

## DONALD L. CARMELITE

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation  
Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation  
Hospitality & Liquor Liability  
Miscellaneous Professional Liability  
Automobile Liability  
Real Estate E&O Liability

### CONTACT INFO

(717) 651-3504  
DLCarmelite@mdwvcg.com

200 Corporate Center Drive  
Suite 300  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
1999

U.S. District Court Western District  
of Pennsylvania  
1999

U.S. District Court Middle District  
of Pennsylvania  
2002

### EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law (J.D., 1999)

Pennsylvania State University  
(B.A., 1996)

### HONORS & AWARDS

BV® Distinguished™ Rating by  
LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell

Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Rising  
Star  
2011-2014

Susquehanna Valley Select  
Lawyers™  
2014

### OVERVIEW

Donald is a member of the Professional Liability Department where he focuses his practice on the defense of public entities, police, prison and correctional officers, as well as elected officials in civil rights, employment and land use matters.

In addition to the core areas of his practice, Don also handles a wide array of complex litigation involving liability for environmental, liquor/dram shop and professional claims. He has additional experience representing real estate professionals in every type of claim arising from the sale of a property covered by E&O policies and has defended claims made against licensed Brokers and Agents in a property manager capacity for HOAs. He also has years of experience defending motor vehicle and premises liability suits.

During his career, Don has served as first chair in over 10 jury trials and bench trials. He also has extensive mediation experience.

Don is very active in his community. He currently coaches a 10U travel hockey team, and previously served as a member of Vestry (board of directors) for Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in York, Pennsylvania. He is also the past president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Harrisburg Chapter. Additionally, he previously served as a committeeman for the Dauphin County Republican Committee in Harrisburg, 5th Ward, and remains active in local politics.

Don received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Penn State University and his *juris doctor* from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Thereafter, Don served as law clerk to the Honorable Michael L. Krancer at the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board.

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Inns of Court

Cumberland County Bar Association

Dauphin County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

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## YEAR JOINED

2004

## CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*Mobile Devices: Don't Let Good Reception Be Game Over*, Dauphin County Bar Association, January 2018 and Cumberland County American Inns of Court, December 2017

Personal Training For Client on All Aspects of the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, March 2016

*Political Subdivision Claims Act*, School Claims Services LLC, December 12, 2014

*Social Media in Litigation: Reloaded, a Closer Look at Using Social Media in Your Cases*, Dauphin County Bar Association, Harrisburg, PA, June 24, 2014

*How To Try a Case in State Court*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Mechanicsburg, PA, June 16, 2014

*Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, Real Property Exception*, client seminar, February 2014

*Basics of Litigation Involving State and Local Government*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, June 2013

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Discovering, Authenticating & Utilizing Social Media in Litigation: Strategy Considerations," co-author, *Defense Digest*, Vol. 20, No. 1, March 2014

"Thumbs Up for Qualified Immunity," co-author, *Defense Digest*, 2011-03, Vol. 17, No. 1

"The Bar Is Set: A Liquor Licensee's Duty to Third Persons in a Civil Suit," *Defense Digest*, 2008-09, Vol. 14, No. 3

## RESULTS

### Summary judgment in a municipal liability case involving a trip and fall on a sidewalk.

#### Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation

**April 22, 2022**

The plaintiff fell while walking and sued the owners of the property and York City, alleging the City was negligent in failing to maintain the sidewalk and in failing to inspect, correct or repair it. The defense argued that the plaintiff did not establish that York had any actual or constructive notice of the alleged defect, and that the plaintiff failed to meet her burden under the sidewalks exception to the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, 42 Pa. C.S. § 8541, et seq.

## **SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

Obtained dismissal, in favor of liquor licensee, of all claims in general negligence; reaffirming that the exclusive remedy for an injured person is statutorily found in the Dram Shop Act based upon service of alcohol to a visibly intoxicated patron, January 2018

Obtained summary judgment in favor of a police officer and township in excessive use of force and failure to train claim, October 2017

Obtained summary judgment, upheld by the Third Circuit, in favor of County Children and Youth Services Agency its social worker in parental rights claim, August 2017

Obtained discontinuance in favor of county vo-tech for negligence claims precluded by the Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, April 2017

Obtained dismissal in favor of District Attorney in a Malicious Prosecution Claim, March 2017

Obtained dismissal from EEOC of Township employee's age discrimination claim, August 2016

Obtained summary judgment in favor of county prison and corrections officers for claims of excessive use of force, October 2016

Obtained discontinuance in favor of regional police department and its officers for claims of illegal search and seizure of personal property, July 2016

No causation jury defense verdict in a claim where plaintiff was determined to be totally disabled by the Social Security Administration, through the use of surveillance video and plaintiff's social media postings, January 2013

Successfully obtained a zero dollar defense verdict in an admitted liability motor vehicle accident and motorcycle case, which had a pretrial demand for policy limits, July 2010

Successfully obtained a zero dollar defense verdict arising from a drunk driving accident with a pretrial demand for policy limits, October 2010