

CHRISTOPHER J. DICICCO

ASSOCIATE



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Maritime Litigation
Automobile Liability
Product Liability
General Liability
New York Construction and Labor Law

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ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
2011

U.S. District Court District of
New Jersey
2011

New York
2012

U.S. District Court Eastern
District of New York
2012

U.S. District Court Southern
District of New York
2012

U.S. Court of Appeals 2nd
Circuit
2014

OVERVIEW

Christopher is an associate in the Casualty Department where he concentrates his practice mostly in the area of admiralty and maritime litigation. Chris regularly handles maritime personal injury defense cases and marine construction cases, including cases involving the Jones Act and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act. He also handles cargo defense matters, including those involving warehouses and transportation brokers. Other maritime experience includes claims involving allisions, collisions, groundings, shipboard fires, and marine insurance disputes. He also has experience handling aviation and product liability matters.

In May 2008, Chris graduated with honors from Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He obtained his juris doctor in June of 2011 from Brooklyn Law School.

Chris has been recognized for the last several years as a New York Metro and New Jersey Super Lawyer Rising Star.

Chris is admitted in the states of New York and New Jersey, and he actively handles litigation in both states. In addition, Chris is admitted in the following federal courts: the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Marshall Dennehey Announces 2020 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

March 13, 2020

Eight attorneys from the New Jersey offices of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin have been selected to the 2020 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

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Marshall Dennehey Announces 2019 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

March 18, 2019

Eight attorneys from the New Jersey offices of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin have been selected to the 2019 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

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Marshall Dennehey Announces 2018 New Jersey Super Lawyers & Rising Stars

March 19, 2018

Eleven attorneys from the New Jersey offices of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin have been selected to the 2018 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

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Marshall Dennehey Announces 2017 New York Metro Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

September 21, 2017

Five attorneys from the Manhattan office of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin and one from the firm's Mount Laurel, New Jersey office, have been selected to the 2017 edition of New York Metro Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

Marshall Dennehey Announces 2016 New York Metro Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

September 22, 2016

Six attorneys from the Manhattan office of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin have been selected to the 2016 edition of New York Metro Super Lawyers magazine.

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SCOTUS concludes that a charter party's safe-berth clause constituted an absolute safety warranty.

Mount Laurel

Maritime Litigation

July 1, 2020

The United States Supreme Court recently held that a safe-berth clause in a voyage charter party created an express warranty of a vessel's safety, not simply a d Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 202

The Supreme Court of Louisiana concluded that a riverboat casino was not a “vessel” under general maritime law.

**Mount Laurel
Maritime Litigation
April 1, 2020**

The plaintiff, an employee of Grand Palais Riverboat L.L.C., was injured onboard the Grand Palais, a riverboat casino, and subsequently filed a claim for damages. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April 2020 is prepared

The Eleventh Circuit upheld foreign arbitral award, refusing to apply the New York Convention’s public policy exception.

**Mount Laurel
Maritime Litigation
January 1, 2020**

At issue before the Eleventh Circuit in this matter was the interplay between a foreign arbitration award and the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitration Awards. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2020 is prepared

U.S. Supreme Court holds that, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, when federal law addresses a relevant issue, state law is inapplicable.

**Maritime Litigation
October 1, 2019**

In a unanimous opinion, the United States Supreme Court held that, “to the extent federal law applies to a particular issue, state law is inapplicable” under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Case Law Alerts, 4th Quarter, October 2019

U.S. Supreme Court sets forth new test for product manufacturer’s duty to warn under maritime law.

**Maritime Litigation
July 1, 2019**

This maritime tort law case involved Navy veterans claiming they developed cancer as a result of asbestos exposure on Navy ships and in naval shipyards. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 2019

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

(Not So) Straight Forward and Freight Forward: Claims Handling Under Shipper's Interest Cargo Insurance, AIMU/MICA Seminar “Marine Insurance: A Global Perspective,” New York, June 2018

Schoenbaum Longshore & Harbor Workers Compensation Act - Chapter 5, Marshall Dennehey Client Presentation, March 2018

Chapter 3 -Schoenbaum's Admiralty and The General Maritime Law (3-14 through 3-24), Client Seminar, December 16, 2015

Chapter 3 -Schoenbaum's Admiralty and The General Maritime Law (3-1 through 3-13), Client Seminar, November 17, 2015

Impact of Long Shore and New York Labor Law, the Jones Act and McBride Decision on Punitive Damages Under Maritime Law, Client Seminar, April 2015

PUBLISHED WORKS

Case Law Alerts, regular contributor, 2016-present

“Brief Overview of Shipowner’s Limitation of Liability Act – History, Procedure and Recent Trends,” *Defense Digest*, Vol. 20, No. 1, March 2014

RESULTS

Successful defense of marine construction New York Labor Law case.

