

## THOMAS P. BIRRISS

CO-CHAIR, HOSPITALITY AND LIQUOR LIABILITY PRACTICE GROUP  
OF COUNSEL



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability  
General Liability  
Premises & Retail Liability  
Hospitality & Liquor Liability  
Construction Injury Litigation  
Automobile Liability  
Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability  
Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation  
Catastrophic Claims Litigation

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
1987

### EDUCATION

Duquesne University School of  
Law (J.D., 1987)

University of Pittsburgh (B.A.,  
magna cum laude, 1984)

### HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-  
Hubbell®

The Best Lawyers in America®,  
Personal Injury Litigation –  
Defendants  
2010-2024

### ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Allegheny County Bar Association  
Pennsylvania Bar Association

### YEAR JOINED

1996

### OVERVIEW

Tom has practiced exclusively in areas relating to insurance defense since his admission to the bar. He has handled multiple matters in the areas of premises liability, liquor liability, professional liability, product liability, motor vehicle and municipal liability. Tom has extensive jury trial experience and has taken a great number of cases to verdict.

Tom has also developed a practice in the representation of various sports facilities and teams, sports associations, ski resorts and other outdoor outfitters in sports and recreation. Additionally, he has represented national organizations in liquor liability claims.

Tom has been selected by his peers to be included in Best Lawyers in America® (2010 - Present.)

Tom is a 1984 *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. After graduation from college, he attended the Duquesne University School of Law. There he served as a member of the *Duquesne Law Review* during his second year and the Executive Editorial Board during his third year. Tom received his *juris doctor* in 1987.

Prior to entering college, Tom served four years of active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, being honorably discharged in 1980.

### THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

#### Three Marshall Dennehey Attorneys Selected 2022 “Lawyers of the Year” and 67 Attorneys Recognized Overall in the 2022 Editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®

August 19, 2021

Marshall Dennehey is proud to announce that three of the firm’s attorneys have been selected 2022 “Lawyers of the Year” and 67 attorneys have been recognized overall in the 2022 Editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®  
[Read More](#)

### CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*Pennsylvania Liquor Liability Claims*, Hospitality Mutual Insurance Company, June 2015

## RESULTS

### Marshall Dennehey Successfully Represents Client in Multi-Million Dollar Chemical Spill Case

#### **Property Litigation**

**October 21, 2021**

In a lawsuit seeking \$279 million in alleged property damages, Marshall Dennehey attorneys successfully defended their client, a subcontractor of a railroad repair shop, against any and all liability.

#### **SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

Handled a \$40 million fire case. We reversed bifurcated this matter and tried the damage part of the case first for two weeks. The damages came in at less than had been evaluated; therefore, it was an excellent result. As a result, the case settled at mediation. The details of the settlement are confidential.

Have handled cases involving large industrial facilities, such as steel mills, condo complexes, warehouses, dormitory construction, etc.

Handled a construction case involving an amputation arising out of an accident that occurred during the construction of high end condos in Pittsburgh. Represented the general contractor. Plaintiff was an employee of the electrical subcontractor. As the result of our filing a Motion for Summary Judgment based upon statutory employer defense, we settled the case for \$10,000 at mediation while the motion was pending.

Successfully defended a number of high-exposure cases, including multi-million dollar construction and fire cases.