

## ALESIA S. SULLOCK

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Lawyers' Professional Liability  
Disciplinary Board Representation  
Real Estate E&O Liability  
Miscellaneous Professional Liability  
Commercial Litigation

### CONTACT INFO

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Philadelphia, PA 19103

### ADMISSIONS

New Jersey  
2012

Pennsylvania  
2012

U.S. District Court Eastern District  
of Pennsylvania  
2014

U.S. District Court Middle District  
of Pennsylvania  
2016

U.S. District Court of New Jersey  
2012

### EDUCATION

Villanova University School of Law  
(J.D., cum laude, 2012)

St. Joseph's University (B.A.,  
magna cum laude, 2006)

### OVERVIEW

Alesia is a member of the Professional Liability Department where she focuses her practice on the defense of claims made and suits brought against a variety of professionals. She regularly defends attorneys in legal malpractice claims, wrongful use of civil proceedings claims, abuse of process claims and disciplinary matters. Alesia handles a wide variety of real estate matters, including defending real estate agents, appraisers and title agents in litigation and disciplinary matters, and advising corporate clients on real estate and property matters. Additionally, she defends other professionals, including accountants, non-profit organizations and directors and officers, and provides representation in commercial litigation matters.

Alesia regularly presents on risk management and legal malpractice avoidance topics for attorneys throughout Pennsylvania. She publishes extensively in this area as well, including co-authoring a recurring column in *The Legal Intelligencer* on professional liability themes. She is an active member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Professional Liability Committee and Ethics Committee.

In 2012, Alesia earned her *juris doctor* from the Villanova University School of Law where she graduated *cum laude*. While in law school, she was on the executive board of the Villanova Law Moot Court Board and ran the annual Theodore L. Reimel Moot Court Competition. Prior to attending law school, Alesia worked as a corporate underwriter for a mortgage company in Philadelphia, PA.

Alesia attended St. Joseph's University as an undergraduate, and she graduated *magna cum laude* in 2006. She received several academic honors including the Presidential Scholarship and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

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## HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®, Commercial Litigation  
2024

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star  
2021-2023

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Pennsylvania Bar Association, Professional Liability Committee, Ethics Committee

Philadelphia Bar Association, Professional Responsibility Committee

Professional Liability Defense Federation, Professional Liability Committee

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## YEAR JOINED

2011

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### Restricting Restrictions: When Attorney Employment Agreements Run Afoul of the Rules of Professional Conduct

Philadelphia - Headquarters  
Lawyers' Professional Liability  
March 21, 2024

### Risk Management in the Practice of Law

Philadelphia - Headquarters  
Lawyers' Professional Liability  
February 27, 2024

### Pennsylvania Superior Court Continues to Apply Gist of the Action Doctrine to Legal Malpractice Claims.

Philadelphia - Headquarters  
Lawyers' Professional Liability  
January 1, 2024

The Pennsylvania Superior Court affirmed a trial court ruling dismissing a legal malpractice breach of contract claim as barred by the gist of the action doctrine. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2024 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

### Probable Cause as a Matter of Law in Dragonetti Cases

Philadelphia - Headquarters  
Lawyers' Professional Liability  
Miscellaneous Professional Liability  
November 17, 2023

## KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND CIVIL LITIGATION

Philadelphia - Headquarters  
Lawyers' Professional Liability  
November 1, 2023

One of the most important things for an attorney to understand when faced with a disciplinary proceeding is that the disciplinary process is not civil litigation. Legal Update for Lawyers' Professional Liability – November 2023

## CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*The Business of Law*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, April 9, 2024

*The Business and Ethics Basics of Law Firm Management 2024*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, January 26, 2024

*Defending and Avoiding Disciplinary Complaints*, Professional Liability Defense Federation Annual Meeting, September 2023

*Avoiding Legal Malpractice*, Dauphin County Bar Association, August 2023

*Avoiding Legal Malpractice*, Pennsylvania Bar Association, June 2023

*Malpractice Avoidance*, Pennsylvania Association of Elder Law Attorneys Winter Conference, February 2023

*Legal Malpractice Avoidance*, Monroe County Bar Association, June 16, 2021

*Avoiding Legal Malpractice*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, June 9, 2021

*Trends in Claims Against Lawyers*, Client Seminar, July 2018 and January 2019

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Relevancy and Its Limits," "General Admissibility of Relevant Evidence," "Exclusion of Relevant Evidence," "Character Evidence; Other Crimes, Wrongs, or Acts," and "Methods of Proving Character," *Ohlbaum on the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence*, 2024, Contributing Author

"Restricting Restrictions: When Attorney Employment Agreements Run Afoul of the Rules of Professional Conduct," *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 21, 2024

