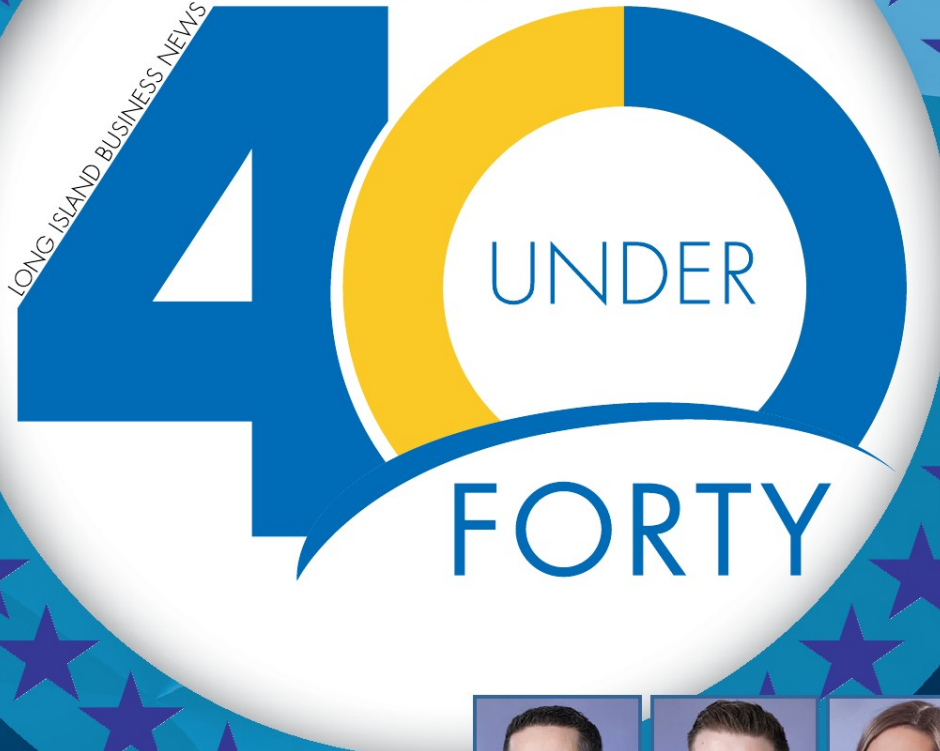


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## Joanne DeFino

Partner • KPMG, LLP

**J**oanne DeFino is a partner in the Audit practice of the KPMG LLP Long Island office. She began her career at KPMG after graduating from St. John's University. Throughout her more than 15 years with the firm, DeFino has served some of Long Island's largest public and private companies and continues to serve some of the firm's largest global clients.

DeFino has provided professional audit services to both large and mid-market multinational companies in accordance with PCAOB requirements and U.S. GAAP. She is a recognized high performer in her field having received the KPMG Chairman's Award for High Performers, and has been selected for various firm leadership programs, including the Stacy Lewis Rising Stars Leadership Program. DeFino holds various specialist roles in the Audit practice and is a participant in the firm's Quality Performance Review Program.

DeFino has also made mentoring and coaching younger women in the firm a priority. She served as the co-chair of the KPMG Network of Women Long Island chapter from 2012 through 2017, and as a performance manager and mentor to younger members of the Long Island Office. DeFino is also very committed to the Long Island community. She is a member of the KPMG Long Island Athena Planning Committee, representing KPMG in working with various companies in the Long Island marketplace to sponsor the Long Island Athena Leadership Awards, which support, recognize and develop women leaders.

DeFino has also served as a member of the Long Island United Way Fund Allocation Committee since 2012 and served as a member of the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. of Long Island from 2012 through 2015. DeFino lives on Long Island with her husband Mark Johnson, and beautiful 3-year-old daughter Abigail.

### What is your "secret to success"?

I think the secret to my success is not being afraid to take on new challenges. When you are presented with an opportunity to try something new, it's natural to initially be hesitant and reluctant. But I've learned that when you overcome your hesitation and take on a new challenge, whether it be working on a new client, or taking on a new role in the firm, those are often the experiences where you learn and grow the most.

### What was your first job?

My first job was working in my uncle's CPA firm when I was in high

school! I was inspired to be an accountant from the beginning!

### If you could go back in time, what would you tell your 20-year-old self?

I would tell my 20-year-old self to be more confident and not doubt my abilities. It's easy to think you're not good enough or that other people are better or smarter than you. But for some reason it's not as easy to believe in yourself. I've gained that confidence over time and therefore I wish I had known that when I was younger!

