# **GARY GASSMAN**

Co-Chair, Professional Liability Practice Group, Cozen O'Connor

Recently recognized as a notable Gen X leader in law, Gassman offers his insights into professional lines, trends, and characteristics that should define today's legal professionals.

—By Eric Gilkey, Executive Editor

### WHAT'S HOT IN D&O

In the public company D&O world, Gassman says he is seeing more highvalue derivative actions; large ninefigure settlements; imposition of fines and penalties; increased shareholder appraisal and merger and acquisition actions; and more litigated coverage disputes. In the private sector, he's seeing SEC and regulatory reviews of private companies; matters involving false claims; antitrust and professional services issues and exclusions; as well as matters implicating contract exclusions and bankruptcy-related issues.

"It means doing whatever I can to ensure that service, civility, and respectability are reignited in our next generation of leaders and continue to play a significant role in our profession." Gassman, on what being a

leader means to him.

#### HOOKED ON COVERAGE

Soon after graduating law school, Gassman took a job with a small law firm where he tried his first case within a week of starting. Much of his



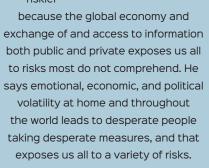
work over the next few years involved insurance defense, and when a carrier asked for a couple of coverage opinions with respect to an E&O claim, he was hooked. He cut back on litigation and educated himself on D&O and other professional lines to focus on being a coverage attorney.

## "From the moment you enter a room or conversation, observation is your greatest ally. Strive to be your personal, authentic best at all times and in everything you do."

Gassman, on advice he would give to millennials and other Gen X lawyers like himself.

#### **RISKY BUSINESS**

Gassman says he thinks the world is becoming riskier



"In light of what's happening right now, I will not be surprised if we see other major pharmaceuticalrelated claims come to a head in the near future."

keeping an eye on.



"I am a major dog lover, and my partner and I currently have three. I love singing and enjoy karaoke with family and friends, and I am passionate about my pro bono work with the LGBTQ community."

Gassman, on life when the suit comes off.