

## KIARA K. HARTWELL

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Workers' Compensation

### CONTACT INFO

(856) 414-6404  
KKHartwell@mdwvcg.com

15000 Midlantic Drive, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 5429  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

### ADMISSIONS

New Jersey  
2015

Pennsylvania  
2015

U.S. District Court Eastern District  
of Pennsylvania  
2015

### EDUCATION

Rutgers, The State University of  
New Jersey School of Law-  
Camden (J.D., cum laude, 2014)

New York University (B.A., 2009)

### HONORS & AWARDS

New Jersey Super Lawyer Rising  
Star  
2025

The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found [here](#). No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

### OVERVIEW

Kiara devotes her entire practice to workers' compensation litigation on behalf of employers, insurance carriers and self-insureds. She authors the New Jersey updates for *What's Hot In Workers' Comp*, the firm's monthly newsletter detailing significant developments in workers' compensation law, and has also been published in *CLM Magazine*.

Kiara sits on the New Jersey State Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Executive Committee, a group charged with studying and developing beneficial changes in the administration and procedures pertaining to workers' compensation.

Kiara earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from New York University, with minors in Mathematics and Chemistry. She went on to graduate *cum laude* and earn her *juris doctor* from Rutgers School of Law. While in law school, Kiara served as a Notes and Comments Editor of the *Rutgers University Law Review* and was a semifinalist in the Hunter Moot Court Competition.

During law school, Kiara gained valuable experience as a law clerk assisting family law attorneys. She also worked for a national insurance company drafting discovery motions and answers to discovery requests, and attended various hearings and depositions. Kiara externed with Chief Justice Stuart Rabner of the New Jersey Supreme Court, where she wrote memorandums to the Court, recommending the grant or denial of certifications.

Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Kiara served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable William E. Nugent, J.A.D. Upon completion of the clerkship term, she worked for an insurance defense firm in Philadelphia, handling a variety of cases in the areas of construction coverage, premises liability and motor vehicle litigation.

---

## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Asian Pacific American Bar  
Association of Pennsylvania  
(APABA-PA)

New Jersey State Bar Association,  
Workers' Compensation Executive  
Committee member

---

## YEAR JOINED

2016

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### **New Jersey Proposes Bills to Protect Workers from Heat-Related Illnesses and Injuries**

**Mount Laurel  
Workers' Compensation**

**April 1, 2025**

In the absence of a heat stress standard by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), New Jersey is seeking to adopt one for the protection of workers against heat-related illnesses. What's Hot in Workers' Comp, Vol. 29, No.

### **Marshall Dennehey Announces 2025 New Jersey Super Lawyers and Rising Stars**

March 20, 2025

Five attorneys from Marshall Dennehey's Mount Laurel and Roseland, New Jersey offices have been selected to the 2025 edition of New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

### **New Jersey Workers' Compensation Domestic Workers Act**

**Mount Laurel  
Workers' Compensation**

**March 1, 2025**

The "Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights" was signed by Governor Murphy in January 2024. There has been no fanfare about this bill, which quietly came into effective July 1, 2024. What's Hot in Workers' Comp, Vol. 29, No.

### **New Jersey Workers' Compensation Legislation Update**

**Mount Laurel  
Workers' Compensation**

**February 1, 2025**

Since the holidays and the start of the new year, there have been no new New Jersey appellate decisions in workers' compensation. What's Hot in Workers' Comp, Vol. 29, No.

### **New Jersey Appellate Division finds the decedent, a full-time teacher who died of COVID-19, was an essential employee.**

**Mount Laurel  
Workers' Compensation**

**January 1, 2025**

The petitioner filed a dependency claim in which he alleged the decedent (his wife) contracted COVID-19 during the period of occupational exposure while in the course of her employment with the respondent. What's Hot in Workers' Comp, Vol. 29, No.

## CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*From Interview to Offer: Navigating Clerkships, Networking & Career Success* - Panelist, Rutgers Law School Minority Student Program, February 12, 2025

*Workers' Compensation May Day Seminar*, panelist, Bridgeton Workers' Compensation Court, May 1, 2024

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Top 10 Developments in New Jersey Workers' Compensation in 2021," Martindale-Hubbell, December 1, 2021

"Consulting the Comp Crystal Ball: What Does the Future Hold for Current COVID-19 Workers' Compensation Claims," *CLM Magazine*, June 2021

"New Jersey Medical Provider Claims Are Contingent Upon Jurisdiction Over Underlying Claim," *Defense Digest*, January 2021, Vol. 27, No. 1

"What's the Alternative? Weighing the Benefits and Risks of Return-to-Work Programs," *CLM Magazine*, February 2019

"Temporary Total Disability Benefits Contingent Upon Proof of Lost Wages," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 1, March 2018

"Injuries Occurring During Mutually Beneficial Task Are Compensable Even on Day Off," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 23, No. 4, December 2017

"The Idiopathic Defense: The Most Overlooked Tool in NJ Workplace Injury Litigation," *New Jersey Law Journal*, Workplace Injury Litigation Supplement, November 7, 2016

## RESULTS

### Favorable decision in New Jersey workers' compensation matter.

#### **Workers' Compensation November 23, 2020**

The case involved a compensable claim for right hip and shoulder fractures sustained in a fall. At issue was the level of permanent disability for the compensable injuries and the relatedness of a subsequent hip replacement surgery. The petitioner's demand before trial was more than \$450,000, plus almost \$78,000 for medical expenses. The employer's final offer was \$180,000. After a three-day trial in Ocean County, the judge awarded permanency benefits totaling less than \$153,000.

### Workers' compensation defense verdict for a prominent health care system.

#### **Workers' Compensation May 18, 2020**

The petitioner filed a motion for additional medical and temporary disability benefits, essentially alleging she was permanently and totally disabled from prior compensable shoulder and leg injuries. After a three-day trial and extensive briefing, the judge dismissed the motion. He determined that, despite the compensable injuries, the petitioner had plateaued medically and was not entitled to any further benefits.