

## RALPH P. BOCCHINO

CHAIR, SOCIAL SERVICES & HUMAN SERVICES LIABILITY PRACTICE GROUP  
SENIOR COUNSEL



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Property Litigation  
Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability  
Product Liability  
Automobile Liability  
Architectural, Engineering & Construction  
Defect Litigation  
Social Services & Human Services Liability  
Catastrophic Claims Litigation

### CONTACT INFO

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Philadelphia, PA 19103

### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
1979

U.S. District Court Eastern District  
of Pennsylvania  
1979

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit  
1981

U.S. Supreme Court  
1984

### EDUCATION

Temple University School of Law  
(J.D., 1979)

La Salle College (B.A., 1976)

### HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-  
Hubbell®

Pennsylvania Super Lawyer  
2006-2022

Honored Member of Who's Who in  
Practicing Attorneys  
1990

"Order of the Salamander Award,"  
1990

### OVERVIEW

A member of the firm since 1980, Ralph P. Bocchino is a senior shareholder and the chair of Casualty Group I in Philadelphia. In this role he oversees the workflow and administration of files for 15 attorneys and support staff.

Ralph has litigated a plethora of civil defense matters in the areas of product liability, premises liability, construction law and defect litigation, and motor vehicle liability including truck and bus accidents. Ralph was formerly the chair of the firm's Amusement, Sports & Entertainment Litigation Practice Group and, as such, represents amusement parks and entertainment venues.

In addition to his many achievements in the Casualty Department, Ralph has also litigated defamation and legal malpractice cases. He has represented universities, special needs schools, and institutions in claims alleging sexual, physical, and emotional abuse on behalf of the Elwyn Institute and a number of 501 (c)(3) non-profit organizations, individual schools and entities in all types of liability, including but not limited to child molestation and abuse. He has also counseled nursing homes in elopement and sepsis cases.

When Ralph started at the firm, he was assigned to handle asbestos matters. At the time, the firm represented Johns Mansville Corporation, the largest producer of asbestos, and Ralph was the youngest attorney in the nation to successfully defend the company. His work earned him the "Order of the Salamander Award" for litigation excellence from Johns Mansville. (*Coger v. Johns Mansville Corporation, et al.*)

Ralph frequently lectures for the Pennsylvania Bar Institute and the Young Lawyers Association of Philadelphia on current civil procedure and legal issues. Ralph has also lectured at LaSalle University where he taught Real Estate, Business Law and Corporation courses. He has been recognized as a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer consecutively since 2006 and holds an AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell rating for more than 25 years.

If Ralph is not in the office or in a courtroom, he can be found coaching various youth sports teams. Ralph is a licensed soccer coach and licensed referee. He has been coaching soccer for more than 25 years. He is the President of the Hunter Soccer Club, a non-profit youth organization in Glenside, Pennsylvania. Ralph and all of the volunteers at Hunter were honored by the Abington Community Task Force for Hunter's service to youth since 1962. Ralph was elected to the Bishop McDevitt High School "Hall of Fame" for more than 30 years of coaching, referring and umpiring youth sports in the community.

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association

Justinian Society

Lawyers Club of Philadelphia

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Pennsylvania Defense Institute

Philadelphia Bar Association

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## YEAR JOINED

1980

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## CERTIFICATION

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Certification

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### Marshall Dennehey Announces 2022 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

May 23, 2022

Thirty-four attorneys across Marshall Dennehey's six Pennsylvania offices have been selected to the 2022 edition of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

### Marshall Dennehey Announces 2021 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

May 26, 2021

Forty-five attorneys from the Pennsylvania offices of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin have been selected to the 2021 edition of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

### Marshall Dennehey Launches Social Services & Human Services Liability Practice Group

Social Services & Human Services Liability

October 31, 2016

Marshall Dennehey announced today the launch of a Social Services & Human Services Practice Group within the firm's Casualty Department.

[Read More](#)

### MAP-21 and the Role of Black-Box Recorders in Discovery

Philadelphia - Headquarters

Automobile Liability

June 5, 2012

The Legal Intelligencer, June 5, 2012

### CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*Hills and Ridges Doctrine* and discussion of [Collins v. Philadelphia Suburban Development Co.](#), Client Seminar, May 2018

*Lights, Camera, Evidence!*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI), Philadelphia PA, December 5, 2017

*Accident Prevention and Investigation: Strategies for Risk Mitigation*, Client Presentation, April 2017

*Risk Shifting and Indemnity and Additional Insured Status*, Ohio Casualty, April 2013

*Nuances of the Political Subdivision Torts Claims Act*, Ohio Casualty, April 2013

*Dram Shop Liquor Liability*, Markel Insurance Co. and Markel International Insurance, August 2011

*The New Fair Share Act*, Markel Insurance Co. and Markel International Insurance, August 2011

*Comparative Negligence Act of Pennsylvania; Alternatives in Discovery; Jury Verdicts and Jury Issues in Philadelphia and Outlying Counties*, Ohio Casualty, April 2010

*Potpourri, "The Black Box,"* discuss varying topics including computer chips and information, equipment in various vehicles, automobiles, and trucks (2005/2007).

