

PAUL W. LANZA

CO-CHAIR, TRUCKING & TRANSPORTATION PRACTICE GROUP
SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Trucking & Transportation Liability
Premises & Retail Liability
Construction Injury Litigation
Automobile Liability
Product Liability
Miscellaneous Professional Liability
Real Estate E&O Liability

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ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
2014

New York
2015

U.S. District Court District of New
Jersey
2015

U.S. District Court Eastern District
of New York
2015

U.S. District Court Southern
District of New York
2015

EDUCATION

Seton Hall University School of
Law (J.D., 2014)

University of Notre Dame (B.A.,
2011)

OVERVIEW

As an experienced member of the Casualty Department, Paul concentrates his practice primarily on trucking/transportation liability, premises/retail liability, and construction injury litigation. Additionally, he handles cases in the fields of condominium/community association law, automobile liability, products liability and malpractice claims against real estate professionals. Paul is frequently retained by clients to handle the pre-suit investigation of high exposure cases involving complex issues of fact and law, including fatal commercial vehicle accidents.

Paul handles all aspects of civil litigation up to trial, including pleadings, depositions, expert discovery, dispositive motion practice, mediation and non-binding arbitration. He has obtained numerous favorable results for his clients, which range from individuals and small businesses to large-sized insurance companies. He has appeared on behalf of his clients in both New Jersey and New York state and federal courts. Paul has also argued before the New Jersey Appellate Division, where he successfully defended an appeal to affirm an order entering summary judgment on behalf of his client. Additionally, prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Paul worked at a defense firm where he specialized as regional counsel for a Fortune 50 transportation company.

Paul attended Seton Hall University School of Law where he was a recipient of the Chancellor's Scholarship. While in law school, he completed over 200 hours of pro bono work in the Immigrants' Rights/International Human Right Clinic. Paul also worked as a judicial extern in the Superior Court of Essex County, Civil Division for the Hon. Paul J. Vichness, J.S.C. (Ret.) and as an intern in the Newark Public Defender's Office.

Prior to law school, Paul graduated from the University of Notre Dame, with a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish. He was a member of the Dean's List and Sigma Delta Pi (National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society).

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®, Product Liability Litigation - Defendants; Transportation Law 2021-2024

The Best Lawyers list is issued by Woodward & White. A description of the selection methodology can be found [here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Star
2022-2024

The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found [here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

YEAR JOINED

2018

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Marshall Dennehey Announces 2024 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

March 26, 2024

Six attorneys from Marshall Dennehey's Mount Laurel and Roseland, New Jersey offices have been selected to the 2024 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

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Marshall Dennehey Announces 2024 Shareholder Class And Special Counsel Promotions

December 19, 2023

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that 10 attorneys have been elected shareholders of the firm effective January 1, 2024. Additionally, three attorneys have been promoted from associate to special counsel.

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Marshall Dennehey Announces 2023 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

March 17, 2023

Eight attorneys from Marshall Dennehey's Mount Laurel and Roseland, New Jersey offices have been selected to the 2023 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

Marshall Dennehey Announces 2022 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

March 17, 2022

Seven attorneys from Marshall Dennehey's Mount Laurel and Roseland, New Jersey, offices have been selected to the 2022 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

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CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Dude Where's My Driver? Regulatory Concerns of the Automated Delivery Vehicle and Unmanned Aircraft Systems, Client Event, June 2017

Cyber Liability, Client Event, August 2016

PUBLISHED WORKS

"Guide to Expert Testimony in Malpractice Cases Against Real Estate Professionals," *New Jersey Law Journal*, October 21, 2019

"The Implementation of Cyber Security Legislation: An Overview of the NYFDS and NAIC Model Laws," *Claims Litigation Management*, November 2017

"How Secure Is Your Vendor? Protecting Yourself from Third-party Cyber Risks," *Claims Litigation Management*, July 2017

"Preventative Cyber Defenses: Laying the Foundation to Minimize the Risk of Breach," *Claims Litigation Management*, April 2017

"The Evolution of Cyber Insurance: How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Headed?," *Claims Litigation Management*, January 2017

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Obtained in Three Consolidated Cases Involving Multi-vehicle Accident

Trucking & Transportation Liability

February 23, 2024

We secured summary judgment for our client, a tow truck company, in three consolidated cases venued in Essex County Superior Court arising out of a fatal motor vehicle accident caused by an illegal left-hand turn by a tow truck driver. The plaintiffs alleged that our client was liable under a theory of *respondeat superior* as the tow truck driver's employer. The plaintiffs further alleged that our client negligently hired, trained, supervised and entrusted the vehicle to the driver.

Rock Climbing Liability Waiver Found Enforceable.

General Liability

April 11, 2019

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of a rock climbing center. The plaintiff, a certified climber, was injured when she fell from a 25-foot rock-climbing wall at our client's facility. After reaching the summit of the wall, she pushed off to begin repelling down, only to realize that she forgot to connect to the auto-belay system. She fell to the ground and fractured both ankles and underwent open reduction internal fixation surgery.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of our client. The plaintiff was injured when she fell from a 25-foot rock-climbing wall at our client's facility. After reaching the summit of the wall, plaintiff, a certified climber, pushed off to begin repelling down, only to realize that she forgot to connect to the auto-belay system. She proceeded to fall to the ground and fractured both ankles for which she underwent open reduction internal fixation surgery. Plaintiff had previously visited the client's facility approximately 35 times and had executed a liability waiver on each occasion, including the date of the accident. We moved for summary judgment to dismiss plaintiff's Complaint based on the fact that the liability waiver was enforceable. Plaintiff argued that the liability waiver was only enforceable as to her claims of ordinary negligence and that the issue of whether the defendant was grossly negligent was a triable issue of fact. However, we successfully argued that no reasonable jury could find that the client was grossly negligent based on the client's testimony of the safety procedures, protocols and equipment in place at the rock-climbing gym. Accordingly, the Court granted our motion for summary judgment dismissing plaintiff's Complaint, in its entirety, against the client.

Successfully defended plaintiff's appeal in the New Jersey Appellate Division of an order granting summary judgment in favor of the client by arguing that plaintiff's claims were barred pursuant to the Workers' Compensation Act because plaintiff was a "special employee" of the client. *Holmes v. Zayas*, No. A-0591-15T2, 2017 N.J. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 2568 (App. Div. Oct. 13, 2017).

Obtained summary judgment in favor of the client, a non-profit charitable organization, by arguing that it was immune from liability under the New Jersey Charitable Immunity Act and there was no evidence of gross negligence against the client.

Obtained summary judgment in favor of our clients, a residential real estate agent and company, by arguing that expert testimony was required because a jury could not be reasonably expected to discern the nuances of the standard of care owed by the clients to the plaintiff on its own. Therefore, because plaintiff did not produce a liability expert report during discovery, he could not satisfy his burden of proof and the Court granted summary judgment in favor of our clients.

Obtained a defense verdict in favor of the client in a case involving plaintiff's allegations of negligent automobile repairs by proving that our client's repairs were performed in accordance with the industry's customs and standards.

Negotiated a stipulation of dismissal with prejudice, without any monetary contribution, in favor of a local college in a premises liability matter. Plaintiff claimed that, as a result of her fall on snow and ice on the sidewalk, she sustained severe injuries including a fractured ankle and she underwent open reduction internal fixation. However, using video surveillance, we were able to dispute the location of the accident and the condition of the sidewalk and obtain this favorable result for the client.