absolutely. I would encourage attorneys of all ages and experience levels to consider becoming involved, in whatever way is comfortable and meaningful to them; whether by at-

tending an event, volunteering on a committee, or offering to support a specific program or initiative.

**Q: And, since this is our health issue of *WILS Connect*, do you have any health activities or tips—physical/mental/well-being/financial, etc.—that you rely on?**

A: Truly prioritize your well-being and utilize the resources available to you from your employers, bar associations and communities. I am fortunate to be at a firm that truly prioritizes well-being in all areas. Katten offers remote flexibility, mentorship and training, and a "Well-Being 360" program with various resources made available to help us take a break from the rigors of the industry. Katten also offers an annual well-being stipend and various other initiatives focused on prioritizing all areas of health.

**Kim Wolf Price** is the current chair of NYSBA's Women in Law Section and a member of the Executive Committee of WILS. She is also a member of NYSBA's Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a former chair of the Lawyers in Transition Committee. Wolf Price is the chief strategy & diversity officer at Bond Schoeneck & King.