

ATTORNEY MIRIAM ROSS is a juggernaut of support to small businesses and an indefatigable champion of social justice and parity in Rhode Island.

A Providence resident, business attorney, business advocate, and community leader, Miriam has extensive experience in business and corporate law. After 25 years of working as an attorney for Fortune 100 companies, Miriam decided to “go out on her own.” She attended workshops and trainings offered by the Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE), an SBA grantee, and also received one-on-one start-up business counseling from the then CWE-RI director. With CWE’s assistance and guidance, Miriam opened her own law firm in 2004, hanging out her “shingle” before she even had a single client. Back then the “shingle” was on her home, but two years later it moved to an office in the Wayland Square area of Providence, where it has been ever since.

Miriam’s 2-lawyer business-focused, private law practice provides creative and practical legal advice and business solutions to smaller businesses, women, minorities, and entrepreneurs. As a trusted legal advisor, Miriam has helped dozens upon dozens of clients in a broad spectrum of industries, including manufacturing, distribution, bakery and wholesale food distribution, entertainment, web design and development, software development, construction, craft brewery and distilled spirits, and other service sectors.

Miriam truly lives by her belief that small businesses are the backbone of a healthy economy and are what allows communities to thrive. Miriam is an exceptional supporter of the SBA. From 2007 to 2021, Miriam served as one of seven Committee Chairs of the Rhode Island Small Business Economic Summit, hosted by the SBA’s Rhode Island District Office. She spent many hours meeting with the committee chairs designing each year’s summit, as well as developing specific proposals for legislative and/or regulatory action and General Assembly consideration.

In 2012 she received the SBA’s New England and Rhode

Island Woman in Business Champion of the Year award. In addition to advising local small minority-owned and women-owned businesses as they seek traditional SBA financing, Miriam has more recently guided many clients through the process of obtaining COVID-19-related Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) Program and Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans and complying with their credit terms.

An active and involved leader in the legal community, Miriam served on the Continuing Legal Education (CLE), Business Organization, and Annual Meeting Committees of the Rhode Island Bar Association for over a dozen years, serving as Chair of the CLE Committee from 2016-2020. She is also committed to the learning and growth of those choosing to enter the law. Miriam is the Director of the Roger Williams University (RWU) Small Business Legal Services Group, which provides business legal services, assistance, training, and education at no or low-cost to minority business enterprises in Rhode Island. She has also been an Adjunct Law Professor at the RWU School of Law for more than a decade, teaching Regulatory Compliance, Election Law, and Law & Popular Culture.

Miriam is similarly tireless in her volunteer community work, where her efforts are legion. For example, she has regularly volunteered her time with business organizations, public libraries, and community organizations, including the SBA, the Center for Women & Enterprise, and the Bryant University-Chafee Center for International Business, leading workshops and freely sharing her wide-ranging experience and knowledge. Currently, Miriam is on the board and serves as Vice President of the Rhode Island-Israel Collaborative (RIIC), a nonprofit organization that fosters trade, business, and academic exchange between Rhode Island and Israel. During the pandemic, Miriam was a principal chair of a joint



MIRIAM ROSS, ESQ.

Owner/Partner, Miriam Ross & Associates, LLC

project of RIIC and the RI Hispanic Chamber, through which local Rhode Island college students created websites for RI Hispanic businesses without a web presence using WIX, an Israeli company and world leader in website creation.

“I have known Miriam for decades, and I can say with certainty that small businesses in our state do not have a more driven and tenacious advocate than she,” said Mark S. Hayward, the SBA Rhode Island District Director. “Not a week goes by that Miriam is not fielding calls from and offering pro-bono legal advice to business owners about forming, operating, or managing a business,” he added. “Miriam is a role model, confidant, and a mentor to the women of Rhode Island who own and manage small businesses, not just advising them but educating and advocating for them as well. I am delighted to recognize her and her law firm as the 2023 Rhode Island Microenterprise of the Year and to thank her for her many contributions to our small businesses and community,” Director Hayward concluded. ●