

CHRISTOPHER J. POWER

OF COUNSEL



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Construction Injury Litigation
New York Construction & Labor Law
General Liability
Automobile Liability
Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice
Product Liability

CONTACT INFO

(631) 227-6360
CJPower@mdwgc.com

175 Pinelawn Road
Suite 250
Melville, NY 11747

ADMISSIONS

New York
1996

EDUCATION

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg
Law Center (J.D., 1996)

SUNY Institute of Technology at
Utica/Rome (B.S., cum laude,
1978)

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Suffolk County Bar Association

OVERVIEW

Chris is a member of the Casualty Department where he handles cases involving New York State Labor Law, construction accidents, premises liability, products liability, auto liability and general liability.

Prior to joining the firm, Chris worked for a medium size defense firm, handling auto claims throughout the New York Metropolitan area, successfully arguing summary judgment motions and obtaining a defendant's verdict in the Bronx.

Chris spent more than a decade working for a national insurance carrier after college and during law school in various positions including claims adjuster, claims supervisor as well as nationwide claims oversight with experience participating in both claim and law firm audits. After law school, Chris spent seven years as a trial attorney with the insurance carrier and later became their Litigation Director for 13 years. His first hand knowledge of the insurance industry and familiarity with their policies allows him to effectively and efficiently counsel clients on their litigation issues.

Chris graduated *cum laude* from The State University of New York at Utica Rome in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He received his *juris doctor* from Touro School of Law in Huntington, New York in 1996.

YEAR JOINED

2018

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Secured in a Case Involving a High-Speed Chase with a Rental Car

General Liability

Automobile Liability

January 30, 2025

We successfully obtained a motion for summary judgment, dismissing our client from a negligence case. We represented a car service which was acting as a rental agent for Avis Rent-A-Car. Our client had repeatedly rented vehicles to the defendant/third-party defendant (renter) in the case. At the time of each rental, the renter would produce a valid driver's license that was run through a system to confirm its validity. Several days after renting a vehicle to the renter, the renter was involved in a high-speed chase with the Nassau County Police Department.

Defense Verdict Obtained in New York Trucking and Transportation Case

Trucking & Transportation Liability

December 23, 2024

We obtained a defense verdict for a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. We represented a tow truck company that was called to a plaintiff's workplace to tow a broken-down minibus for scrapping. Our client attached a tow rope to the bus and began operating the winch but was asked to stop so the mirrors could be removed. The plaintiff removed the passenger-side mirror and, instead of walking around the bus, walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripping over the tow rope and breaking his hip.

Defense Verdict for Trucking Company

Automobile Liability

Trucking & Transportation Liability

December 2, 2024

We successfully defended a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. The company had been called to tow a broken-down minibus from the plaintiff's workplace. While removing the bus, the plaintiff walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripped over the tow rope, and broke his hip.

Defense Verdict Secured in Highly-Contentious Slip and Fall Case

Product Liability

Premises & Retail Liability

October 17, 2023

We obtained a defense verdict in a slip and fall case which allegedly occurred in a New York supermarket. The plaintiff, a supermarket employee, claimed that he slipped and fell on water from a floor washing machine being used to clean the floors. During investigation of the claim, we discovered that the plaintiff slipped and fell on water from frozen food that he was unpacking. At trial, we successfully argued to preclude the plaintiff's expert from testifying that the floor washing machine was leaking water in that this expert never inspected the floor washing machine.

Airport fall not fault of terminal's cleaning service.

General Liability

April 13, 2022

We were successful in having a case dismissed on summary judgment in Brooklyn, New York. The plaintiff was a ticket agent for an international airline at LaGuardia airport. Our client was the cleaning service for the airport terminal. The plaintiff claimed she tripped and fell over a "worn/torn defective" floor mat behind the ticket counter. Depositions of the defendant indicated that they did not own, control, maintain or supervise the mats behind the airlines' ticket counter. Summary judgment was filed in 2020.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully defended a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. The company had been called to tow a broken-down minibus from the plaintiff's workplace. While removing the bus, the plaintiff walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripped over the tow rope, and broke his hip. Chris relied on precedent from a similar Nassau County case where a judge ruled that a tow rope was an open and obvious condition, with no duty to warn. Although the trial judge denied his motion for a directed verdict, she allowed him to argue to the jury that the defendant had no duty to warn. Plaintiff's counsel did not object. In summation, Chris emphasized that the condition was open and obvious and urged dismissal. The jury deliberated for just 15 minutes before returning a verdict for the defendant.