



# SSRGA Launches Fertility Law Practice with Partner, Alexis L. Cirel

NYC-based firm welcomes distinguished attorneys with expertise in surrogacy, assisted reproduction, LGBTQ+ family law, and matrimonial matters

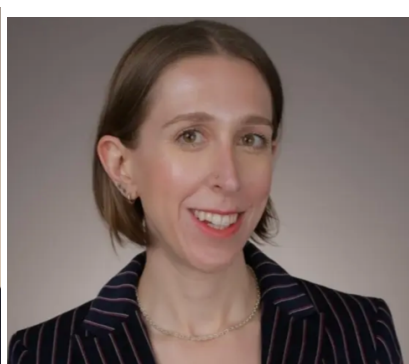
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Alexis L. Cirel



Eric I. Wrubel



Rose H. Vacanti Gilroy

On their 10th anniversary, **Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP (SSRGA)** announces the launch of its new **Fertility Law** practice, spearheaded by the return of former partner **Alexis L. Cirel**, who will chair the specialty practice, and the addition of **Eric I. Wrubel** and **Rose H. Vacanti Gilroy**. All three attorneys will also join the firm's elite Matrimonial and Family Law group.

The newly formed Fertility Law practice will offer cutting-edge legal services and counseling in all matters of fertility law, including surrogacy arrangements, egg, sperm, and embryo donation agreements, embryo disposition agreements and disputes, parentage establishment proceedings, navigating the complex IVF clinical process, and more. The practice brings

unparalleled expertise and compassionate advising, representing clients of all sexual orientations seeking to build families through assisted reproduction.

The practice is founded and led by **Alexis L. Cirel**, a recognized leader nationwide in the field of assisted reproductive technology law, and boasts the inclusion of **Eric I. Wrubel**, who successfully argued the landmark case that afforded LGBTQ+ families the same rights as heterosexual families, and rising star, **Rose H. Vacanti Gilroy**.

The group's groundbreaking work has modernized the legal definition of family in New York and beyond and has secured legal recognition for countless families.

The Fertility Law attorneys also maintain robust matrimonial practices and offer unique counsel at the intersection of fertility and family law - particularly in matters involving embryo disputes and the marital presumption of parentage - forging a forceful union with the firm's existing Matrimonial and Family Law practice group that will shake up New York's family law landscape. CIREL and team will also work alongside SSRGA's esteemed Trusts and Estates counsel to offer the nuanced estate planning services necessary for family building through assisted reproduction. This synergistic "one-stop" approach uniquely situates SSRGA to handle the complex and diverse family law needs inherent to modern families.

"We are thrilled to launch this vital new practice area," said **Jeffrey Schwartz, Managing Partner of SSRGA**. "Alexis' deep expertise in fertility law, coupled with Eric's recognition as an authority in family definition issues, and Rose's dedication to this field, positions us as a leader in championing families as they navigate the complexities of assisted reproduction."

**Alexis L. CIREL** is rejoining SSRGA, where she was a partner from 2019-2021. CIREL played an instrumental role in the passage of the Child-Parent Security Act, which legalized surrogacy in New York, and served on the Campaign Leadership Committee for Governor Andrew Cuomo's efforts in support of the revolutionary legislation. She is one of approximately 200 attorneys in the

country to receive the distinction of being named an Assisted Reproductive Technologies Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys, and serves as the co-chair of the Legal Ethics Committee for the Society for Ethical Egg Donation and Surrogacy, Co-Chair of the New York State Bar Association's Surrogacy Subcommittee, and is a member of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine's Legal Professionals Group.

"I am elated to return to SSRGA and lead this dynamic new practice", **Alexis L. Cirel** added. "The establishment of this group reflects the firm's commitment to addressing the evolving legal needs of modern families."

**Eric I. Wrubel** joins SSRGA as a partner. He is the immediate Past President of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (AAML) and is a fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers. He is recognized as a leader in the re-definition of family in New York, where his groundbreaking win in the New York Court of Appeals' case, *In the Matter of Brooke S.B. v. Elizabeth A.C.C.*, expanded the definition of "parent" to include same-sex couples. The Brooke decision led to New York Appellate Courts then applying for the first time the presumption of legitimacy to children born during same-sex marriage.

**Wrubel** is consistently at the forefront of same-gender marriage and divorce issues and lectures frequently on issues of parentage, including tri-parenting. He regularly consults on embryo disputes and argued a leading case in New York that led to the return of children conceived through IVF to their biological parents. He is often consulted on the impact of U.S. Supreme Court decisions on family formation.

**Rose H. Vacanti Gilroy** joins SSRGA as an associate. She is licensed in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey. In addition to maintaining a burgeoning matrimonial practice, she handles complex parentage establishment matters, surrogacy and donor arrangements, and issues specifically facing LGBTQ+ individuals. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

“The integration of this practice into SSRGA represents a powerful combination of talent,” said **Steven Sladkus, Founding Partner of SSRGA.**

“Individuals and families navigating the diverse legal needs that arise during family formation will benefit immensely from the expertise this team of attorneys brings to the firm.”

The attorneys are admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Michigan, and they regularly consult on matters from coast to coast and internationally.

### **About Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP (SSRGA)**

With offices in New York City and Boca Raton, SSRGA is a full-service law firm with practice areas including appellate law, matrimonial and family law, real estate, real estate development, cooperative and condominium board representation, real estate-related and commercial litigation, health care, trusts and estates, probate administration, not-for-profit, corporate, landlord/tenant, financing, and intellectual property. For more information, visit [ssrga.com](http://ssrga.com).