New York Construction and Labor Law

Maritime Litigation

May 18, 2020

Marshall Dennehey successfully obtained summary judgment, dismissing all claims against our client in a marine construction New York Labor Law case in the Supreme Court in Rockland County. The case involved bodily injuries sustained to an employee of our client, a sub-subcontractor at the site of the new Mario Cuomo Bridge. The property owner, general contractor and the subcontractor each cross-claimed and/or third-partied our client into the case, all seeking contractual and common law indemnity and contribution pursuant to the terms and conditions of the various contracts.

Summary Judgment Under New York State Labor Law

Maritime Litigation

December 6, 2016

Obtained summary judgment in a maritime case, dismissing the plaintiff’s complaint and the defendants’ cross-claims against The City of New York and the New York City Economic Development Corp. (NYCEDC). The suit was for personal injuries sustained to a dock builder. The City is the owner of the East River Ferry Landing’s Project at a pier on East 34th Street in Manhattan. The NYCEDC acted as The City’s project manager. Suit was brought under the New York State Labor Law Sections 240, 241(6) and 200, as well as common law negligence.

Successfully Defended the GC for the Tappan Zee Bridge Rehabilitation Project

Maritime Litigation

August 25, 2016

Successfully defended the general contractor on a project to rehabilitate the Tappan Zee Bridge after a six-day bench trial in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Our client chartered a barge as a floating work platform and entered into a subcontract agreement with a tug operator, whose tug was used to ferry electricians to the work site. Our client’s employee, a barge deckhand, fell into the river after an impact between a tug and the barge.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Obtained summary judgment in a maritime personal injury case in favor of The City of New York and the New York City Economic Development Corp. (NYCEDC). The suit was for personal injuries sustained to a dock builder. The City was the owner of the East River Ferry Landing's Project at a pier on East 34th Street in Manhattan. The NYCEDC acted as The City's project manager. Suit was brought under the New York State Labor Law Sections 200, 240(1), and 241(6), as well as common law negligence. As to the Labor Law 240(1), the court determined that this section did not apply to the facts as the plaintiff's alleged injury (caused by the repetitive nature of receiving buckets of epoxy, which were lowered down to him from a barge, and then he carried the buckets across a float stage and poured the epoxy into pile jackets) was only tangentially related to gravity and was not caused by the kind of gravity-related risks that Labor Law 240(1) intended to cover. As to the plaintiff's Labor Law 200 and common law negligence claims, plaintiff's counsel conceded during oral argument that there was no basis to proceed with such claims against The City and NYCEDC. Lastly, with respect to the plaintiff's Labor Law 241(6) claims, the plaintiff did not oppose our motion to dismiss that claim.

Obtained the dismissal for our client by motion as a result of plaintiff's failure to comply with the applicable two-year statute of limitations. Our client was the owner of the facility at which plaintiff was operating a loaded trailer while in the employ of the lessee of the yard, when the trailer tipped over while plaintiff was moving it from the loading bay to the other side of the yard. Plaintiff sustained very serious bodily injuries. In addition to the dismissal of plaintiff's Complaint, we also recovered approximately 50% of our attorney's fees incurred on behalf of our client on our third-party claims against the plaintiff's employer and lessee of the yard, pursuant to the lease agreement between our client and the lessee of the yard.

Obtained the dismissal of plaintiff's cargo claims against our client, a non-vessel operating common carrier, during a bench trial in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Union County, Special Civil Part, following the successful cross-examination of the plaintiff.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of the owner and property management company of a senior housing complex in a case in which the elevator car doors on one of the elevators in the building struck plaintiff as she was entering the elevator, resulting in personal injuries. The plaintiff alleged that our clients were negligent in allowing a hazardous condition to exist on the property. At the conclusion of discovery, we moved for summary judgment on liability, arguing the lack of any evidence of a defect or malfunction with respect to the elevator doors on the incident date, or alternatively, the lack of any actual or constructive notice of the alleged hazardous condition, if it even existed in the first place. The court (Monmouth County Superior Court) agreed, focusing on the lack of notice to the owner and property manager, and granted our motion for summary judgment dismissing all claims and cross-claims against our clients, with prejudice.

Obtained the dismissal of the plaintiff's personal injury action, which arose from a boating accident that occurred during a regatta that took place in the waters off of Little Egg Harbor in Beach Haven, New Jersey. At the time of the accident, the plaintiff was sixteen years old. The lawsuit was not commenced until more than three years after the accident. We filed a motion to dismiss the Complaint on the basis that it was barred by the three (3) year Uniform Statute of Limitations (46 U.S.C. § 30106 (formerly 46 U.S.C. § App'x 763a)) applicable to all maritime tort actions and was not subject to New Jersey's infant tolling statute. The United States District Court for the District of New Jersey agreed and granted our motion dismissing the plaintiff's Complaint.

