

CHRISTOPHER M. REESER

OFFICE MANAGING ATTORNEY
SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability
Premises & Retail Liability
Product Liability
Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation
Trucking & Transportation Liability
Architectural, Engineering & Construction
Defect Litigation
Fraud/Special Investigation
Construction Injury Litigation
Catastrophic Claims Litigation
Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability

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ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
1994

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania
1995

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit
2007

Maryland
2016

U.S. District Court District of
Maryland
2020

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
(J.D., 1994)

Albright College (B.A., 1991)

HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-
Hubbell®

The Best Lawyers in America®,
Personal Injury Litigation -
Defendants
2022-2024

OVERVIEW

With 29 years of litigation experience in a diverse range of practice areas, Chris represents and defends clients in matters involving motor vehicle, premises liability, construction defect and pharmacy liability. His deep understanding of these areas and breadth of experience is a valuable asset to his clients. Chris also serves as the Casualty Supervisor and Managing Attorney of the Harrisburg office. In this capacity, he oversees the day-to-day operations for the entire office and team of attorneys ensuring that client matters are handled promptly, professionally and effectively.

Chris has represented several large and small automobile insurance carriers and their insureds, numerous hotels, conference centers, and hotel chains as well as grocery store chains, convenience stores, retail stores, pharmacies, and industrial facilities. Chris has defended a number of significant and catastrophic cases involving injuries on building and roadway construction sites. He has also handled a number of underinsured motorist arbitrations and has extensive experience with mediation and arbitration.

Chris also defends fraternal organizations, schools and universities in matters involving contractual disputes, indemnity, dram shop and general negligence. He has counseled and represented clients in matters related to insurance coverage and professional liability. Additionally, he handles cases involving elevators, escalators, moving walkways, electronic doorways, cranes and lifts representing clients in alleged elevator, escalator malfunctions and negligent maintenance.

During his career, Chris has had significant experience handling several hundred motor vehicle matters involving third-party liability, uninsured and underinsured motorist claims along with several hundred premises liability cases. He has litigated jury trials to verdict in 15 different counties in state from South Central Pennsylvania to the Northern tier as well as in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. Chris has also been appointed by the President Judge of Dauphin County on multiple occasions to serve as an arbitrator, including a two-year term in which he was asked to serve as the Chairman of an arbitration panel.

Chris is a graduate of Albright College in Reading and the Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg. Chris started practice in Williamsport, working with a small litigation firm. He joined the Williamsport office of Marshall Dennehey in 1997 as an associate and he was elected a shareholder in 2002. In 2004, Chris returned to his hometown of Harrisburg to work in our Harrisburg office.

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Dauphin County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Association of Mutual Insurance Companies

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Pennsylvania Defense Institute

YEAR JOINED

1997

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Christopher M. Reeser Named Managing Attorney of Marshall Dennehey's Harrisburg, PA Office

April 3, 2024

Marshall Dennehey announced today that Shareholder Christopher M. Reeser has been named Managing Attorney of the firm's Harrisburg office.

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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 Wa

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CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Fundamentals of Personal Injury, June 2014

Pennsylvania's Fair Share Act - PAMIC Claims Summit, March, 2012

Basics of Auto Law – Defense Perspective, September 2012

Handling the Auto Injury Claim: Settle the Case Without Going to Court, National Business Institute, August 2008

Releases and Settlements - Tactics, Tips and Techniques, 2007 PAMIC Summit

Tort Claims Act, Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors

PUBLISHED WORKS

Two Scoops: Superior Court Allows UM/UIM Claimants to Double Dip Workers' Compensation Benefits, Defense Digest, Vol. 11, No. 3, September, 2005

Superior Court Holds New Trial is Warranted Whenever Jury Seeks Own Expert Opinion, Defense Digest, Vol. 9, No. 3, September, 2003

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Obtained in Case Involving Disgraced Business Owner

Commercial Litigation

February 1, 2024

We secured summary judgment and dismissal of nine claims brought by an individual employer against two former employees and their new place of employment. The plaintiff, who owned an insurance business and a tax preparation business, alleged claims of breach of contract, breach of the duty of loyalty, tortious interference, violations of the Pennsylvania Uniform Trade Secrets Act, and other related claims against two former employees, one at-will and one independent contractor, and their new employer.

Defense Verdict in Deli Case Premises Liability Lawsuit.

Premises & Retail Liability

August 24, 2018

Obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a supermarket in a premises liability case in the Court of Common Pleas of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The plaintiff claimed that she was injured when her hand was trapped in a deli case door that was closed by an inattentive employee. She claimed that in an attempt to free her hand from the deli case, she suffered an injury to her shoulder and her neck. MRI scans after the incident did show degenerative disc disease in her neck, as well as multiple herniated discs.

Plaintiff's Ski Collision Claim Goes Downhill

Amusements, Sports & Recreation Liability

May 11, 2017

Obtained summary judgment in a skiing collision case, successfully arguing that the plaintiff assumed the risk of his injury by engaging in the sport of downhill skiing. The plaintiff, a ski instructor, claimed that while he was skiing on a lower trail, our client was recklessly skiing at an excessive speed down an upper trail when the two collided. There was no evidence that our client was skiing recklessly or speeding just prior to the collision.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

A defense verdict in a toxic tort case in which the plaintiff claimed neuro-cognitive deficits as a result of exposure to pesticide which was applied in her home. The plaintiff had called preminent experts from around the country in the fields of industrial hygiene, occupational medicine, neurotoxicology and pesticide application in support of her claim. The jury found that our client, a large pest control company, was not negligent.

Successful defense of a subrogation claim brought against the manufacturer of a lighting fixture in which it was claimed that the design of the light caused the fire to occur. We were able to establish that the fire was not caused by the design of the light but instead by the misuse of the product by the homeowner, who did not follow the warnings contained on the light regarding its use in conjunction with a salt water aquarium.

Successfully obtaining the dismissal of a fraud claim against a client during trial in the Middle District of Pennsylvania which greatly reduced the insured's exposure in a fire loss case at a commercial facility. The dismissal of the fraud claim insulated our client, a small company, from uninsured exposure.

Successfully defending a large tree cutting company in a case in which it was alleged that an employee of the company was negligent in assisting a mechanic who was performing repairs to the hydraulic system on a boom truck resulting in a crush injury to the mechanic in which he lost a portion of bone in his forearm following contraction of MRSA.

Successfully defending a nail salon in a fall down case in which the plaintiff claimed that she was improperly escorted to a chair following a pedicure and had to undergo a multi-level cervical fusion as a result of her fall.

Successfully defended a claim against a pharmacy in which the plaintiff, a physician, was dispensed an antipsychotic medication instead of his usual beta blocker. As a result, the plaintiff claimed post traumatic stress disorder and a permanent loss of income as a result of suffering stroke-like conditions requiring him to be life flighted to a hospital. The jury concluded that the plaintiff did not sustain post traumatic stress disorder and suffered no permanent physical injury and awarded only a nominal amount of money.

Successfully defended a fraternal organization which was sued as a result of an alleged assault by a security guard against an animal rights protestor outside of a circus. The jury concluded that the assault did not occur and the case resulted in a defense verdict.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Gandhi v. Metropolitan Property & Casualty Insurance Co., 2020 WL 7769776

Marks v. The Reserve at Hershey Meadows, LEXIS 47325 (U.S. Dist. 2007)

Calhoun v. Prudential General Ins. Co., LEXIS 44302 (U.S. Dist. 2005)

Allstate v. Leiter, 306 F.Supp. 2d 488 (M.D. Pa. 2004)