



## 2022 Walks of Life Honoree

### M. Colette Gibbons

With more than 40 years of legal experience focusing on commercial and bankruptcy law, Colette Gibbons is considered an expert in her field, using her legal knowledge to help clients navigate the financial complexities of their lives.

Colette grew up in Canton and attended John Carroll University, where she graduated cum laude in 1973. Three years later, she received her law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. In 2021, Colette was inducted into the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Hall of Fame.

In 1976, she joined the Cleveland law firm of Hertz, Kates, Friedman & Kammer. At the time, interest rates were approaching 20%, causing many individuals and companies to file for bankruptcy when they were unable to pay bills. The law firm asked Colette to handle many of these cases. That's when she began to learn the intricacies of insolvency and bankruptcy law.

Colette joined the Kahn Kleinman law firm in Cleveland in 1983 and was named a partner in 1987. In 2002, she became a partner and Cleveland Office Managing Partner for the Columbus law firm of Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn, which combined with Ice Miller LLP in 2012. Colette continued as the managing partner of the Cleveland office of Ice Miller through 2017.

In 2018, Colette joined McDonald Hopkins, where she now serves as a lawyer and fiduciary in bankruptcy and receivership cases. She has been appointed by The United States Trustee Program as a Subchapter V Trustee.

Throughout her highly accomplished career, Colette has received numerous recognitions for her expertise including being admitted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy where she recently completed a five-year term as a member of the Foundation of the American College of Bankruptcy. She has also been named one of the Top 100 Super Lawyers in Ohio (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016) and has been included in Chambers USA America's Leading Lawyers for Business-Bankruptcy/Restructuring.

Colette has also devoted herself to community service. A long-time board member and past president of the board of the West Side Catholic Center, Colette has also served on the board of Seeds of Literacy. For her alma mater, John Carroll University, she has participated on the National Steering Committee and Alumni Board of Trustees and currently works with the Cleveland-Marshall Leadership and Law Program and its law students.

Colette and her husband of 32 years, Harlan Hertz, a retired lawyer, make their home in Westlake. Together, Colette and Harlan have 4 sons -- David, Lee, Andrew and Brian -- and 9 delightful grandchildren -- Sam, Madeline, Alyssa, Joshua, Alex, Erin, Anne Colette, Greta, and Molly.

2022 Walks of Life Awards of the Irish Archives Society of Cleveland, OH