

ALESIA S. SULOCK

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Miscellaneous Professional Liability
Commercial Litigation
Lawyers' Professional Liability
Disciplinary Board Representation
Real Estate E&O Liability

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ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
2012

Pennsylvania
2012

U.S. District Court Eastern District
of Pennsylvania
2014

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania
2016

U.S. District Court of New Jersey
2012

OVERVIEW

Alesia is a member of the Professional Liability Department. Alesia focuses her practice on the defense of claims made and suits brought against attorneys, accountants, corporate directors and officers, and other professionals, as well as various commercial litigation matters. In connection with her practice, Alesia advises corporate clients on real estate and property matters. Alesia has significant experience in legal malpractice matters, including those arising from underlying commercial litigation, criminal matters, professional liability matters, medical malpractice matters, personal injury matters, transactional matters, and others. Alesia also represents attorneys in connection with Dragonetti suits, abuse of process claims, and disciplinary matters.

Prior to attending law school, Alesia worked as a corporate underwriter for a mortgage company in Philadelphia, PA. There, Alesia performed second level loan reviews and credit and risk analysis of loan applications. Additionally, Alesia served as the underwriter on a remediation program under which borrowers were refinanced out of pre-foreclosure loans. Alesia gained knowledge of real estate law such as the Truth in Lending Act and obtained experience in the areas of mortgage lending and in particular, mortgage foreclosure. From this experience, Alesia also represents banks and mortgage services in foreclosure-related litigation.

In 2012, Alesia earned her *juris doctor* from the Villanova University School of Law where she graduated *cum laude*. While in law school, Alesia was on the executive board of the Villanova Law Moot Court Board, and ran the annual Theodore L. Reimel Moot Court Competition in 2012. She was also a quarter finalist in the Theodore L. Reimel Moot Court Competition in 2011 and a quarter finalist in the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition in both 2011 and 2012. Also while in law school, Alesia earned the Dorothy Day Award for pro bono service, primarily for her work with the Face to Face Legal Clinic, where she continues to volunteer.

Prior to entering law school, Alesia attended St. Joseph's University, where she graduated *magna cum laude* in 2006. She received several academic honors including the Presidential Scholarship, and she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

EDUCATION

Villanova University School of Law
(J.D., cum laude, 2012)

St. Joseph's University (B.A.,
magna cum laude, 2006)

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®,
Commercial Litigation
2024

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers
Rising Star
2021-2023

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia Bar Association

Professional Liability Defense Federation

YEAR JOINED

2011

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Pennsylvania Superior Court Continues to Apply Gist of the Action Doctrine to Legal Malpractice Claims.

Philadelphia - Headquarters
Lawyers' Professional Liability
January 1, 2024

The Pennsylvania Superior Court affirmed a trial court ruling dismissing a legal malpractice breach of contract claim as barred by the gist of the action doctrine. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2024 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

Probable Cause as a Matter of Law in Dragonetti Cases

Philadelphia - Headquarters
Lawyers' Professional Liability
Miscellaneous Professional Liability
November 17, 2023

KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND CIVIL LITIGATION

Philadelphia - Headquarters
Lawyers' Professional Liability
November 1, 2023

One of the most important things for an attorney to understand when faced with a disciplinary proceeding is that the disciplinary process is not civil litigation. Legal Update for Lawyers' Professional Liability – November 2023

Third Circuit Confirms Disciplinary Board's Ability to Prohibit Harassment and Discrimination in the Practice of Law

Philadelphia - Headquarters
Lawyers' Professional Liability
Disciplinary Board Representation
October 1, 2023

The recent amendment to Pennsylvania Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4, prohibiting harassment and discrimination in the practice of law, remains in effect in Pennsylvania after the Third Circuit held that an attorney plaintiff lacked standing to c Case Law Alerts, 4th Quarter, October 2023 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

You Diligently Protect Your Clients; What About You? Part 2 (The Middle and the End)

Philadelphia - Headquarters
Lawyers' Professional Liability
September 15, 2023

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

The Business and Ethics Basics of Law Firm Management 2024, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, January 26, 2024

Avoiding Legal Malpractice, Pennsylvania Bar Association, June 2023

Legal Malpractice Avoidance, Monroe County Bar Association, June 16, 2021

Avoiding Legal Malpractice, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, June 9, 2021

