

## KRISTOPHER T. STARR

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Workers' Compensation

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Delaware  
2000

Pennsylvania  
2000

New Jersey  
2000

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit  
2000

U.S. District Court for the District  
of Delaware  
2001

U.S. Supreme Court  
2005

U.S. District Court District of New  
Jersey  
2007

### OVERVIEW

Kristopher focuses his practice on workers' compensation defense. His clients benefit from his many years of frontline experience in the insurance and health care industries, and his experience litigating before all Delaware State and Federal Courts and many boards and agencies.

Kristopher began his legal practice in Delaware as Deputy Attorney General in the State Department of Justice. After serving as a prosecutor, Kristopher was appointed by the Delaware Secretary of Labor as a Workers' Compensation Hearing Officer where he served for three years and wrote more than 300 opinions and orders on workers' compensation matters post hearing. Leaving the State government, Kristopher was appointed Assistant County Attorney and Risk Manager. In this role, he was responsible for the internal management of all workers' compensation and insurance claims management, as well as litigation concerning workers' compensation and insurance loss cases. Kristopher was also appointed Special Master in the Court of Chancery by former Chief Justice of Delaware Leo E. Strine, Jr., to assist in the creation and management of a large personal injury trust resulting from a serial sexual abuse class action lawsuit.

Kristopher left government service to join a civil law firm, where he engaged in the general practice of law, including workers' compensation for both claimants and the defense. His experience also includes managing the Delaware workers' compensation practice for a regional law firm.

In addition to his legal career, Kristopher is a licensed Family Nurse Practitioner in the states of Delaware and Maryland, and has experience in executive management of health care organizations. He is also a life member of the Hockessin Fire Company, having served as past Director, Captain and Lieutenant.

### EDUCATION

Widener University Delaware Law  
School (J.D., cum laude, 1999)

University of Delaware (B.S.N.,  
1996; M.S.N., 2007; Post Masters'  
Certification, Family Nurse  
Practitioner, 2014)

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Delaware State Bar Association

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## YEAR JOINED

2022

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## PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Guardian Ad Litem - Delaware Family Court

Guardian Ad Litem - Office of the Child Advocate - Delaware

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### Don't Forget Your Medical History: Why Fraud Never Pays, Nor Does Convenient Amnesia

Wilmington  
Workers' Compensation  
September 1, 2023

Key Points: Defense Digest, Vol. 29, No.

### Kristopher T. Starr Joins Marshall Dennehey's Wilmington Office as a Shareholder in the Workers' Compensation Department

Workers' Compensation  
July 13, 2022

Kristopher T. Starr has joined Marshall Dennehey's Wilmington, Delaware office as a shareholder in the Workers' Compensation Department.

[Read More](#)

## CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Pearls and Pitfalls of Social Media for Nurses, Nursing 2022 podcast, October 28, 2022

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Don't Forget Your Medical History: Why Fraud Never Pays, Nor Does Convenient Amnesia," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 29, No. 3, September 2023

## RESULTS

### Favorable Decision Received from the Industrial Accident Board

#### **Workers' Compensation**

**December 22, 2023**

We received a favorable decision from the Industrial Accident Board in a matter where the claimant had been injured in a compensable and accepted work accident where he sustained an injury to his lumbar spine. Due to a pre-existing degenerative pathology in the plaintiff's spine, we filed a petition for review to end temporary total disability benefits, alleging the claimant could work within restrictions. The claimant demanded approval of a lumbar discogram and ongoing total temporary disability benefits. The employer's doctor was found persuasive as to the issue of lumbar discography.

### Workers' Compensation Claimant Denied Petition for Compensation in All Respects

#### **Workers' Compensation**

**July 18, 2023**

We obtained a denial for workers' compensation in a claim that involved alleged injuries to the entire left upper extremity and neck from a work accident. Through the use of an expert witness, we were able to prove that the claimant had sought treatment for his injuries well prior to his employment with our client. As a result, all claims for compensation were denied.

### Successfully proved a claimant is not entitled to indemnity benefits for wage replacement.

#### **Workers' Compensation**

**March 7, 2023**

The claimant argued that repetitive motion caused shoulder issues and filed a petition for benefits. The claimant later underwent shoulder surgery and was taken out of work by his surgeon. A fact investigation revealed that the claimant quit working for the employer and had applied for Social Security Disability benefits for multiple disabilities, including the left shoulder, prior to being taken out of work by his treating surgeon.

### Lumbar fusion surgery and indemnity benefits denied.

#### **Workers' Compensation**

**February 23, 2023**

We represented a national internet retailer in the successful denial of a proposed lumbar fusion surgery and indemnity benefits. The claimant was awarded the injury and conservative medical treatment, however, the lumbar spine fusion surgery was denied, as were total and partial disability benefits. The client avoided a complex multi-level lumbar spine fusion surgery (L3-S1), total and partial disability benefits, and the post-surgical care. Because the surgery will not occur, the client is also relieved of a large post-operative permanent impairment award and surgical disfigurement.