

Leila A. Amineddoleh

Chair of the Firm's Art Law Group

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Leila A. Amineddoleh is a Partner and the Chair of the Firm's Art Law Group. She handles both complex litigation and transactional matters related to the art market. Leila serves as lead counsel in matters involving the sales of multi-million-dollar artworks and the recovery of stolen art and antiquities. She collaborates with forensic analysts, provenance experts, and art connoisseurs, devising legal strategies for authentication disputes.

Leila handles matters involving cultural heritage laws, representing clients in art theft and title disputes, negotiating settlement agreements, and drafting agreements for international artists, galleries, dealers, and art fairs. Leila's work in this space also includes transactional matters involving drafting documents for major art collectors and non-profit organizations, as well as handling all aspects of due diligence, including authentication procedures, cultural heritage compliance, and title verification.

Leila assists clients with intellectual property matters involving litigation related to copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets for corporate clients, individuals, and start-ups.

Before joining Tarter Krinsky & Drogin, Leila founded Amineddoleh & Associates LLC, a boutique law firm specializing in art, cultural heritage, and intellectual property law. Leila is a proud advocate for the protection of cultural heritage, having served as lead litigation counsel to foreign governments, consultant to the US Attorney's Office, and a cultural heritage law expert for the New York District Attorney's Office Antiquities Trafficking Unit.

She is a recognized authority on art and heritage crime and law, and has lectured at the Frick Collection, Victoria & Albert Museum, the Neue Galerie, and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as at academic institutions including Columbia Law School, Harvard Law School, University of Geneva in Switzerland, and Yale University. She has appeared as an art law expert on television networks and in business news outlets, including *PBS*, *CNN*, *Channel 4 News*, *The New York Times*, *ABC News*, *LA Times*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Artnet*, *Forbes Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *TIME Magazine*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. Leila is widely recognized for her scholarly work in the area of art law, and she has contributed to many publications, including *Nazi Law: From Nuremberg to Nuremberg*, *The Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Cultural Heritage*, and *The Provenance Research Handbook*.

Related Services

- Art Law
- Cultural Heritage Law
- Intellectual Property
- Litigation
- International
- Commercial Agreements

In 2024, *The Observer* named Leila one of the most influential people in the art world for her work as one of the “bold innovators steering today’s art world through shifting markets, new collector dynamics, and cultural reinvention.” In 2023, Leila was ranked among the Top 10 Most Influential Art and Cultural Property Law Lawyers by *Business Today’s* 2023 Lawyer Awards.

Leila is the Chair of the Art Law Committee of the NYC Bar Association. Leila is also a classically trained pianist, and she still regularly performs.

Education

- Boston College Law School (J.D.)
 - Editor, Intellectual Property & Technology Forum
- New York University (B.A.)

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Languages

- Italian
- Spanish

Professional Affiliations

- Chair, Art Law Committee of the NYC Bar Association
- Chair Emeritus, Art Law Institute, N.Y. County Lawyers Association
- Chair of the Board of Directors, Experiential Orchestra
- Board Member, Lawyers’ Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation
- Member, Hispanic Society of America
- Member, Bar of the City of New York Chamber Music Ensemble Committee
- Member, International Council of Museums
- Member, Arts Advisory Committee, City of Hoboken

Awards & Honors

- *Chambers and Partners High Net Worth (HNW) Guide*, Art and Cultural Property Law, Band 2, 2021-2026
- *Business of Art Power List*, 2024, The Observer
- *Super Lawyers*, 2020-2025
- *Best Lawyers*, 2026

- *New York Super Lawyers*, 2026

Teaching

- Adjunct Professor, New York University, Art Crime & the Law
- Adjunct Professor, Fordham Law School, International Art & Cultural Heritage Law
- Lecturer, Christie's Education, 2018-2024

Select Speaking Engagements

- "Collecting the Future: Preserving Heritage and Culture Beyond the 250th," The Winter Show (January 2026).
- "Protecting Cultural Heritage," Victoria & Albert Museum (May 2025).
- "The Peripheries of International Law," Harvard International Law Journal, Harvard Law School (March 2025).
- Lecturer for week-long seminar at the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures, University of Hamburg, December 2025.
- "Negotiating Artists' Agreements," Institute of Art & Law (November 2024).
- "Countering Illicit Trafficking in Cultural Property," U.S. Department of State (October 2024).
- "Art & Antiquities Law: Legal Principles and Policy Issues Related to Restitution of Antiquities," Federal Bar Council (June 2024).
- Moderator, "Museum Repatriations – Colonial Art," Art Law Day Appraisers' Association of America (November 2022).
- "Cultural Heritage, Law Enforcement, and Antiquities Seizures," 14th Annual Art Law Institute, New York County Lawyers' Association (October 2022).
- Keynote Speaker, "Dura-Europos: Past, Present, Future," Yale University (April 2022).
- "NFTs, New Technology & Collectibles," Executive Master in Art Market Studies, University of Zurich (November 2021).
- "The Guelph Treasure, Historic Significance and Legal Implications," International Center of Medieval Art (June 2021).
- "The International Repatriation of Antiquities," Society for Art Law, University of Oxford (March 2021).
- "The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act in Art and Antiquities Matters," New York City Bar Association (February 2021).
- "Importance of Provenance in Legal Matters and Ownership Disputes," Frick Collection (February 2020).
- "Cultural Heritage Repatriation," State Department of the United States, US Mission to the United Nations (May 2019).
- "Your Art Collection and the Law" Harvard Business School (May 2019).
- "Protecting Cultural Heritage: Theft, Looting and the Law," Victoria & Albert Museum (April 2019).
- "Old Masters, New World: History of Collecting in the United States," Philadelphia

Museum of Art (February 2018).

