

Risa M. Mish

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Experienced professor and global keynote speaker focused on critical and strategic thinking, leadership, and influence: using 30+ years' experience as a litigator, I help MBA and Executive MBA students, corporate and non-profit clients hone critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership skills so that they are able to **influence with positive impact** – no matter how complex the challenges that they, their teams and/or their organizations are facing.

Education

Cornell Law School, Ithaca, NY – Juris Doctor (JD) With Honors; Note Editor, *Cornell International Law Journal*
 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY – Bachelor of Science With Distinction in All Subjects; Merrill Presidential Scholar

Teaching Experience

CORNELL UNIVERSITY, S.C. JOHNSON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT (6/07-present)
Professor of the Practice of Management

- Created and teach the MBA, EMBA, and EMBA Core “Critical and Strategic Thinking” course and MBA “Advanced Critical Thinking” elective
- Created and taught the Cornell-Tsinghua FMBA Core course in Critical and Strategic Thinking
- Created and taught EMBA “Building Leadership Influence” elective course
- Created and taught “Johnson Team Leadership Practicum” course to 1st year MBA students (2008-17)
- Created and taught “Johnson Leadership Fellows” course (2009-2017)
- Developed eCornell courses in “Problem-Solving Using Critical Thinking”, “Motivating People for High Performance”, and “Growth Leadership for Women Entrepreneurs”
- Teach Executive Education sessions on Critical Thinking, Persuasion and Influence, and Leadership for companies/executives in a wide variety of industries, including financial services, consumer packaged goods, technology, professional services, pharmaceuticals, fashion, hospitality, and health care
- Founding Faculty Director, Johnson Leadership Fellows and Johnson Board Fellows Programs

- **Teaching Honors and Awards:**

- Cornell University Provost’s Award for Graduate and Professional Teaching Excellence (2020)
- MBA Apple Award for Teaching Excellence (2009, 2017)
- MBA Core Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2017, 2019, 2024)
- Accelerated MBA Core Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (2020)
- Executive MBA Globe Award for Teaching Excellence (2014, 2017, 2023, 2025)
- Executive MBA of The Americas Star Award for Excellence in Teaching (2020)
- Cornell-Tsinghua FMBA Program Best Teacher Award (2018) and Gravitas Award (2024)
- Stephen Russell’61 Distinguished Teaching Award (2013, 2019, 2022, 2024)
- Earl Hill, Jr. Faculty Achievement & Diversity Leadership Award, Consortium GSM (2024)
- eCornell Trailblazer Award (2018)
- Teaching Honor Roll (4.5+/5 instructor course evaluations) (2007-present)

- **Faculty Service:**

- Faculty Advisor, Access Johnson (2023-present)
- Faculty Advisor, Black Graduate Business Association (2008-present)
- Faculty Advisor, Human Capital Association (2008-present)
- Faculty Advisor, Out for Business (2008-present)
- Faculty Advisor, Women’s Management Council (2021-present)
- Johnson Academic Integrity Committee (Member, 2020-22; Chair, 2023-present)
- Cornell Faculty Senate, Nominations and Elections Committee (2023-26)
- Cornell University – Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellows Selection Committee (2022-24)
- Faculty Liaison, Cornell University Council Administrative Board (2014-17)

- Johnson MBA Program Committee (2015-18)

Litigation and Management Experience

Represented companies and non-profit organizations in the financial services, consumer products, health care, and media industries on labor and employment litigation matters in federal and state court; adjudication of complaints filed with federal and state administrative agencies; arbitration of claims arising under union collective bargaining agreements; negotiation of settlement agreements and collective bargaining agreements; drafting of contracts and employment policies; and ongoing legal advice needs.

As a partner in a labor and employment law firm, developed significant new business; oversaw client engagements; recruited, trained, and supervised associates; and created and grew a management training practice focused on helping clients minimize legal risks related to employee, union, and independent contractor issues.

- Bar Admissions: U.S. Supreme Court; New York, 1st Appellate Division; Massachusetts
- Federal Clerkship: Law Clerk to the Hon. Martin L.C. Feldman, U.S. District Court, New Orleans, LA (1988-89)
- SIMPSON THACHER, New York City, 1989-92, Associate
- COLLAZO CARLING & MISH LLP, New York City, 1992-2001, Partner/Hiring Partner
- RISA M. MISH, ESQ, Ithaca, NY, 2001-2018, Principal

Board Service

- SMITHBUCKLIN CORPORATION, Chicago, IL – Director (2013-present); Nominating and Governance and Compensation Committees
- THERACARE CORPORATION, New York, NY – Director (2014-2020)
- TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, Ithaca, NY - Trustee (2015-17)
- UNITED WAY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY, Ithaca, NY – Board of Directors (2014-17)
- COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF TOMPKINS COUNTY, Ithaca, NY – Director, Vice-Chair (2010-13)
- KITCHEN THEATRE, Ithaca, NY – Board of Directors (2009-14)

Professional Associations

- AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION – Member (1989-Present); Judicial Intern Opportunity Program interviewer (2016-present)
- PRIVATE DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION – Member (2021 – Present)

Publications

- “Better Board Decisions: The Power of Critical Thinking”, *BoardForward*, 11/2013
- *Regarded as Disabled Claims Under the Americans with Disabilities Act*”, 1 University of Pennsylvania Journal of Labor and Employment Law 159
- Contributing Editor, *An Employee’s Duty of Loyalty, a State-by-State Survey* (BNA)
- Contributing Editor, *Covenants Not to Compete, a State-by-State Survey* (BNA)