

2021 PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

▶▶▶ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

JOHN KENNEY

PARTNER, HOGUET NEWMAN REGAL & KENNEY

For over half a century, John Kenney has excelled as a litigator, including trying complicated criminal and civil fraud matters. He continues to do so.

Both his attention to detail and ability to shape the narrative for his clients' benefit are equaled by few and excelled by none. I have worked closely with John on trials, appeals and investigations. Each experience was a master class in litigation.

His sterling decade-long federal prosecutorial career ended with the affirming on appeal the convictions he had gained of Franklin National Bank's major shareholder, chairman, president and others in two long jury trials. Franklin had been the largest bank failure in U.S. history. These cases had novel international discovery issues, now more common. They were not without drama. One defendant had arranged for the murder of a witness in Italy and had taken out a contract on John's life, believing that in his case prosecutors were not fungible.

John joined the litigation powerhouse of Simpson Thatcher where he spent a considerable portion of his career. There he ably represented corporations and individuals in trials, grand jury and administrative investigations and the occasional Congressional committee witch hunt. Unusually he assisted in the successful defense of an American in an Italian trial for tax fraud. He actively participated in pro bono representations, most notably death penalty matters. For 20 years, he and his colleagues vigorously, and ultimately successfully, pursued relief for an inmate client.



John continued to practice after he retired from Simpson, eventually joining the renowned litigation boutique of Hoguet Newman where he became a named partner. He has continued to defend clients at criminal trials and on appeal.

John, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, has never passed a bar association that he did not join and eventually lead. He was president of both the New York County Lawyers' Association and the Federal Bar Council. Somehow, he found the time and energy to be the president of The Poetry Foundation in Chicago and on the board at Bennington College.

For over a half-century, John has illuminated the white-collar bar with his dedication, skill and joy in his work. He is a worthy recipient of this Lifetime Achievement award.

Charles M. Carberry is a former Second Circuit law clerk, Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Section in the SDNY U.S. Attorney's Office, and partner at Jones Day.