- “Art Crime: Theft, Looting, Forgeries, and Vandalism,” Columbia University (August 2017).
- “Panama Papers,” 2016 Art Law Day, Appraisers Association of America (November 2016).
- “Art Collecting: Due Diligence, Collections Management & the Law,” Philadelphia Art Museum (May 2016).
- “Edvard Munch, Expressionism, and Art Crime,” Neue Galerie (April 2016).
- “Should Museums Repatriate Cultural Artifacts?” Open to Debate (May 2026)
- “Why Stolen Art Ends Up In The World’s Best Museums” Mary in America (June 2026)

Select Publications

- “The Looting and Destruction of Cultural Heritage,” *Dura-Europos: Past, Present, Future*, Studies in Classical Archaeology, Yale University Press (2025).
- “Tomb-Raiding: The Second-Oldest Profession,” *Harvard Art Law Review*, Vol. I, Issue 1 (2025).
- “Kings, Treasures, and Looting: The Evolution of Sovereign Immunity and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act,” 46 *Colum. J.L. & Arts* 419 (2023).
- “Fair Use in US Law: The Path to *Marano v. Metropolitan Museum of Art*,” *Art Antiquity and Law*, Vol. XXVI, Issue 4 (December 2021).
- “Politicizing of Cultural Heritage,” *North Carolina Journal of International Law*, Vol. XLV, (Spring 2020).
- “Looted Art in the Third Reich,” *Nazi Law: From Nuremberg to Nuremberg*. Ed. John Michalczyk. London: Bloomsbury Publishing (December 2017).
- “Are You Faux Real? An Examination of Art Forgery and the Legal Tools Protecting Art Collectors,” *Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Spring 2016).
- “Cultural Heritage Vandalism and Looting: The Role of Terrorist Organizations and Wealthy Collectors,” *Santander Art & Culture Law Review* (March 2016).
- “The Ins and Outs of Stolen Art, Explained,” *Artsy*, May 7, 2016.
- “The British Museum Should Return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece,” *Forbes Opinion*, Dec. 23, 2014.

Select Press and News Appearances

- “Why stories about heists, real or in movies, steal our hearts,” *Colin McEnroe Show*, NPR (November 2025).
- “Louvre heist: ‘Jewels are easier to dismantle and put on the market,’” *France 24* (October 2025).
- “Michael Steinhardt to Surrender 180 Stolen Antiquities,” *WNYC, National Public Radio*, Dec. 7, 2021.
- “Russian Oligarch Sues Sotheby’s Auction House,” *CNN*, January 7, 2024.
- “Cultural Heritage Expert Explains Why Hobby Lobby Returned Iraqi Artifacts,” *Where*

We Live, WNPR, May 7, 2018.

Insights

July 6, 2026

Wyland's Whales Come Down with World Cup Fever

April 16, 2026

The 2025 HEAR Act Signed into Law

November 4, 2025

Protecting Art Collections: Lessons from the Louvre Heist

October 2, 2025

Displaced Masterpieces: When Stolen Art Reemerges in Plain Sight

August 12, 2025

Leila A. Amineddoleh Featured in The Art Times as An Architect of Art Law

July 23, 2025

Mosaic Mischief and the Art of Coming Home: Pompeii's Risqué Relic Returns

January 28, 2025

Repatriation Announcement

November 11, 2024

Artificial Intelligence and Copyright Developments

August 13, 2024

Nazi-Era Art Disputes and Duress Sales

March 5, 2024

Exploring Women's Unsung Contributions to Art

January 30, 2024

Sotheby's Found NOT GUILTY by Jury in New York

May 25, 2023

Andy Warhol Foundation v. Goldsmith: Commercialism v. Transformativeness

August 10, 2022

The Art Rescuers: Italy's Carabinieri TPC and the Museum of Rescued Art

May 2, 2022

Our Client's Voluntary Return of Marble Bust to Germany Provides Model for Restitution of Looted Artifacts

February 25, 2022

Casualties of War: Ukraine's Cultural Heritage at Risk

August 6, 2021

LITIGATION UPDATE: Amineddoleh & Associates Obtains a Victory for the Republic

of Italy

June 14, 2021

The Great Race: Revisiting the Saga Behind Beijing's Zodiac Heads (Provenance Series: Part XVI)

February 1, 2021

Dispute of Looted Violin Reaches Crescendo, Highlighting Difficulties in Restituting Plundered Instruments

January 27, 2021

Mozart's Musical Manuscripts (Provenance Series: Part XIV)

January 8, 2021

'Have It Your Way,' Trademark Edition: Burger King's Transition to a New Logo

December 14, 2020

The Immortally Beloved Beethoven

December 1, 2020

Checkmate- Famed Chess Pieces Across the Ages (Provenance Series: Part XI)

August 23, 2020

Amineddoleh & Associates' Most Recent Antiquities Litigation

June 9, 2020

LITIGATION UPDATE: Amineddoleh & Associates Secures Second Circuit Win for the Greek Ministry of Culture in a Landmark Cultural Heritage Case

January 6, 2020

Why Cultural Heritage Should Not be Destroyed to Punish a Nation

January 22, 2019

Restitution of Nazi-Looted Art

February 23, 2015

Updates on Nazi-Looted Art and the Kunstmuseum Bern