

MICHAEL C. MONGIELLO

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Health Care Liability
Long-Term Care Liability
Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation
General Liability

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ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
2001

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania
2001

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit
2002

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
(J.D., cum laude, 2001)

University of Scranton (B.S.,
magna cum laude, 1998)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers in America®,
Medical Malpractice Law -
Defendants
2024-2026

The Best Lawyers in America®,
Health Care Law
2026

OVERVIEW

Michael is the supervising attorney of the Health Care Department in the firm's Harrisburg office. Michael focuses his practice on the defense of medical professional liability matters filed against hospitals, long-term care/rehabilitation facilities, medical practices, physicians, dentists, veterinarians and other health care providers. He also has significant experience in the defense of correctional health care claims and medical professional licensure matters. In his career to date, Michael has defended a countless number of such matters, achieving consistently favorable results through dispositive motion practice, alternative dispute resolution and formal hearing or trial. Michael is devoted to zealous representation of his clients and prides himself on preparation, good communication and conducting highly detailed investigations.

Even before graduating from law school, Michael decided to dedicate his career to these areas of practice. Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey in 2009, he practiced at a Harrisburg area law firm for several years, where he gained significant experience defending medical professional liability claims.

Michael graduated *cum laude* from Widener University School of Law in 2001. He was awarded a Certificate of Achievement in Advocacy and served as a student mentor. Michael completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Scranton, where he graduated *magna cum laude* in criminal justice. While at the University of Scranton, he was inducted into Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

When not practicing law, Michael enjoys music, everything outdoors, motor/water sports, skiing and vegetable gardening. He is also a talented vintner of organic red wines.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

98 Marshall Dennehey Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America

August 20, 2025

Marshall Dennehey is proud to highlight the firm's 98 attorneys who have been recognized in the 2026 editions of The Best Lawyers in America® and the Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America. Less than 6% of all practicing lawyers in the U.S.

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ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Dauphin County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

2009

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Malpractice Risks of Health Care Communication Failures, presented to medical staff of a large health care provider, March 9, 2021

Social Media Update: Discoverability, Admissibility and Jury Strategy, Marshall Dennehey Health Care and Health Law Seminar, November 9, 2017

The Nuts and Bolts of Defending Correctional Healthcare Claims," Jersey City, New Jersey, April 2014

Documentation: A Matter of Life/Death, Liability & Livelihood, Mechanicsburg, PA, August 2013

Augmentation of Recordkeeping Through Social Media: The New Frontier, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, August 2013

Documentation: A Matter of Life/Death, Liability & Livelihood, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, May 2013

The Best Defense is a Good Offense: Medical Documentation, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, May 2012

Informed Consent: Nursing Concerns, Lebanon, Pennsylvania, May 2012

Most Common Claims Arising Out of Correctional Healthcare in Federal and Pennsylvania Courts, Dallas, Texas, April 2011

PUBLISHED WORKS

"I'm Sorry. Mitigating Factor or Fodder for Suit?," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 18, No. 1, March 2012

"Can Medical Professional Corporations Be Held Responsible Under *Thompson v. Nason Hospital* for Direct Corporate Negligence?," *Counterpoint*, The Pennsylvania Defense Institute, January 2001

RESULTS

Appeal Successful Before the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice Social Services & Human Services Liability

October 1, 2025

We were successful on appeal of a child abuse determination levied against an Aveanna home health nurse. The three-day hearing was litigated before the PA Department of Human Services. As a result of the court's order, the nurse's record of child abuse is being expunged. The matter arose out of the alleged attack of a child-patient by a family dog during home nursing care. It was asserted that the nurse failed to properly supervise and protect the child, and failed to properly respond to the incident when it occurred.

Medical Malpractice Defense Verdict in a Complex Urosepsis Case

Health Care Liability

April 18, 2025

We secured a medical malpractice defense verdict in a complex urosepsis case where the damages included allegations of neurological sequelae and cognitive deficits. The trial was marked by aggressive cross-examination of expert witnesses and a deep dive into comprehensive neurological records and literature.

Summary judgment for orthopedic surgeon despite plaintiff's claimed application of the discovery rule.

Health Care Liability

February 10, 2023

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of an orthopedic surgeon based on the statute of limitations despite the plaintiff's claimed application of the discovery rule. After conducting written discovery and deposing the plaintiff to solidify that the medical professional liability action was untimely commenced, we early on filed a motion for summary judgment in an effort to avoid the incurrence of significant additional expense in defending the case through the remainder of the discovery process.

Defense verdict following a binding arbitration hearing in a medical professional liability action.

Health Care Liability

February 16, 2022

The plaintiff claimed that our client, an orthopedic surgeon, was negligent (directly or circumstantially under a theory of *res ipsa loquitur*) in causing a right common peroneal nerve injury during a L4-5 laminectomy and posterior spinal fusion. The plaintiff sought to prove that the peroneal nerve injury was the result of improper positioning and/or monitoring of the plaintiff intra-operatively.

Vigorous pre-suit investigation leads to favorable resolution of medical professional liability case.

Health Care Liability

The claims arose from the alleged occurrence of an unrecognized left tibial/medial plantar nerve injury during left ankle deltoid ligament reconstruction. Despite challenging liability issues the defense was able to significantly discredit the plaintiff at her videotaped discovery deposition based on the findings of an extensive pre-suit investigation. After testifying to having no criminal history, the plaintiff was confronted with multiple guilty pleas for writing bad checks.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Secured a significant victory before the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services on behalf of a home health nurse who had been found responsible for child abuse. The case stemmed from the alleged attack of a child-patient by a family pit bull during home nursing care, where it was asserted that the nurse failed to properly supervise and protect the child and did not respond appropriately to the incident. After a three-day hearing, we successfully appealed the determination by establishing that there was no definitive proof the nurse left the child unsupervised, raising questions about whether the dog had any history of aggression, and identifying credibility issues with the family's testimony. Medical experts also offered alternate explanations for the child's injuries. Ultimately, the court ordered the expungement of the nurse's child abuse record. This outcome also created a path to a very favorable resolution of the related civil matter.

Obtained partial summary judgment for an obstetrician in a medical professional liability action, significantly curtailing his client's exposure. The case arose out of the alleged negligent delivery of a baby, resulting in a shoulder dystocia, right brachial plexus injury and Erb's palsy. Michael argued that there was a lack of evidence that his client improperly applied traction during the delivery and the judge agreed, granting partial summary judgment on the plaintiff's gravamen claim of direct negligence. The court also granted summary judgment on claims for res ipsa loquitur and failure to obtain informed consent, and also as to plaintiff's claim for past medical expenses, due to a lack of proper evidence in support of these claims.

Secured summary judgment on behalf of orthopedic surgeon client based on the statute of limitations despite plaintiff's claimed application of the discovery rule. After conducting written discovery and deposing plaintiff to solidify that the medical professional liability action was untimely commenced, Michael early filed a Motion for Summary Judgment in an effort to avoid the incurrence of significant additional expense in defending the case through the remainder of the discovery process. At oral argument, the presiding judge commented that the matter was "extraordinarily briefed" and "even better presented." Michael's success on the timeliness issue, which is almost always reserved for decision by the jury, brought a quick end to the litigation, in which there were significant liability concerns.

Convinced a Commonwealth Department of State Prosecuting Attorney to voluntarily withdraw a Show Cause Order filed against a veterinary pharmacy, by which reciprocal discipline was sought to be imposed against its professional license. The matter arose out of an egregious pharmaceutical compounding error which caused the death of two race horses. Successfully advocated that due to a subsequent change of ownership, staff and processes, reciprocal discipline was unwarranted and unfair.