

CHRISTIAN D. MARQUIS

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Professional Liability
Public Entity and Civil Rights Litigation
Construction Injury Litigation
Architectural, Engineering and
Construction Defect Litigation
Automobile Liability
Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation
Commercial Litigation

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ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
2000

U.S. District Court Western
District of Pennsylvania
2000

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd
Circuit
2007

EDUCATION

New England School of Law
(J.D., 1999)

Pennsylvania State University
(B.S., 1996)

Saint Vincent College (B.A.,
1995)

OVERVIEW

Christian's practice includes the defense of professionals, public entities, police officers and public officials. He has handled numerous cases defending public entities and public officials in matters involving general negligence and intentional tort claims, land use and zoning issues including municipal statutory appeals, mandamus and inverse condemnation claims, and administrative regulatory issues. He also defends public entities, public officials and police officers in civil rights actions including land use and zoning denials, unlawful use of force, wrongful arrest and malicious prosecution claims, and also wrongful termination and discrimination claims.

Christian has significant experience representing architects and engineers, construction contractors, home and code inspectors, real estate agents and other professionals in the defense of professional and general negligence, construction injuries and accidents, construction defect and breach of contract claims. He also defends clients in personal injury, commercial, environmental and toxic tort litigation matters, more recently surrounding fracking related to natural gas drilling. Christian has tried and handled cases in state and federal courts.

In 1995, Christian graduated from St. Vincent College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. In 1996, he graduated from the Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering. He then earned his *juris doctor* from the New England School of Law, Boston, Massachusetts, in 1999.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Two Marshall Dennehey Attorneys Selected 2019 "Lawyers of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America©

August 15, 2018

Two Marshall Dennehey attorneys have been selected 2019 "Lawyers of the Year" for specific practice and demographic areas by The Best Lawyers in America©.

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PUBLISHED WORKS

"The First Amendment's Protection Applies To Certain Comments Directed Toward Police Officers," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 13, No. 4, December, 2007

"Nanty-Glo Rule Applies to Preliminary Objections Raising Issues of Fact," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 10, No. 1, March, 2004

RESULTS

Governmental Immunity for Township and Its Sewage Enforcement Officer

Public Entity and Civil Rights Litigation

May 11, 2017

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a township and its sewage enforcement officer resulting from an alleged negligent inspection and approval of a septic system. A current owner of a residential property in the township filed suit against the seller of the property who installed the septic system, as well as the township, claiming that the residential septic system was defective after a back-up of sewage into the residence.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

After the completion of discovery, successfully obtained settlement of less than \$42,000 on behalf of a police department and its officer arising out of a family dispute where seven family members filed Section 1983 civil rights claims alleging malicious and retaliatory prosecution where the initial demand was over \$750,000.

In a case where a plaintiff filed a Section 1983 civil rights claim based on alleged unlawful excessive use of force where a police canine, upon the command of its controlling officer, grabbed the plaintiff's abdomen, taking him to the ground and resulting in puncture wounds. Obtained a settlement of \$20,000 where the plaintiff's demand was \$250,000.

Currently handling a case on behalf of a roofing contractor where the plaintiff school district is alleging against multiple parties that the roof was improperly constructed, resulting in roof leakage associated damages in excess of \$600,000.

Currently handling a case on behalf of a civil engineering and surveying firm resulting from an allegedly improperly designed storm water management system associated with a land development plan. Decedent's estate has raised claims against multiple parties that storm water drainage formed ice on a state road, causing decedent's accident.

Obtained summary judgment in favor of a municipal authority wherein plaintiffs

claimed damages in excess of \$75,000 as a result of a landslide that impacted their property allegedly as a result of a defective sanitary sewer line and corresponding trenching.

Obtained summary judgment in favor of a township wherein a plaintiff alleged that she sustained various personal injuries as a result of a motor vehicle versus tractor trailer accident that was allegedly caused by a defective traffic signal.

Successfully obtained a favorable decision on appeal before the Commonwealth Court in a reported decision on behalf of a borough and its council on the basis of high public official immunity wherein a plaintiff sought damages as a result of being debarred during a public meeting by the council from bidding on public works contracts.

Obtained a jury defense verdict on behalf of a township wherein a plaintiff alleged that he sustained a foot fracture after stepping into an uncovered utility trench.

Obtained a non-jury defense verdict on behalf of a city wherein a plaintiff alleged that his rental property sustained damages as a result of a sanitary sewer back-up.

Obtained a decision in favor of a home inspector after binding arbitration wherein a plaintiff alleged that the inspector was negligent for failing to discover the existence of mold during a home inspection.

Obtained a non-jury defense verdict on behalf of a police officer wherein a plaintiff alleged unlawful use of force during the course of an arrest.

Successfully negotiated a favorable settlement in the amount of \$15,000 on behalf of a township wherein a police officer who demanded \$75,000 alleged wrongful termination from the township police department in violation of his equal protection rights.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Osiris Enterprises v. Borough of Whitehall, 877 A.2d 560 (Pa. Cmwlth. 2005)

Osiris Enterprises v. Borough of Whitehall, 398 F. Supp. 2d 400 (W.D. Pa. 2005)