

CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS

May 09, 2018 09:07 AM

KATHRYN BELFANCE

Principal, Roderick Linton Belfance



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Kathryn Belfance is no stranger to firsts. At the University of Akron School of Law, she was among the first female associate editors on the Law Review. After graduation in 1977, she was one of the first women in Northeast Ohio to specialize in complex bankruptcy laws. In 1978, Belfance became the first female bankruptcy trustee to administer cases in the Northern District of Ohio. Thirty years later, she joined Akron-based Roderick Linton – which then became Roderick Linton Belfance – and was the first woman to serve on the firm's executive committee and its first female managing partner. Today, a nationally recognized authority on bankruptcy and domestic relations law, Belfance makes a point to inspire a new generation. "From her mentoring young lawyers and being an advocate for women attorneys, Kay gives back to her profession and community with wisdom, understanding and compassion," Timothy J. Truby, a partner at Roderick Linton Belfance, wrote in the nomination.

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