



# SOCIAL LIFE

AUGUST 2021

*In the Hamptons with*

**JEAN SHAFIROFF**

## THE DIVORCE BOOK FOR MEN AND WOMEN

ATTORNEYS HARRIET NEWMAN COHEN & MARTHA COHEN STINE

BY BENNETT MARCUS

### COHEN STINE KAPOOR LLP

Meet Harriet Newman Cohen and Martha “Marti” Cohen Stine, the mother-daughter power legal duo who are principals of their firm, Cohen Stine Kapoor LLP, specializing in family and matrimonial law. “We were one of the first mother-daughter law firms, and we’re one of the only mother-daughter law firms in New York,” says Harriet.

#### CLIENTS:

Andrew Cuomo, Laurence Fishburne, Linda Lavin the wives of Harvey and Bob Weinstein, Howard Stern & Louis C.K.

Both attorneys have years of experience under their belt, representing high-profile clients, including Andrew Cuomo, Paul George, the actors Laurence Fishburne and Linda Lavin, the wives of Harvey and Bob Weinstein, Louis C.K., Howard Stern, the singers Ute Lemper and Isabel Leonard, and other high net-worth individuals during challenging times in their lives.

### BILL AND MELINDA GATES’S DIVORCE & BRITNEY SPEARS’S CONSERVATORSHIP

Both Cohen and Stine have been in high demand at various media outlets from *Vanity Fair* to Oprah Daily to the *New York Times* for their expert legal opinions on cases in the news like Britney Spears’s conservatorship and Bill and Melinda Gates’s divorce. Both are consistently listed in Super Lawyers as among NY’s top 50 female attorneys and top 100 attorneys and hold the highest rating from Martindale-Hubbell.

### STREAMLINED SERVICES IN NEW NORMAL

After working virtually during 2020, they realized they could continue to do so and streamline their practice. “With so many lawyers working from home, we realized we did not need the huge amount of space we had. We took smaller space in the same building and reduced our overhead, servicing our clients in a more efficient, cost-effective way.” In January 2021, mother and daughter joined forces and relaunched their practice as Cohen Stine Kapoor LLP, a leaner, more effective boutique law practice with five attorneys. “With remote court appearances, we can easily appear in any county or even another state. For example, I appeared remotely in



Cohen Stine Kapoor LLP Attorneys

West Virginia, because of Zoom capability. We take court appearances from our desks. There’s no more waiting around for hours at court, and you’re heard at the appointed time, making litigation costs more manageable,” says Marti.

### HARRIET NEWMAN COHEN

#### Doyenne of Matrimonial and Family Law

Harriet Cohen had a circuitous path to becoming known as the “doyenne of matrimonial and family law attorneys.” She entered law school at 38, after years as a stay-at-home mother of four and a stint teaching math. “I didn’t want to continue to be a school teacher. I wanted to go into a profession where women were in a man’s world.” She was one of only a handful of women at Brooklyn Law School in those days. “I felt that I had to make my mark in a man’s world, and wanted to make a difference and have a voice that was going to be heard.”

### PRESIDENT OF THE NY WOMEN’S BAR

Cohen’s many achievements in the field include serving as president of the NY Women’s Bar and as a member of the Matrimonial Mediation Subcommittee of the NY State Supreme Court. She helped negotiate and draft New York’s Equitable Distribution Law and served on the Child Support Commission that drafted the Child Support Standards Act. She authored *The Divorce Book for Men and Women*, and writes an annual *New York Law Journal* article on family law. Harriet is often selected as the attorney to represent the child in contested high-conflict custody cases and as the neutral evaluator in complex financial disputes when a judge feels that an outside experienced lawyer can work with the parties and their lawyers to help effectuate a settlement.

### LOTOS CLUB BOARD & STECHER & HOROWITZ FOUNDATION

Harriet serves on the board of the Stecher & Horowitz Foundation, which organizes the NY International Piano Competition and Young Artists Series. “We have a competition open to pianists of all nationalities, identifying young artists and talent from around the world. It’s a very gratifying way to give back.” She is also on the board of directors of the Lotos Club, a prominent literary and cultural club that was founded by Mark Twain and honors world leaders. “It’s a great honor,” she says. She herself has been awarded the Medal of Merit, the Lotos Club’s highest award.

### MARTHA COHEN STINE

#### NY County Lawyers Association

As an undergrad at New York University, Stine knew that she wanted to be a lawyer. “Harriet was in law school while I was in college, and I would sit in on her classes. I loved the classes, and my mother was an inspiration. I was always vocal and outgoing, and I’m a good writer. I figured if she can do it, so can I! She warned me that I had to be top of the class and make law review, and I did. I never dreamed that someday we would work together. We know how lucky we are and feel like our family can help other families



Harriet Newman Cohen and Martha Cohen Stine, Photography by Andrei Severny

during their most difficult times turn a new chapter.” Stine received her JD from the Cardozo School of Law; then spent the first 10 years of her career as a litigator at the renowned Shea & Gould before joining her mother’s practice and focusing exclusively on family law. Stine has been a top attorney in family law for over 25 years. She is on the board of directors of the NY County Lawyers Association, is chair of the Matrimonial Law Section, presents continuing legal education programs, and is often a speaker/panelist. Stine is also chair of the NYCLA Foundation, the charitable arm of NYCLA (New York County Lawyers Association), which supports pro bono programs.

### LAMBS CLUB, UTOPIA OPERA & BLUE HILL TROUPE

A classically trained singer, Stine has performed with the Blue Hill Troupe, Village Light Opera, and Utopia Opera. She has produced and directed many original musicals performed by lawyers and judges throughout NY and is an active member of the Lambs, America’s oldest theatrical club, and the Lotos Club, where she chairs the music committee.

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