

CAROLYN KELLY BOGART

CO-CHAIR, HOSPITALITY & LIQUOR LIABILITY
SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

General Liability
Construction Injury Litigation
Premises & Retail Liability
Product Liability
Commercial Litigation
Hospitality & Liquor Liability
Trucking & Transportation Liability
Automobile Liability
Social Services & Human Services Liability

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ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
1996

U.S. District Court District of New
Jersey
1996

U.S. Supreme Court
2002

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America
Columbus School of Law (J.D.,
1995)

Catholic University of America
(B.A., 1992)

HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-
Hubbell®

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OVERVIEW

Carolyn, a shareholder in our Casualty Department, has been a practicing attorney since 1996. She focuses her practice on premises liability, defense of liquor liability, construction injury, significant exposure excess insurance claims, contract and general casualty matters, and sports and entertainment litigation. Carolyn's practice also focuses on the area of retail liability, representing national and local retail clients defending general casualty matters, risk transfer claims, and negligent security matters. As a seasoned litigator Carolyn represents many clients in construction-based litigation involving contractual disputes and subrogation matters.

Carolyn has extensive experience defending fraternal organizations, schools and universities in matters involving contractual disputes, indemnity, vicarious liability, dram shop and general negligence. She is well versed in NJ immunity laws for schools and fraternal entities. Additionally, Carolyn has experience defending organizations and hotel chains in high-exposure cases involving human trafficking and sexual assault allegations, including matters brought under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA).

Much of Carolyn's caseload requires interpretation of contractual disputes involving insurance status and coverage disputes. She has extensive experience litigating complex contract and insurance coverage issues arising in construction, landlord and tenant, and other casualty matters. Carolyn has litigated numerous matters to verdict in the state of New Jersey and practices in all counties and federal court venues in the state.

In addition to her law practice, Carolyn provides annual legal updates to various clients ranging from issues dealing with auto liability, premises liability and risk management. She often provides consult to clients regarding liability matters, preparing for future issues to avoid litigation and developing policies and procedures for risk assessment.

Carolyn is a graduate of The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C. While residing in Washington, D.C., she worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative intern for Congressman James Saxton (Rep. 13th District of New Jersey). After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, Carolyn continued her education at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law where she was actively involved in the Families and Law Clinic, Moot Court, and was also employed as a judicial intern for the Honorable Brook Hedge, D.C. Superior Court, Criminal Division.

Upon completion of her *juris doctor* in 1995, she accepted a position with the New Jersey State Judiciary and became law clerk to the Honorable George L. Seltzer, New Jersey Superior Court, Law Division.

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Camden County Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

1996

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

On the Pulse...Navigating the New Era of Dram Shop Liability: Marshall Dennehey's Hospitality & Liquor Liability Practice Group Steps Forward

Pittsburgh

Mount Laurel

Hospitality & Liquor Liability

September 1, 2025

Dram shop liability, or liquor liability, is civil liability—typically for bars and restaurants—for personal injuries arising out of service of alcohol to either a minor or a visibly-intoxicated patron. And it is quite the hot topic these days. *Defense Digest*, Vol. 31, No.

Let It Snow

Mount Laurel

Premises & Retail Liability

December 1, 2021

Key Points: *Defense Digest*, Vol. 27, No. 5, December 2021 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin to provide information on recent legal developments of interest to our readers.

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Commercial Defense Practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Nationwide Insurance Company, Co-Presenter, December 2013

PUBLISHED WORKS

"Let It Snow," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 27, No. 5, December 2021

"Sidewalk Liability - What You and Your Condo Association Have In Common," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 18 No. 4, December 2012

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Secured in New Jersey Wrongful Death Case

Premises & Retail Liability

July 11, 2025

We won summary judgment in a wrongful death case, based on a lack of duty owed by a groom to his wedding guest, and dismissal of cross claims for lack of a viable contract owing indemnity under *Azurak*. The decedent was a plus-one guest at our client's wedding, which was held at a multi-building facility in Moorestown, NJ. Specifically, the venue consisted, in part, of a 131-year-old home with a castle-like outward appearance. The home's design includes an elevated terrace (raised approximately five feet and accessible by stairs) with an unguarded, flat ledge.

Summary Judgment Obtained in an Indemnity and Common Law Contribution Case

Commercial Litigation

January 16, 2025

We successfully argued and secured summary judgment in favor of a masonic organization, dismissing third-party claims for indemnity and common law contribution. At issue was a third-party complaint for contractual indemnity and common law contribution over an alleged trip and fall due to a structural condition with a rented property. The masonic organization rented the property for a single use event in support of the organization. The plaintiff claimed to be a guest and initiated suit against the commercial property owner, the third-party plaintiff.

