



Eve-Lynn Gisonni has dedicated her entire legal career to the representation of policyholders facing diverse and technical coverage issues. She has represented individuals and corporate policyholders in coverage actions across a wide array of lines of insurance including property insurance, builder's risk insurance, cyber insurance, life insurance, and private disability insurance. Eve-Lynn's extensive background in championing the rights of policyholders under insurance contracts on a national platform makes her a valuable member of the SDV team.

Resident of the firm's Northeast office, Eve-Lynn's experience in forging paths to the best possible outcome for clients epitomizes SDV's client-centric philosophy. She is seasoned in all aspects of federal and state litigation and trial practice, and court decisions in her cases continue to be relied on as insurance law precedent. Eve-Lynn has made inroads in the insurance law field by applying cutting-edge arguments to novel issues of insurance contract interpretation. She successfully argued before the New York Court of Appeals in the landmark case of *Benesowitz v. MetLife* regarding the proper interpretation of New York's pre-existing condition clause. Her victory also resulted in the New York Superintendent of Insurance ordering all group disability carriers to modify how they conduct business, reopen claims, and pay insureds suffering from pre-existing conditions.

Representative cases that exemplify Eve-Lynn's advocacy on behalf of clients include:

- Successfully resolved declaratory judgment action against excess liability insurer for nearly 100% of policy limits.
- Resolution of Civil Rico litigation against Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company.
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of policyholder of several disability insurance policies regarding the issue of total disability against First Unum Life Insurance Company and MetLife.
- Defeated insurer's attempt to rescind life insurance policy and settled death claim.

Eve-Lynn is a prolific writer and continues to look for ways to squash insurance company bad faith tactics. She enjoys fresh-water fishing and spending time outdoors with her family in her spare time.

## ADMISSIONS

- Connecticut
- New York
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

## EDUCATION

- Touro College – Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Juris Doctor, *cum laude*

## PARAPROFESSIONALS

**Rebecca Tenore | ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**  
RTENORE@SDVLAW.COM  
203.287.2113

**Lynn Mitel | PARALEGAL**  
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## PUBLICATIONS

- The Importance of Clearly Stated Life Insurance Beneficiary Designations
- Life Insurance Contestability Clauses and Post-Claim Underwriting: A Beneficiary's Pitfall

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association
- Connecticut Bar Association
- Fairfield County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association
- NYS Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Professional Women in Construction, New York Chapter
- RIMS Connecticut Valley Chapter
- Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow
  - Advocate, Order of Certus
  - Member, Trial Law Institute

- Hiring a Disability Insurance Attorney Before Choosing Your Policy
- Five Actions Construction and Energy Risk Managers Can Take to Avoid the Catastrophic Consequences of a Cyber Attack
- Ninth Circuit Decides in Favor of Life Insurance Beneficiary in DUI Accidental Death Claim

#### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Perrin Conferences – Sexual Abuse Litigation & Coverage Conference
- Financial Planning Association (FPA) Annual Conference
- Professional Women in Construction (PWC) Event
- ABC CT Smart Start

- Member, Diversity Law Institute
- Westchester County Bar Association

#### REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Benesowitz v. MetLife, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 64269 (E.D.N.Y. 2009)
- Benesowitz v. MetLife, 8 N.Y.3d 661 (N.Y. 2007)
- Benesowitz v. MetLife, 514 F.3d 174 (2d Cir. 2007)
- Prudential Ins. Co. of Am. v. Dukoff, 674 F. Supp.2d 401 (E.D.N.Y. 2009)
- Kolb v. The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company, 2002 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24982, (E.D. Ark., West. Div. 2002) aff'd 355 F.3d 1132 (8th Cir. 2004)
- Connors v. Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, 2003 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 6250 (S.D.N.Y. 2003)
- Mossa v. Provident Life & Casualty Ins. Co., 36 F. Supp.2d 524 (E.D.N.Y. 1999)