

GREGORY J. KELLEY

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Architectural, Engineering & Construction
Defect Litigation
Product Liability
General Liability

CONTACT INFO

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ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
1993

Pennsylvania
1993

U.S. District Court Eastern District
of Pennsylvania
1993

U.S. District Court of New Jersey
1993

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit
2000

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania
2000

OVERVIEW

Gregory concentrates the majority of his practice defending matters regarding architects and engineers, construction defect litigation and construction accidents. As well, he maintains a smaller portion of his practice in the defense of product liability claims. He splits his time between our King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and Mount Laurel, New Jersey, offices.

Formerly a litigation specialist for a large casualty insurer in Pennsylvania and Delaware, Gregory was responsible for and developed experience in the evaluation, negotiation and defense strategy for catastrophic personal injury and property damage claims. He also served as an instructor for in-house claims professional seminars on topics of Case Evaluation & Negotiation and Insurance Coverage.

Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey in 2004, Gregory was with a defense firm where his practice involved defending personal injury and property damage matters, focusing on architect and engineer professional liability and construction claims, products, general, premises liability claims and insurance coverage matters.

In 1982, Gregory graduated from Villanova University with a Bachelor of Science degree. While working as an insurance claims professional, he earned his *juris doctor* from Widener University School of Law in 1992 and is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
(J.D., 1992)

Villanova University (B.S., 1982)

HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-
Hubbell®

Best Lawyers in America®,
Litigation – Construction
2024

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

2004

CERTIFICATION

OSHA 10-Hour Construction Certification

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Stating a Claim for Negligent Misrepresentation for a Design Professional's Supply of Information

King of Prussia

Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

June 1, 2016

By Gregory J. Kelley, Esq.* The False Information Need Not Be Expressly Misrepresented, and How Specific the Allegations Must Be Remains Subjective Defense Digest, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2016

The Certificate of Merit rule applies only to claims brought by a client against a licensed professional

Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

July 6, 2015

Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 1042.1 et seq., the "Professional Liability Actions" Chapter of Rules, adopted in 2004, provides for the filing of a Certificate of Merit in support of a professional liability claim. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 2015

Where an owner settles a contractor's claims and assigns its rights against the architect, the contractor is not barred from pursuing the claims if the contractor was "not a stranger" to the claims at issue.

Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

January 11, 2013

The contractor sued the owner school district for delay claims, and the owner joined the architect. The owner settled with the contractor and assigned its rights against the architect to the contractor. Case Law Alert, 1st Quarter 2013

General contractor's inclusion of subcontractor's bid in GC's bid is not acceptance of subcontractor's bid and does not form contract between subcontractor and GC or client.

Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

July 1, 2012

The subcontractor (SC) gave a bid to a general contractor (GC) for a municipal authority project. GC included SC's bid within its own, and the authority awarded the contract to GC. Case Law Alert, 3rd Qtr 2012, July

A contract for construction with an owner is a prerequisite under Pennsylvania's Contractor and Subcontractor Payment Act, and design professionals may qualify as "contractors" under certain circumstances.

Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation

January 1, 2012

An architectural firm entered into an oral contract for services to help determine the feasibility of a project. The architectural firm entered into a second oral contract for behind-the-scenes assistance to the owner for planning and zoning. Case Law Alert, 1st Qtr 2012

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Liability Concerns for Architects, Engineers and Construction Professionals: Pennsylvania Architects, Engineering & Construction Defect Issues, Marshall Dennehey Client Seminar, July 2015

PUBLISHED WORKS

“Stating a Claim for Negligent Misrepresentation for a Design Professional’s Supply of Information,” *Defense Digest*, Vol. 22, No. 2. June 2016

Case Law Alerts, Regular Contributor, 2010-present

“The Federal Courts Require Complaints To State A Factually ‘Plausible’ Claim, And Factually ‘Conceivable’ (Speculative) Claims May Be Dismissed In The Pleadings Stage,” *Defense Digest*, Vol. 14, No. 1, March 2008

“New Jersey: Parental Immunity For ‘Negligent’ Failure To Supervise Claim Calls For Case-By-Case Analysis Of Defense Strategy, Liability Evaluation And Coverage Determinations,” *Defense Digest*, Vol. 12, No. 1, March 2006

RESULTS

Six-figure claim against lighting designer dismissed.

General Liability

August 13, 2021

We obtained dismissal of a six-figure claim in Philadelphia County via preliminary objections. The plaintiff homeowner sued a lighting designer for breach of contract, negligence for \$23k in remediation costs, statutory remedies for treble damages and legal fees. The plaintiff alleged the lighting designer was a home improvement contractor who violated the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act (HICPA) and Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law. The plaintiff omitted pertinent facts from the complaint.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Mediated a favorable settlement of less than \$1M for an Architectural firm in a high rise to condominium conversion project wherein the Owner claimed damages in excess of \$4.5M for delays and cost increases caused by Architect errors & omissions and negligent construction administration. The result was obtained at mediation in part due to use of document management and search technology through which it was argued that the results showed that Owner had intentionally withheld or destroyed some pertinent documents that were likely favorable to Architect and went against Owner’s credibility.

Mediated a favorable settlement for a large Architectural firm that involved construction of an addition to a county prison. The County claimed \$4.6M in damages for delays and cost increases, mostly due to negligent construction administration. The Architectural firm had formed a joint venture. Negotiations resulted in a \$2M settlement, to which our client only contributed \$300K as we were able to show that the substantial majority of the damages claimed pertained to the scope of activities performed by the joint venture partner.

Successfully obtained summary judgment dismissal of an architect on the Statute of Repose in a deck collapse/personal injury action where the settlement demand was \$2.5 million.

Mediated a favorable settlement for an engineering firm in litigation that involved construction defect and delay claims in multiple projects for a chain store owner. Owner’s demand against the contractor and three design professionals was \$10, million. After two days of mediation, the case settled for an amount well in excess of \$2 million, but our client contributed only \$170,000.

Mediated a favorable settlement for an architect in a design error/construction delay/abandonment claim wherein a \$1.3 million claim was resolved for \$400,000 without litigation and without discovery expenses being incurred.

Obtained a voluntary dismissal of an engineer in a catastrophic personal injury (quadriplegia) construction accident litigation in Philadelphia which has an exposure in excess of \$15 million.

Obtained dismissal of a township engineer in a double fatality construction accident litigation wherein two workers died while installing new sewer lines in a residential development. Township engineer was joined on theory that it was responsible for design and oversight of construction of the excavated areas occupied by the workers when they were asphyxiated.