

# Announcement

Date: October 25, 2023  
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## Kermitt Brooks Elected Chair of the Life Insurance Council of New York

**Albany, NY** – The Life Insurance Council of New York, Inc. (LICONY) elected Kermitt Brooks as Chair of its Board of Directors for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2024, at its Annual Meeting in Cooperstown, NY on October 4. Brooks is Chief Legal Officer at The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America (Guardian), where he leads legal, compliance, corporate governance, and government relations for the company.

“We are pleased to have Kermitt Brooks to lead our board beginning in 2024,” said Richard A. Loconte, President and CEO of LICONY. “Kermitt’s extensive insurance industry experience in both the private and public sectors, including his time as First Deputy Superintendent and Acting Superintendent for the New York State Insurance Department, greatly benefits LICONY and its member companies.”

Brooks succeeds current Chair Michael Zarcone, Executive Vice President Corporate Affairs at MetLife.

“Life insurance has long been an important part of how New Yorkers protect their families’ financial security,” said Brooks. “I look forward to working with the Board and our industry to be sure New Yorkers continue to have access to products that help them prepare for the future.”

Brooks is an active board member of several industry and other non-profit organizations. He is currently President of the Association of Life Insurance Counsel, Immediate Past President of the National Organization of Life & Health Insurance Guaranty Association, member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Insurance (FACI), and on the boards of the American Red Cross (Greater New York Region) and Michigan State University Foundation.

Brooks received his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School, where he was a contributing editor of the Michigan Law Review, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from James Madison College at Michigan State University.

### **Additional Board Moves**

The following submissions were also approved at the Annual Meeting to begin on January 1, 2024.

#### **Chair-Elect**

#### **Gretchen Cepek**

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary  
Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America

Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary  
Allianz Life Insurance Company of New York

**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Jason A. D'Angelo**

Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
Mutual of America Financial Group

**Past Chair**

**Michael A. Zarcone**

Executive Vice President Corporate Affairs  
MetLife

**Lynn White**, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff at Genworth Life Insurance Company of New York, was elected as a member of the Board for the term ending December 31, 2025, to fill the position of **Jason D'Angelo**, who was elected to the **Secretary-Treasurer** position.

**Kirk R. Gravely**, President & Chief Executive Officer of Security Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, was elected as a member of the Board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027.

The following individuals were re-elected as members of the Board for a four-year term ending December 31, 2027:

**José Ramón González**

Chief Legal Officer & Corporate Secretary  
Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company

**Jeannette Hunte**

President & Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer  
National Benefit Life

**Michael McDonnell**

Senior Vice President & General Counsel  
New York Life

*The Life Insurance Council of New York, Inc. is the domestic trade association representing the life insurance industry in New York. Headquartered in Albany, NY, LICONY has 54 domestic insurance companies, 21 foreign insurance companies, and 18 allied professional members that provide the vast majority of annuities and life, disability and long-term care insurance to New Yorkers.*

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