

Elizabeth A. Bryson

Director, National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

c/o New York Women's Bar Association (Past President)

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Elizabeth Bryson has had a distinguished career as a litigator, appellate attorney, and corporate executive. For eight years, she served as Corporate Vice President of the New York Life Insurance Company, where she managed enterprise-wide programs on business contingency planning (including crisis management during 9/11 and other events), as well as overseeing the company's implementation of federal and state privacy laws. She previously served as Assistant General Counsel and then Associate General Counsel in New York Life's Office of General Counsel, where she managed complex litigation across the United States. Among other matters, she personally briefed, argued, and won a precedent setting case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on the status of the Company's agents as independent contractors.

Before moving in-house, she was in private practice on Wall Street and in midtown Manhattan, where she managed litigation and conducted trials and appeals on behalf of a diverse civil and commercial clientele. Ms. Bryson began her legal career as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, representing New York City and its executives and agencies in cases involving civil rights, election law, and employment, among other topics, and conducted trials and appeals in state and federal courts. Among other cases, she successfully defended Mayor Ed Koch against an attempted recall in cases before the New York State courts and in a federal case before a three-judge panel under the Voting Rights Act. Prior to becoming an attorney, she was an Intelligence Analyst with the U.S. Department of Justice, serving in Washington, D.C. and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Ms. Bryson received her B.A. from the University of Washington and her law degree from Fordham University School of Law. She has been admitted to practice in the State of New York; the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the District of Connecticut; the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the First, Second, Third and Ninth Circuits; and the U.S. Supreme Court. She is also an author and lecturer. She has taught negotiation skills and has lectured widely on technology and the law, civil rights, crisis management and contingency planning, among other topics. Ms. Bryson has been a frequent speaker on privacy law, including at the National Forum on Financial Privacy, the Insurance Industry Privacy Summit, and the annual conference of the National Association of Women Judges.

She also has a long history of public service. The Honorable Judith S. Kaye, then Chief Judge of the State of New York, appointed Ms. Bryson to the *New York Commission on Public Access to Court Records*, which provided guidance to the courts on the challenges of balancing public access and privacy concerns in the electronic filing of court papers. She was later appointed by Chief Judge Kaye to the *Special Commission on the Future of the New York State Courts*, which comprehensively reviewed and made recommendations concerning the workings of court system, including with respect to training and support for judges across the state. She has also been involved in numerous charities.

Ms. Bryson currently serves as a Director on the Board of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations and has been a member of numerous other state and national bar associations. She is a two-time President and current Director of the New York Women's Bar Association (NYWBA), and a past officer and current Director of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York (WBASNY). She is Co-Chair of WBASNY's Amicus Curiae Committee, and in that capacity has had the opportunity to review and draft briefs on same sex marriage and numerous other important topics before the U.S. Supreme Court, federal circuit courts, and state appellate courts. She is honored to have been the recipient of awards from the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Association of Women Judges, NYWBA (Special Recognition Award), and WBASNY (Marilyn Menge Award), among others.