Summary Judgment Secured in a Dram Shop Liability Case

Hospitality & Liquor Liability

June 5, 2024

We won summary judgment in a challenging dram shop liability case against a large restaurant chain where the demand was \$1 million. The plaintiff alleged our client was responsible for overserving the co-defendant driver prior to the subject motor vehicle accident. The court agreed with our arguments that the plaintiff failed to establish a violation of the The New Jersey Dram Shop Act. The plaintiff failed to present an expert report until opposing our motion for summary judgment.

Appellate court pivots; motion to dismiss granted.

Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice

General Liability

December 12, 2022

We obtained a published decision in the New Jersey Appellate Division reversing the denial of a motion to dismiss because of a lack of duty. The plaintiff's ex-husband drove through the gate at a large, high-rise apartment complex, waited for plaintiff to arrive, and then shot her in the face. Our client was the former management company which ceased its management obligations 17 days before the shooting, when a successor management company took over. The plaintiff argued that our client was negligent based on procedures for securing the lot it put in place when it managed the property.

Social Host Act Does Not Apply to Gross Negligence Claims.

General Liability

March 30, 2021

Carolyn Bogart was successful in opposing a plaintiff's appeal against our client, a former fraternity member and social guest. In 2014, the plaintiff was a 20-year-old college student and fraternity member attending a university in New Jersey. After consuming his own alcohol, he fell asleep in a dorm room that was the location of an on-campus party.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Obtained a dismissal of a negligence action against a management and development group. The plaintiff brought suit against our client for allegedly creating an unreasonably foreseeable risk of injury that was a direct and proximate cause of a motor vehicle accident at an intersection in August 2016. We moved to dismiss in lieu of filing an answer. In our motion, we argued that the plaintiff was barred from re-litigating the issue of liability by the doctrine of collateral estoppel. We also argued that the plaintiff was barred from bringing a claim against our client by the entire controversy doctrine. We were successful, and the Court granted our motion.

Successful in opposing a plaintiff's appeal against our client, a former fraternity member and social guest. In 2014, the plaintiff was a 20-year-old college student and fraternity member attending a university in New Jersey. After consuming his own alcohol he fell asleep in a dorm room which was the location of an on-campus party. In the early morning hours he left the dorm room and proceeded to drive his vehicle, which was unknown to anyone in attendance, as all of the party attendees had either left the party or were asleep when he left. He injured himself in a one car accident resulting in a traumatic brain injury and disfigurement claim. In 2016 he filed a lawsuit naming all party attendees and fellow brothers in his fraternity, as well as the university and its employees. Following over 30 depositions, summary judgment was granted to all defendants. The Appeal was filed in 2019, and a reported decision issued on March 25, 2021 affirming the underlying Superior Court decision as to our client. The appeal raised questions concerning the scope of the duty owed to an adult not old enough to drink legally, but who nonetheless drank to excess. The appellate panel ruled that the Social Host Liability Act did not apply because it governs liability for third party injuries resulting from the service of alcohol to an of-age adult.

Obtained summary judgment in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Passaic County, on behalf of a non-profit battered women's shelter in a premises liability action. The plaintiff alleged negligence related to snow and ice removal in the shelter's parking lot while she was residing at the facility. Defense counsel successfully argued that the shelter qualified for protection under the New Jersey Charitable Immunity Act and that the plaintiff was a beneficiary of the organization at the time of the incident, thereby barring the plaintiff's claims.

Successfully resolved tort action where demand was \$1.2 million, with large economic claim against her client, a large cable operator, after the plaintiff fell 34 feet sustaining significant injuries. Case resolved for less than \$200,000.

Successful on numerous auto negligence trials dismissing plaintiffs' claims for failing to meet the verbal threshold.

Successfully resolved claim for over \$1 million involving significant coverage disputes between carriers. Case resolved for less than \$500,000 where plaintiff had undergone a two-level cervical fusion.

Represents numerous national fraternities against charges involving New Jersey's criminal hazing statute.

Represents several large entertainment venues in the New Jersey area.

Litigated numerous contract disputes involving landlord / tenant and premises liability issues.

Represents several large retail chains on personal injury matters and indemnification agreements.

Local counsel for several home service companies providing representation on contractual disputes and customer complaints.