### Who inspires you?

I continue to be inspired by my grandfather. He passed away several years ago at the age of 90, but was the most intelligent and hardworking person I ever met. He overcame more obstacles and challenges in his life than any other person I know and I can only aspire to have the same determination and strength that he had.

### What networking groups are you a part of?

I am a member of the KPMG Athena Long Island Planning Committee.

### What do you do to give back to your community?

I've had the privilege of working with various organizations on Long Island in order to do a small part in giving back to my community. I served as a member of the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. from 2012 through 2015 and have been a member of the Fund Allocation Committee of the United Way of Long Island since 2012.

### What do young professionals look for in a company?

I think young professionals are looking to work at a company where their role is meaningful and they have a say in what they are doing and the way they are doing it. I also think young professionals want to be challenged every day.

### What is your advice to our 30 Under 30 honorees?

Say yes to everything! Every opportunity that you are given, every project you are asked to lead, every role you are asked to take on – say yes! They will all benefit you in the long run!



## Rebecca Kate Devlin

Attorney • Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP

**R**ebecca K. Devlin, Esq. joined Lewis Johs in 2006 upon her graduation from law school. She represents clients in all facets of casualty defense litigation, including construction accidents, premises liability, products liability, municipal liability and vehicular negligence. Primarily handling high exposure cases on behalf of insurance companies and self-insured clients, Devlin assists with the trials of cases, and supervises the handling of cases throughout Long Island, Westchester, Rockland and the five boroughs of New York City. She approaches representation with a "leave no stone unturned" mentality and is sought out by many clients for her tenacity.

Devlin is also a member of the firm's Trust and Estates Department, handling basic and sophisticated estate planning as well as estate litigation and administration matters. She is an approved Guardian Ad Litem in the New York Surrogate's Court in Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. She has been appointed by the Surrogate to serve as Guardian ad Litem on various types of matters, including will contests and sophisticated accountings.

Devlin has lectured to clients and local businesses on personal injury and estate and trust matters. She has also written on legal issues for local publications. She serves on the Young Professionals Committee of the Maurer Foundation, a not-for-profit organization with a mission to save lives through breast health education that focuses on breast cancer prevention, healthy lifestyle choices, early detection and risk reduction. Devlin has served as a mentor to a number of Lewis Johs's law students and young lawyers.

Devlin lives with her husband and children on Long Island.

Devlin was named to Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" from 2013 – 2018. She received a Preeminent AV<sup>®</sup> peer review rating of 5.0 out of 5 from Martindale-Hubbell. She was also selected as one of the Top Women in Law for 2016, as chosen by Hofstra Law's Centers for Children, Families and the Law.

### What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?

The professional accomplishment I am most proud of is being named a partner at Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP, the law firm where my career began. The attorneys at my firm are experienced and talented legal minds who are committed to the highest level of ethical standards and civility in their personal and professional relationships. It is a privilege to be aligned with them.

### What is your "secret to success"?

I believe that preparation and setting a high level of expectation in both my professional and personal endeavors are my "secrets to success". I view my professional and personal successes as interdependent because I know that I will never be successful if I advance professionally but fail in my personal relationships, and vice-versa.

### What is your dream job?

It may sound "corny", but being an attorney is my "dream job". After years of schooling and hard work, it was an honor to enter into a noble profession.

### If you could go back in time, what would you tell your 20-year-old self?

I would tell my 20-year-old self to embrace the most valuable resource you have in this phase of your life – time – and spend more of it with your parents. I would tell my 20-year-old self to eat healthier, exercise more, save more money and stop worrying about things that cannot be controlled.

### What networking groups are you a part of?

I am a member of the Young Professionals for the Maurer Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation that provides life-saving presentations to educate students, women and men about breast cancer prevention, early detection, risk factors, myths, and proper breast self-exam procedures.

### What do young professionals look for in a company?

I believe young professionals want to work for competent and responsive leaders who inspire and empower them. They want to work for a transparent and honest organization that incorporates them into a team that is working towards a common goal.

### Tell us something about yourself that most people don't know.

Most people do not know that I am, and always have been, a die-hard animal lover. While most of my friends chose "Disney" or "Broadway", the theme of my Bat Mitzvah was "Endangered Animals". Each table's centerpiece included the photograph of an endangered species with a blurb about conservation efforts and educational programs that seek to protect that particular species from extinction.

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KPMG LLP would like to congratulate all of the  
*Long Island Business News* 40/40 honorees.

We are particularly proud to recognize and  
congratulate **Joanne DeFino**, a partner in  
KPMG's Long Island office.

kpmg.com



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