Pei Pei Cheng de Castro

Partner

New York
P: 212.784.5840
pdecastro@barclaydamon.com

Education

- New York Law School, JD
- University of California at Berkeley, BA

Practices & Industries

- Commercial Litigation & Complex Trials
- White Collar & Government Investigations
- Regulatory
- Lobbying & Election Law Compliance
- Labor & Employment
- Higher Education
- Pharmacy

Admitted to Practice

- New York

Court Admissions

- US Supreme Court
- US District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- US District Court for the Southern District of New York

Biography

With more than 20 years of experience in private practice and at the highest level of New York State government, Pei Pei represents clients across a range of industries in complex commercial litigation and advises on complex regulatory and compliance issues, government and internal investigations, criminal defense in federal and state courts, labor and employment, ethics and lobbying matters, and congressional inquiries. Her background is invaluable when representing clients in matters in New York City, New York State, and at the federal level.

In her role as deputy counsel to the governor of New York, Pei Pei managed high-profile disputes and controversies for all executive agencies, handled special projects for the governor, oversaw executive state litigation, supervised the office's human resources unit that handled discrimination and harassment investigations, and served as liaison to the Office of the Attorney General and the State Comptroller. She was also responsible for matters involving ethics, risk management, compliance, and procurement across New York State's executive agencies. As part of this role, Pei Pei served as counsel to the Executive Chamber, which works to advance the governor's policy initiatives and agenda by overseeing government operations and coordinating with state agencies, federal and local governments, and community stakeholders.

As former executive deputy inspector general at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Pei Pei led investigations into capital projects and service contracts with the MTA and the conduct of MTA union and non-union employees. She also spent five years as the director of investigations at the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, where she conducted investigations focused on potential lobbying and ethics laws violations of elected officials, public employees, lobbyists, and clients of lobbyists.

In addition to her legal practice, Pei Pei previously served as an adjunct professor of law at Fordham Law School and New York Law School, where she taught courses on drafting litigation, legal writing, and Asian Americans in the law.

Bar Associations

- Asian American Bar Association of New York, Vice President of Programs and Operations

Selected Memberships & Affiliations

- New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund, Chair and Trustee

Prior Experience

- New York State Office of the Governor, Executive Chamber, Deputy Counsel to the Governor
- Office of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Inspector General, Executive Deputy Inspector General Legal
- New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, Deputy General Counsel and Director of Investigations
- Peluso & Touger, LLP, Partner

Selected Community Activities

- Museum of Chinese in America, Advisory Board Member
- Center for New York State and City Law, Senior Fellow
- Friends of Central Queens Academy, Inc., Board of Trustees, Chairperson
- Tricarico Institute for Business Law and In-House Counsel, Board Member
- Central Queens Academy Charter School, Former Founding Board of Trustees Member and Former Board of Trustees Chairperson
- New York Law School Charter School for Law & Justice, Former Project Advisory Member
- Fordham Law School, Former Adjunct Professor
- New York Law School, Former Adjunct Professor

Selected Honors

- *Crain's New York Business*, Notable Women in Law, 2026
- *New York Law Journal*, Rising Star, 2016
- Selected to *Super Lawyers* New York Metro: General Litigation, 2013

Selected Media

- *Corporate Compliance Insights*, "Does Your Organization Have a Compliant Gift Policy Under Federal, State & Local Law?"
- *New York Law Journal*, “Sorting Out the Law on Homicide Prosecutions Against Corporations”; "Barclay Damon's Newest Partner Served 2 Years as NY Gov's Deputy Counsel"; "FCPA: How Much Have Things Really Changed?"
- *Bloomberg Law*, "Counsel Have Toolbox to Fight Geofence Warrants as Split Widens"
- Law360, "The Growing Role of Wearable Health Tech in Criminal Probes"
- CityLand, "Must Defendants Unlock Their Cellphones? What the Law Says," "New York May Finally Have an Ethics Commission That's Here for Good and to Do Good"
- Law360 Pulse, "Former Deputy Counsel to NY Governor Joins Barclay Damon"
- New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, *Ethics & Lobbying in New York State: A Comprehensive Guide*, 2019 and 2017 Editions, Managing Editor and Contributing Writer

Selected Alerts & Blog Posts

- Legal Update: US Supreme Court Resolves Key Fourth Amendment Question in *Chatrie v. United States*
- College Sports Commission Issues Notice Regarding Violations Arising From Third-Party NIL Deals