



# New York Law Journal

OCTOBER 2022

**RISING STAR: LENA KONANOVA**

**SELENDY GAY ELSBERG**

**PRACTICE PROFILE:** Lena Konanova's practice spans complex commercial litigation, arbitrations, and appeals involving securities, contracts, fraud, antitrust, insurance, financial instruments and Constitutional law claims.

**LEADERSHIP, PRO BONO AND CIVIC WORK:**

Lena's passion for justice, sparked as a child fleeing religious persecution in Ukraine, undergirds her extensive public interest work. Recent achievements include helping public servants obtain federally promised loan forgiveness, and successfully advocating to recognize a federal right to a minimum education and access to literacy. Lena has made strides for renewable energy companies contracting to sell power to their local utilities at fair rates, and her work has brought accountability for those responsible for the mortgage crisis that precipitated the Great Recession.

Lena was instrumental in creating, implementing, and now leading the firm's award-winning recruiting and training program, which features intensive training, largely by partners themselves, in key areas such as trial skills, communication and case management, and business development. The program was also designed to remove longstanding obstacles that have suppressed women and minority advancement, promotion, and visibility.

**PRIOR EXPERIENCE:** Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, partner, 2018; associate, 2013-2017  
Cravath, Swaine & Moore, associate, 2010-2013



Lena Konanova.

Courtesy photo

American Civil Liberties Union, litigation fellow, Racial Justice Program, 2009-2010

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, law clerk to Hon. Kim McLane Wardlaw, 2008-2009

**EDUCATION:** Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude, 2008; articles co-chair of the Harvard Law Review; first place and best brief winner in the Ames Moot Court Competition

**WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG LAWYERS?**

As a law clerk for a federal judge, I found myself asking: Can I trust the lawyers' arguments? Are they forthright in matters small and big? You must be hard-working, creative and collaborative, but the mark of long-lasting excellence is credibility, which will earn you the respect of your client, the judiciary and your opposing counsel along the way.