

# ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

## ARIEL SOLOMON

FOUNDING PRINCIPAL, SOLOMON LAW FIRM PLLC, GUILDERLAND

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ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW

**Age:** 33

**Industry:** Law

**Origins/residence:** Born in Böblingen, Germany; grew up in various locations; lives in Troy

**Family:** Single; three younger sisters; pet Newfoundland named Bastian

**Education:** Bachelor's in politics, with minors in Hebrew literature and economics, New York University (2003); law degree, Albany Law School (2006)

Ariel Solomon was 29 years old when she struck out on her own and opened a law firm with offices in Albany and Washington, D.C.

"It was a major turning point in my life and my career," she said. "It provided a less than gentle reminder that I was not invincible. I learned that setting aside time for things like sleep was one of those ubiquitous truths, not a measure of fortitude."

Over the past five years, she has developed a track record for handling high-profile whistleblower cases and federal discrimination cases.

**What early experiences shaped your work ethic?**

I practiced traditional Korean Karate, Tae Kwon Do, for 15 years. (She is a fourth-degree black belt.) Thousands of hours of training and a world-renowned teacher taught me that great things come with hard work and self-discipline.

**Why did you pick your field?** I saw an opportunity and I never looked back. I was working with a much larger law firm that referred their federal employment work out to other law firms. I ambitiously, or naively — depending on how you look at it — decided that I would teach myself how to represent federal employees in a myriad of litigation matters.

**Something that might surprise your colleagues:** I sketch — almost as artfully as I argue. And I've lived in four different countries.

**Places you've been:** Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syrian border, West Bank, Gaza, and the UK. The desert sands of Wadi Ram Jordan, and the stone castles carved into the cliffs of Petra were among some of my favorites.