Trends in Claims Against Lawyers, Client Seminar, July 2018 and January 2019

PUBLISHED WORKS

"Risk Management in the Practice of Law," *AttPro Ally*, Attorney Protective newsletter, February 27, 2024

"Why Your Mental Health Matters to the Disciplinary Board," *The Legal Intelligencer*, May 16, 2023

"When Disciplinary Counsel Knocks on Your Door, How Do You Respond?" *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 20, 2023

"The Attorney-Client Relationship: Keeping the Lines of Communication Open," *PLUS Blog*, May 9, 2022

"Engagement Agreements As A Legal Malpractice Avoidance Tool," *The Pennsylvania Lawyer*, March/April 2022 Edition

"Reinstating the Two-Year Statute of Limitations for Legal Malpractice Claims," *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 15, 2021

"Ten Ways to Avoid Committing Legal Malpractice in a Pandemic," *PLUS Blog*, January 18, 2021

"Responsive Pleadings," *Pennsylvania Civil Pre-Trial Practice*, 2018, 2019, Reviewing Author

"Common Evidentiary Issues at Trial," *Pennsylvania Civil Trial Practice*, 2018, Reviewing Author, 2019, Contributing Author

"Pennsylvania Legal Malpractice Claims: Moving Away From a (Nearly) Automatic Four-Year Statute of Limitations," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 2018

Pennsylvania Legal Malpractice Handbook, 2017 Edition, 2019 Edition, Published by Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, Co-author

Case Law Alerts, regular contributor, 2015-present

RESULTS

Defense jury verdict in Philadelphia on a legal malpractice claim.

Lawyers' Professional Liability

May 30, 2023

The plaintiffs had hired our attorney client to represent them in a property damage case against contractors and an insurance company after, as they claimed, the roof of their property was left open and water damage was sustained. The plaintiffs argued that their attorney failed to faithfully represent them and caused them to lose their claims against the contractors.

Unanimous Defense Verdict in Legal Malpractice Case

Lawyers' Professional Liability

May 30, 2023

We secured a unanimous defense verdict in a legal malpractice case stemming from underlying property damage litigation. The plaintiffs rejected a \$350,000 settlement before the jury found for our client.

Claims against real estate agent dismissed.

Real Estate E&O Liability

December 2, 2021

Our attorneys obtained dismissal of claims against a real estate agent arising from the agent's representation of a buyer in connection with the purchase of a home in Philadelphia. Following the purchase of the property, the buyer discovered numerous undisclosed issues with the home and commenced suit against the seller and the seller's agent.

Accounting malpractice claim barred by the statute of Limitations.

Accountants' Professional Liability

February 9, 2021

We obtained dismissal of an accounting malpractice claim on preliminary objections in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The plaintiffs alleged that their accountant improperly prepared their tax returns—as married filing jointly—and failed to claim business losses, that resulted in an unexpected tax liability being owed.

Dismissal of all claims against attorney in a consumer rights lawsuit.

Miscellaneous Professional Liability

May 18, 2020

The plaintiff was named as a defendant in a debt collection action for failing to pay her attorney's legal bills. Judgment was entered against her but never fully enforced. More than five years later, our client filed a Praecipe to Issue Writ of Revival and then mistakenly filed a Praecipe for Writ of Execution before the judgment was revived by the court.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Obtained summary judgment in numerous complex legal malpractice matters on the basis that plaintiffs' claims were barred by the statute of limitations following application of the discovery rule.

Obtained a defense verdict following a three week jury trial in a complex legal malpractice action, arising from allegations of an attorney's failure to provide competent representation resulting in the loss of an underlying claim against a car dealership auditing company, purportedly causing twenty million dollars in damages.

Obtained a defense verdict on behalf of an attorney accused of inadequately representing a police officer in a grievance proceeding following his dismissal from the police force.

Obtained summary judgment in a complex legal malpractice matter arising from an underlying telecommunications litigation which spanned thirteen years and included two appeals.

Obtained dismissal of plaintiff's legal malpractice claims arising from an underlying release and medical malpractice claim, on the eve of trial, based on arguments made in a dispositive motion in limine.

Obtained affirmance on appeal of the dismissal of claims against an attorney pursuant to Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 233.1.

Successfully represented clients in numerous disciplinary matters, resulting in findings of no discipline.