

Katya Jestin Discusses Relationship Building and Her Path to Law in *ABA Journal*

Publications

July 10, 2026

In a recent "My Path to Law" profile, Partner Katya Jestin shares the experiences that shaped her career, from prosecuting the Mafia as a federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York, to running a busy white collar defense practice, to representing Guantánamo Bay high-value detainee Majid Khan in a pro bono matter.

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Before joining Jenner & Block in 2007, Katya spent more than six years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where she tried complex organized crime cases including convicting Peter Gotti and 16 co-defendants for racketeering and other violations. Shortly after joining the firm, she took on the pro bono representation of Khan, who, in 2023, was the first and only high-value detainee to be transferred out of GTMO.

Growing up watching her attorney mother fight to preserve a historic Dallas neighborhood, and later spending decades as a criminal lawyer on both sides of the “v,” Katya carries a philosophy that continues to guide her work.

"Kindness and humility - really trying to create connections - is an important part of practice. And none of that is incompatible with being tough and unrelenting when a case demands it."

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