

CHRISTOPHER J. POWER

OF COUNSEL



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Construction Injury Litigation
New York Construction & Labor Law
General Liability
Automobile Liability
Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice
Product Liability

CONTACT INFO

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175 Pinelawn Road
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Melville, NY 11747

ADMISSIONS

New York
1996

EDUCATION

Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg
Law Center (J.D., 1996)

SUNY Institute of Technology at
Utica/Rome (B.S., cum laude,
1978)

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Suffolk County Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

2018

OVERVIEW

Chris is a member of the Casualty Department where he handles cases involving New York State Labor Law, construction accidents, premises liability, products liability, auto liability and general liability.

Prior to joining the firm, Chris worked for a medium size defense firm, handling auto claims throughout the New York Metropolitan area, successfully arguing summary judgment motions and obtaining a defendant's verdict in the Bronx.

Chris spent more than a decade working for a national insurance carrier after college and during law school in various positions including claims adjuster, claims supervisor as well as nationwide claims oversight with experience participating in both claim and law firm audits. After law school, Chris spent seven years as a trial attorney with the insurance carrier and later became their Litigation Director for 13 years. His first hand knowledge of the insurance industry and familiarity with their policies allows him to effectively and efficiently counsel clients on their litigation issues.

Chris graduated *cum laude* from The State University of New York at Utica Rome in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He received his *juris doctor* from Touro School of Law in Huntington, New York in 1996.

RESULTS

Defense Verdict for Trucking Company

Automobile Liability
Trucking & Transportation Liability
December 2, 2024

We successfully defended a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. The company had been called to tow a broken-down minibus from the plaintiff's workplace. While removing the bus, the plaintiff walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripped over the tow rope, and broke his hip.

Defense Verdict Secured in Highly-Contentious Slip and Fall Case

Product Liability
Premises & Retail Liability
October 17, 2023

We obtained a defense verdict in a slip and fall case which allegedly occurred in a New York supermarket. The plaintiff, a supermarket employee, claimed that he slipped and fell on water from a floor washing machine being used to clean the floors. During investigation of the claim, we discovered that the plaintiff slipped and fell on water from frozen food that he was unpacking. At trial, we successfully argued to preclude the plaintiff's expert from testifying that the floor washing machine was leaking water in that this expert never inspected the floor washing machine.

Airport fall not fault of terminal's cleaning service.

General Liability
April 13, 2022

We were successful in having a case dismissed on summary judgment in Brooklyn, New York. The plaintiff was a ticket agent for an international airline at LaGuardia airport. Our client was the cleaning service for the airport terminal. The plaintiff claimed she tripped and fell over a "worn/torn defective" floor mat behind the ticket counter. Depositions of the defendant indicated that they did not own, control, maintain or supervise the mats behind the airlines' ticket counter. Summary judgment was filed in 2020.

Defense smokes pipefitter's claims.

New York Construction & Labor Law
December 2, 2021

The plaintiff, a pipefitter employed on a construction site, claimed he tripped and fell over a 2' x 4' metal stud, causing him to sustain a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery. The plaintiff sued the owner and general contractor under the New York State Labor Law. At his deposition in 2018, the plaintiff produced a photograph showing a loose metal stud lying on the floor of the construction site. When questioned as to who took the photograph, he stated his friend a co-worker, took the photo but that he was not there when it was taken.

New York Labor Law case dismissed on summary judgment.

New York Construction & Labor Law
August 24, 2020

Our client owned a parcel of land upon which a building was being erected. The plaintiff, an employee of a subcontractor, was at the premises cleaning up the worksite on a Saturday morning. He was standing on top of a company-owned work van in the parking lot, securing ladders to the roof of the van, when he slipped and fell off the van to the ground, sustaining serious leg and knee injuries. He underwent two knee surgeries and was also told he needed back surgery.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully defended a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. The company had been called to tow a broken-down minibus from the plaintiff's workplace. While removing the bus, the plaintiff walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripped over the tow rope, and broke his hip. Chris relied on precedent from a similar Nassau County case where a judge ruled that a tow rope was an open and obvious condition, with no duty to warn. Although the trial judge denied his motion for a directed verdict, she allowed him to argue to the jury that the defendant had no duty to warn. Plaintiff's counsel did not object. In summation, Chris emphasized that the condition was open and obvious and urged dismissal. The jury deliberated for just 15 minutes before returning a verdict for the defendant.

