

David Flugman Named to Crain's New York's "40 Under 40"

03/22/21



(Excerpts from this piece were originally published in Crain's)

The pandemic has posed myriad challenges for the city and the state, but the enterprising young New Yorkers named to [Crain's New York Business 40 Under 40 list](#) are ensuring that the Big Apple not only recovers but thrives.

Lawyer David Flugman has litigated his share of headliner cases—negotiating a groundbreaking settlement in a lawsuit against Bernie Madoff, winning changes to the “Dickensian” treatment of psychiatric patients at Kings County Medical Center and achieving affirmation of a New Jersey statute outlawing conversion therapy for minors.

A concert pianist, opera lover and onetime member of Yale University’s a cappella group, he originally thought he might practice entertainment law. But in the end, litigation and its problem-solving excited him more.

“The joy for me of litigation is you never know what’s coming next,” Flugman said.

After a dozen years at Kirkland & Ellis, where he became a partner at age 31, he joined majority women-owned Selendy & Gay three years ago to build out its litigation practice. One attraction was a commitment to breaking the traditional mode of thinking at law firms.

“From the inception [of a case], we think about the themes, the storytelling in front of a judge or jury,” he said. “Then we work backward to understand not just a case but industries and where market forces are going.”

“We are poised to explode,” Flugman said of his firm. “We have a group of people committed to getting at systemic causes and building us into a model for how business can achieve those objectives.”

Attorney

- David S. Flugman