

CIRRICULUM VITAE
LEE S.MICHAELS

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION

President and founder of Michaels & Smolak, P.C., 17 East Genesee Street, Suite 401, Auburn, New York 13021. Telephone: [315] 253-3293. Fax: [315] 252-6970.

SECONDARY ACADEMIC OCCUPTATION

Adjunct Professor of Law, teaching a three credit hour spring semester course in Trial Practice to second and third year law students, 1990 to date, at Syracuse University College of Law, Dineen Hall, 950 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13244-6070. As of the August 2019, teaching a two credit hour fall semester course in Deposition Practice.

AREA OF PRACTICE

Lee S. Michaels and his firm devote over 95 percent of their practice to the representation of plaintiffs and potential plaintiffs in all forms of personal injury, wrongful death and professional liability lawsuits and claims. It is a regional law firm, handling claims, trials, and appeals in numerous rural and urban counties and in several Federal Courts.

The roots of this firm in Cayuga County go back over 85 years. Lee's father, George Michaels, began practicing law in Weedsport in the early 1930's and was a member of the Cayuga County Bar Association until his death in 1992. With the exception of the World War II years, George and/or Lee Michaels have been practicing in Cayuga County for nearly eight decades.

Currently, he devotes the majority of his work to the representation of plaintiffs in legal malpractice cases throughout Upstate New York.

COURT ADMISSIONS

Admitted to all courts in the State of New York, the Federal District Courts for the Western and Northern District of New York, the United State Circuit Court for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

EDUCATION

East High School, Auburn, New York. 1958

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962.

Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York. Bachelor of Laws (later converted to a Juris Doctor) degree, Magna Cum Laude, in 1967. Honors received: Order of the Coif; Justinian Honor Society; Phi Kappa Phi National Honorary Society. Activities: Clerk of the Moot Court Board; Editor of the Syracuse Law Review.

MILITARY SERVICE

Commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserve upon graduation from Cornell University in 1962. Served 2 years of active duty as a gunnery and deck officer on destroyers in the United States Pacific Fleet. Participated in limited off shore naval operations in Viet Nam while on the USS Southerland DDR-743. Released from active duty with the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade in 1964. Later promoted to Lieutenant.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Congregation B'nai Israel President, 1982-1984. Chairman of Search Committee, 1995. Israel Bond Spokesman on numerous occasions. Hospice of the Finger Lakes. Director, 1993-2000. Coach Bob Dean Leadership Scholarship Committee, 1997 - present. Great Race Committee, 1977 - present. United Way of Cayuga County. Director. Campaign Director, 1978. President, 1979-1981. Investment Committee, 1986-1987. New York State United Way. Director, 1983-1985. Advisory Council for the Cayuga County Unit of the Alzheimer's Association of Central New York, 1994. Cayuga County SPCA. Director, mid-1970's.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Cayuga County Bar Association; past member of Onondaga County Bar Association; New York State Bar Association; New York State Trial Lawyers' Association; American Association for Justice; New York Academy of Trial Lawyers; American Bar Association.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND OFFICES

Upstate Trial Attorneys' Association, Secretary, 1983-1986; President, 1986-1988. Cayuga County Bar Association President, 1992-1993. New York State Trial Lawyers' Association, Director, 1983-about 2008; Court of Appeals Merit Selection Panel, 1985. Upstate Trial Attorneys' Association Judicial Screening Panel. Genesee Valley Trial Lawyers' Association Judicial Screening Panel. United States District Court, Northern District of New York, Bankruptcy Judge Selection Panel, 1986. Best Lawyers in America, 1985-present. AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell for approximately 35 years. Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Super Lawyers. Honors Award Recipient, Syracuse University College of Law, 2017.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Continuing Legal Education lecturer and author for several organizations, including the New York State Bar Association and New York State Trial Lawyers' Association, on Handling Automobile Cases, Intake and Preparation of Plaintiff's Cases, Discovery, New York Labor Law Liability, Municipal Liability, Damages, Direct and Cross Examination, and Jury Selection. Editor, Bill of Particulars, New York State Trial Lawyers' Association, 1988-1990, Contributing Editor, The Trial Lawyers' Quarterly, 1990-1994. LAW PAC (Lawyers' Political Action Committee), Trustee, 1987-1996; Vice-Chairman, 1989-1995. National Panel of Arbitrators, American Arbitration Association. Member, 7th Judicial District Task Force on Reducing Litigation Costs and Delay, 1997 - 1998.

SCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

Adjunct Professor of Trial Practice, Syracuse University College of Law, 1990-present. Nominated in 1994-1997 for the Roscoe Pound Foundation Award for excellence in teaching trial practice, finalist 1997. Syracuse University Law College Association;

Executive Secretary, 1988-1991; Treasurer, 1991-1996, President, 1996-2002. Board of Visitors, Syracuse University College of Law, 1989-2002; Vice-Chairman, 1999-2002. National Alumni Fund Raising Chairman, Syracuse University College of Law, 1989-1991. Committee member, Campaign for Excellence, Syracuse University College of Law, 2000. Guest Lecturer on Forensic Economics, Hobart-William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, 1994-1995. Frequent evaluator at Grossman Mock Trial Competition, Syracuse University College of Law, 1991-present. Periodic evaluator at MacKenzie, Smith, Lewis, Michel & Hughes (Now Mackenzie Hughes) Moot Court Competition, Syracuse University College of Law, 1991- 2015. Evaluator and Hancock Estabrook first year moot court competition, 2015-present. Guest Coach of American Trial Lawyers Association (Now AAJ) Trial Team, Syracuse University College of Law, 1994 - present. Guest Coach of National Trial Team, Syracuse University College of Law, 1991- present. Co-Author Torts, Syracuse Law Review, Annual Survey of New York Law, 1994-1995.

CERTIFICATIONS

Diplomate in Trial Law, National Board of Trial Advocacy; Certified, 1984; Re-Certified, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014. Diplomate in Civil Practice, National Board of Civil Pretrial Practice Advocacy, Certified, 2012.

Revised: June 5, 2019