"Risk Management in the Practice of Law," *AttPro Ally*, Attorney Protective newsletter, February 27, 2024

"Probable Cause as a Matter of Law in Dragonetti Cases," *The Legal Intelligencer*, November 17, 2023

"You Diligently Protect Your Clients; What About You? Part 2 (The Middle and the End)," *The Legal Intelligencer*, September 15, 2023

"You Diligently Protect Your Clients; What About You? Part 1 (The Beginning) ," *The Legal Intelligencer*, July 14, 2023

"Why Your Mental Health Matters to the Disciplinary Board," *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 16, 2023

"When Disciplinary Counsel Knocks on Your Door, How Do You Respond?" *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 20, 2023

"The Attorney-Client Relationship: Keeping the Lines of Communication Open," *PLUS Blog*, May 9, 2022

"Engagement Agreements As A Legal Malpractice Avoidance Tool," *The Pennsylvania Lawyer*, March/April 2022 Edition

"Reinstating the Two-Year Statute of Limitations for Legal Malpractice Claims," *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 15, 2021

"Ten Ways to Avoid Committing Legal Malpractice in a Pandemic," *PLUS Blog*, January 18, 2021

"Responsive Pleadings," *Pennsylvania Civil Pre-Trial Practice*, 2018 - present, Reviewing Author

"Common Evidentiary Issues at Trial," *Pennsylvania Civil Trial Practice*, 2018, Reviewing Author, 2019 - present, Contributing Author

"Pennsylvania Legal Malpractice Claims: Moving Away From a (Nearly) Automatic Four-Year Statute of Limitations," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 2018

*Pennsylvania Legal Malpractice Handbook*, 2017 Edition, 2019 Edition, Published by Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, Co-author

*Case Law Alerts*, regular contributor, 2015-present

## RESULTS

### Defense jury verdict in Philadelphia on a legal malpractice claim.

#### **Lawyers' Professional Liability**

**May 30, 2023**

The plaintiffs had hired our attorney client to represent them in a property damage case against contractors and an insurance company after, as they claimed, the roof of their property was left open and water damage was sustained. The plaintiffs argued that their attorney failed to faithfully represent them and caused them to lose their claims against the contractors.

### Unanimous Defense Verdict in Legal Malpractice Case

#### **Lawyers' Professional Liability**

**May 30, 2023**

We secured a unanimous defense verdict in a legal malpractice case stemming from underlying property damage litigation. The plaintiffs rejected a \$350,000 settlement before the jury found for our client.

### Claims against real estate agent dismissed.

#### **Real Estate E&O Liability**

**December 2, 2021**

Our attorneys obtained dismissal of claims against a real estate agent arising from the agent's representation of a buyer in connection with the purchase of a home in Philadelphia. Following the purchase of the property, the buyer discovered numerous undisclosed issues with the home and commenced suit against the seller and the seller's agent.

### Accounting malpractice claim barred by the statute of Limitations.

#### **Accountants' Professional Liability**

**February 9, 2021**

We obtained dismissal of an accounting malpractice claim on preliminary objections in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The plaintiffs alleged that their accountant improperly prepared their tax returns—as married filing jointly—and failed to claim business losses, that resulted in an unexpected tax liability being owed.

### Dismissal of all claims against attorney in a consumer rights lawsuit.

#### **Miscellaneous Professional Liability**

**May 18, 2020**

The plaintiff was named as a defendant in a debt collection action for failing to pay her attorney's legal bills. Judgment was entered against her but never fully enforced. More than five years later, our client filed a Praecipe to Issue Writ of Revival and then mistakenly filed a Praecipe for Writ of Execution before the judgment was revived by the court.

## **SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

Obtained summary judgment in numerous complex legal malpractice matters on the basis that plaintiffs' claims were barred by the statute of limitations following application of the discovery rule.

Obtained a defense verdict following a three week jury trial in a complex legal malpractice action, arising from allegations of an attorney's failure to provide competent representation resulting in the loss of an underlying claim against a car dealership auditing company, purportedly causing twenty million dollars in damages.

Obtained a defense verdict on behalf of an attorney accused of inadequately representing a police officer in a grievance proceeding following his dismissal from the police force.

Obtained summary judgment in a complex legal malpractice matter arising from an underlying telecommunications litigation which spanned thirteen years and included two appeals.

Obtained dismissal of plaintiff's legal malpractice claims arising from an underlying release and medical malpractice claim, on the eve of trial, based on arguments made in a dispositive motion in limine.

Obtained affirmance on appeal of the dismissal of claims against an attorney pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 233.1.

Successfully represented clients in numerous disciplinary matters, resulting in findings of no discipline.