

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

(631) 227-6360
CJPower@mdwcg.com

175 Pinelawn Road
Suite 250
Melville, NY 11747

ADMISSIONS

New York
1996

EDUCATION

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

State University of New
York Polytechnic Institute
(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 Obtained in a Theft Case in New York Civil Court

General Liability

August 12, 2025

We obtained a defendants' verdict in New York Civil Court where we represented an appliance company and their employee, who was accused of stealing a Rolex watch. The client's employee installed a light fixture in the plaintiff's residence. After the installer left the residence, the 85-year-old plaintiff could not locate his \$31,000 Rolex watch. He filed a claim with his homeowner's carrier and received \$500 because the watch was not scheduled. He also filed a police report.

Defense Verdict Obtained in a Slip and Fall Case

Premises & Retail Liability

May 30, 2025

We obtained a defense verdict in a slip and fall case in Suffolk County Supreme Court. The plaintiff was a physician's assistant who alleged he slipped and fell on a wet area inside his medical facility. He testified at his deposition that he saw mop swirls in the wet spot. He brought suit against the facility's cleaning company over one year later. Unrelated to this incident, the plaintiff had a pancreatic cancer relapse after his 2019 slip and fall and was out on workers' compensation for over one year.

Summary Judgment Secured in a Case Involving a High-Speed Chase with a Rental Car

General Liability

Automobile Liability

January 30, 2025

We successfully obtained a motion for summary judgment, dismissing our client from a negligence case. We represented a car service which was acting as a rental agent for Avis Rent-A-Car. Our client had repeatedly

rented vehicles to the defendant/third-party defendant (renter) in the case. At the time of each rental, the renter would produce a valid driver's license that was run through a system to confirm its validity. Several days after renting a vehicle to the renter, the renter was involved in a high-speed chase with the Nassau County Police Department.

Defense Verdict Obtained in New York Trucking and Transportation Case

Trucking & Transportation Liability

December 23, 2024

We obtained a defense verdict for a tow truck company in an "open and obvious" case in Nassau County, NY. We represented a tow truck company that was called to a plaintiff's workplace to tow a broken-down minibus for scrapping. Our client attached a tow rope to the bus and began operating the winch but was asked to stop so the mirrors could be removed. The plaintiff removed the passenger-side mirror and, instead of walking around the bus, walked between the tow truck and the bus, tripping over the tow rope and breaking his hip.

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.

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.