*Discovery, Rules of Civil Procedure and Bad Faith in Pennsylvania*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute

*Releases and Uniform Contribution Among Joint Tortfeasors Act*, LaSalle Alumni Law Luncheon

*Discovery Techniques and Trial Techniques*, Young Lawyers Association of Philadelphia

## PUBLISHED WORKS

*Risk Shifting and Indemnity and Additional Insured Status*, Ohio Casualty, April 2013

"MAP-21 and the Role of Black-Box Recorders in Discovery," *The Legal Intelligencer*, June 5, 2012

"When Pucks and Foul Balls Fly No Duty Rule of Pennsylvania," *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*, 2002

"Punitive Damages and Deceased Defendants," *Pennsylvania Law Weekly*, March 8, 1999 and, *Defense Digest*, Vol 4, No. 6, 1998

"The Blizzard's Backlash: A Symposium on Issues Confronting Pennsylvania and New Jersey Property Owners," Co-Author, *Defense Digest*, March, 1996

"Challenges to Venue Produce Positive Result," *Defense Digest*, Fall, 1992

## RESULTS

### Volatile Sexual Assault Case Successfully Moved Out of Philadelphia

#### **Social Services & Human Services Liability**

**March 1, 2024**

We successfully obtained an order to move a sexual assault case to Chester County, Pennsylvania. At first, the venue appeared *prima facie* good for Philadelphia until our attorneys more closely investigated and found the one defendant holding the case in the city was never served and could not be found.

### Summary judgment in a construction accident case in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

#### **Construction Injury Litigation**

**August 24, 2020**

Our client was the roofing contractor on a project in Philadelphia. The plaintiff was an employee of a subcontractor of our client. The plaintiff was injured when he fell through a skylight cutout in the roof. He fell approximately 15 feet and sustained injuries, including a broken hip (requiring ORIF) and fractured vertebra. The plaintiff was hospitalized for one month. The last settlement demand was \$2.5 million.

### Defense Defeats \$2.6M Slip-and-Fall

#### **General Liability**

**December 6, 2016**

The plaintiff had four surgeries to a severely broken ankle after a fall on ice and snow. The plaintiff sued the landlord, PSDC and the snow removal company. Demands were in excess of the policy for \$2.6 million. We represented the landlord and argued the Hills and Ridges Doctrine. In a rare occurrence, the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas agreed with us

### Summary Judgment in Dog Bite Case

#### **General Liability**

**December 6, 2016**

A young girl was bitten in the face by a pit bull. The plaintiff sued the dog owner, a tenant in a house, and the property owner. We represented the landlord and argued that a landlord out of possession has no duty to a tenant's invitee, especially when she has no knowledge of the pet's violent propensities. The court agreed and granted summary judgment.

## **SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

Defense verdict for manufacturer of concrete mixers in a suit claiming defective design in a truck roll-over matter.

Defense verdict for a garbage truck manufacturer for alleged defective design and failure to warn a truck driver who fell from the truck and required multiple surgeries.

Represented a personal care home in an elopement case where a resident left the premises and was found three weeks later drowned in the Delaware River. The court granted a compulsory non-suit based on the law of Pennsylvania and personal care homes.

Defense verdict on behalf of a manufacturer of a saw when a worker inadvertently sawed off part of his arm in a work-related accident.

Was the first attorney in Philadelphia to have an Azzarello hearing granted in a product liability case. A hearing was conducted before trial and then after the motion was granted, trial was commenced with product liability removed from the case, and a defense verdict was rendered thereafter by the empanelled jury. [Azzarello deals with having a court decide if a product is defective before trial, as a matter of law and fact.]

Received a defense verdict representing a 'mom and pop' hair salon when one of the customers claimed that they had a severe fall down the salon steps and required a hip replacement and knee replacement surgery.

Defense verdict received in representing an amusement park where a teenager drowned.

Defense verdict in a ski death case in upstate Pennsylvania.

Defense verdict in an asbestos case representing Johns Mansville Corporation, the largest manufacturer of asbestos products in the world in Philadelphia County, in 1980.

Defense verdict for an amusement park where a young child had severe lacerations and fractures from being injured in a sliding board accident.

Defense verdict in a gymnastics accident involving allegations of torn hamstrings, ruptured piriformus muscle and low back surgery following alleged improper stretching and warm-up exercises by a gymnastics instructor and coach.

Argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in an elevator accident case trying to maintain a Rule 50(A) Motion, which was granted at trial by the trial court, involving multiple back surgeries following an elevator accident.

Two defense verdicts in fraud matters involving staged automobile accidents.