

Joanne Faulkner

2002 Recipient Vern Countryman Award



"The greatest compliment I have received practicing in the FDCPA arena was from an insurance adjuster for a debt collector who in disgust accused me of acting just like that lawyer in Connecticut, Joanne Faulkner. Considering that I'm 3000 miles away gives you some idea of the impact she has had on debt collectors...Each time I find a 'new' idea to pursue I generally find a case that Joanne has done before in some fashion.... Equally of note is the quiet modesty with which she pursues her vocation. One only knows of her successes by reading her name in the reported decisions." - Michael D. Kinkley.

"If someone needs help she is the first to roll up her sleeves and to go to work...Having met Vern Countryman many years ago, I think he would be proud to have someone like Joanne named as a recipient of this prestigious award." - Jim McMillen "Just as Joanne is admired and emulated by her colleagues for the energy and success that she has brought to our struggle, she similarly is recognized with ... both awe and fear by industry for leading the charge against its excesses and abuses in the consumer credit marketplace.

Remarkably, the common thread shared by both friend and foe is an abiding respect for her intellect, perseverance, and record of accomplishment...She has distinguished herself as an innovator in the use of the private attorney general [litigation]. She has appeared twice before the United State Supreme Court in landmark decisions...and has a seemingly endless list of significant reported cases to her credit under, inter alia, the FDCPA's and the FCRA." - Dick Rubin (Countryman Award Winner in 2000)

"Joanne is 'tough as nails' when it comes to battling the corporate forces, and she never backs down when she is in the right on any issue." - Michelle Weinberg

"Joanne proves herself to be selfless...The thing that makes Joanne's help even more valuable is that she has been there and done that. Joanne has filed so many discovery motions, opposed so many motions to dismiss, and other law and motion work and final court decisions that she has a brief for almost any situation that someone on the list serve now faces. She is putting ...herself out there, by taking difficult cases, and fighting like hell for her clients. Joanne is like the Energizer Bunny , she just keeps on going and going, beating that drum for consumers." - Robert Stempler

"By establishing virtually all of the leading FDCPA case law in the Second Circuit (not to mention before the US Supreme Court), she has enabled me to win motions before the judges...I cannot count the number of times that I have relied on precedents she established." - Brian L. Bromberg

"She mentors many through the list serves...All of us around the country benefit by her many years of experience with various consumer protection laws...She is always available to give advice on another case, to write an amicus brief, or to share her research and briefs on any given topic. ...she always focuses on what is best for the underserved and unrepresented people who come to her and the rest of us for help...Joanne is the matriarch of the consumer protection movement." - Mary Fons

Those unfamiliar with Joanne's work need only perform a Westlaw or LEXIS search of her name to learn the vast magnitude of consumers rights cases she has litigated, many of which are precedent setting." - O. Randolph Bragg

"With her impressive credentials, Joanne could have opted for much more lucrative work, but has chosen to fight the good fight for those most in need. She is really steadfast in her advocacy, undeterred by bad judges, luck or law. If it takes a couple trips to the United States Supreme Court for the lower courts to get it right, that's just what she will do. Money can't buy a better advocate (or mentor) than Joanne." - Anne Bergman