

LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability
Automobile Liability
Construction Injury Litigation
General Liability
Hospitality & Liquor Liability

CONTACT INFO

(412) 803-1170
LEPurcell@mdwvcg.com

Union Trust Building, Suite 700
501 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
2013

U.S. District Court Western District
of Pennsylvania
2013

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of
Law (J.D., cum laude, 2013)

University of Pittsburgh (B.S., cum
laude, 2005)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to
Watch®, Construction Law;
Product Liability Litigation -
Defendants
2021-2025

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Allegheny County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

The W. Edward Sell American Inns
of Court

OVERVIEW

Lauren is a shareholder in the Casualty Department. She concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, premises liability, auto liability, and construction law. Lauren's litigation experience includes assisting in the management of discovery during the course of litigation, as well as drafting and arguing dispositive motions. Lauren participated in Marshall Dennehey's pro bono program where she was responsible for a social security disability appeal case. Further, Lauren has represented corporate entities at the arbitration and magistrate levels.

Lauren earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Psychology, Political Science, and Anthropology, *cum laude*. Prior to law school, Lauren was an assistant buyer for Anthropologie. She received her *juris doctor* from the University of Pittsburgh, *cum laude*, in 2013. While in law school, Lauren served as a legal writing teaching assistant and as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. Prior to graduating from law school, Lauren served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and also as a legal intern for the legal department of Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Prior to joining the firm, Lauren served as a judicial law clerk with the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

Lauren is admitted into practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Her memberships include the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations, and the W. Edward Sell American Inn of Court.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Federal Court Allows Negligence Claim Against Retailer Under Restatement § 344 for Independent Contractor's Assault

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

January 1, 2026

In their complaint, the plaintiffs raised negligence claims against a retail store based upon the alleged sexual assault and battery of a minor by a former employee of the store's independent contractor.

Federal Court Grants Summary Judgment to Retailer in Slip-and-Fall Case for Lack of Evidence of Notice

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

January 1, 2026

The plaintiff raised a negligence claim against a retail store based upon a slip and fall incident. The plaintiff alleged that she slipped and fell in an aisle of the store as a result of water on the floor.

Superior Court Affirms Summary Judgment for Landlord: Lack of Expert Testimony on Fire's Cause Defeats Negligence Claim

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

January 1, 2026

The plaintiff tenants filed negligence claims against the defendant landlord stemming from a fire that occurred in their rented home. The landlord filed a motion for summary judgment, which the trial court granted.

Superior Court Vacates Termination of Premises Liability Case: Lack of Proper Notice Under Rules 230.2 and 236

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

January 1, 2026

The plaintiff filed a premises liability action against a hospital which was commenced by a writ of summons.

Commonwealth Court Vacates Verdict, Holding Comparative Negligence Instruction Improper in Dog Attack Case

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

October 1, 2025

When the plaintiff, a volunteer at the dog shelter, arrived at the shelter, a dog on a leash jumped up. The plaintiff moved away and told an employee of the shelter to take the dog away.

PUBLISHED WORKS

"A Post-'Sullivan' World Requires a Strong Expert Report," *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 17, 2025

"Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer'," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 15, 2023

"Employers (Still) Not Liable For Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 10, 2022

"Winning the Golden Ticket: Ownership of Terminal-Printed Lottery Tickets," *Defense Digest*, June 2021, Vol. 27, No. 3

"Should Mandatory Liquor Liability Insurance Be in PA's Future?" *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 25, 2020

Note, A Fashion Flop: The Innovative Design Protection and Privacy Prevention Act, 31 J.L. & COM. 203 (2013)

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Marshall Dennehey's Social Security Disability Pro Bono Program

RESULTS

Summary Judgment Secured in a Neighborhood Dispute Alleging Excess Water Runoff

Property Litigation

June 10, 2024

We obtained summary judgment in the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas in favor of our clients in a dispute over alleged excess water runoff. Our clients, a married couple, were sued by their neighbors for claims related to water runoff due to the installation of gutters and downspouts on a shed near the property line. We effectively argued for summary judgment on the plaintiffs' injunction, trespass, nuisance and negligence claims, demonstrating that the plaintiffs lacked the necessary expert testimony to substantiate their case as required under Pennsylvania law.

Summary Judgment for Wellhead Manufacturer.

Product Liability

May 11, 2018

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of a wellhead manufacturer in a product liability matter pending in Western Pennsylvania. The plaintiff drill operator alleged a wellhead was defectively designed, causing oil and gas to escape during operation, which led to a fire at the well site. The plaintiff asserted economic losses in excess of \$1.4 million. We successfully argued that the plaintiff failed to elicit sufficient expert opinion to support the defect claim and also spoliated evidence in discarding the subject wellhead.