



With  
**Bonnie Chmil** Katten Muchin Rosenman

**Tell us a bit about your background. Have you always worked for Katten Muchin Rosenman?**

I began my legal career at Katten but prior to becoming an attorney I worked in financial services first at Sanford Bernstein in private wealth management, then at Bear Stearns in private client services, then lastly at Morgan Stanley as a sales associate in the institutional fixed income division while I attending law school at night.

**Why did you decide to focus your practice on private client services?**

Private client services was a natural fit given my earlier experience on the financial side. I also had the great privilege to work with and learn from my partner, Joshua Rubenstein, who is one of the most highly regarded and smartest private client attorneys in the industry. It was an opportunity that I could not pass up!

**Where's the best place to eat in New York and what's the best thing to do?**

In a city with such extraordinary food, it is impossible to choose the best, but at the top of my list are Aureole, Jean Georges, Sparks, and Junoon. The best thing to do (which I hardly ever get to do!) is to walk through the city on an early Sunday morning when you will discover that the city does actually sleep. The peace and solitude is unexpected and lovely.

**Tell us something not many people know about you?**

That I was painfully shy until I moved to New York City at 17 and reinvented myself.

**What do you think makes a good private client advisor versus a great advisor?**

Two things. Empathy, and the ability to understand a client's goals and wishes and help them achieve them.

**What is the best piece of advice you have been given?**

When I was in law school, one of my professors commented that I write like a judge. Although it was a critique or comment more so than advice, I stuck with that writing style even when others tried to influence it differently and it has served me well in writing briefs about complex legal issues that educate the court and win the day.

**What are the biggest challenges to the private client sphere in 2019?**

Unrelenting and unpredictable political, tax and regulatory changes.

**Where's your favourite vacation destination?**

Playa Mujeres, Mexico, a place I call home along with New York and Pennsylvania.

**How do you keep up to date with the mounting private client developments globally?**

I read news bulletins and ask my partner Joshua Rubenstein about the latest developments, and, of course, attend conferences such as those sponsored by ALM!

**Finally, if you were alone on a desert island, what one item could you not live without and why?**

Tequila! With sun and sand, what more can one need other than tequila which to me is joy in a bottle.