

STEVEN B. SAAL

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Trucking & Transportation Liability
Automobile Liability
Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith
Litigation

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ADMISSIONS

New York
2011

EDUCATION

St. John's University School of
Law (J.D., 2010)

University Buffalo, SUNY (B.A.,
cum laude , 2007)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to
Watch®, Insurance Law
2022

YEAR JOINED

2016

OVERVIEW

Steven is a shareholder in the firm's Casualty Department, representing clients in the full spectrum of transportation litigation including automobile and trucking matters. Experienced in handling high-exposure litigation involving multi-million-dollar claims, his clients include large motor coach, municipal transportation, school transportation and commercial trucking companies throughout the state of New York and the boroughs of New York City.

Steven also handles premises liability cases for facility companies performing maintenance and operations activities at major local airports. He works closely with facility managers and terminal employees to analyze and defend slip-and-fall claims and other incidents. He additionally represents sports and recreational facilities, often working with engineers and experts in the field to assess responsibility for on-site injuries. He works with clients to ensure proper safety procedures and protocols are in place.

Before joining the firm in 2016, Steven represented individuals in New York State and New York City Administrative matters, New York Criminal matters, New Jersey Municipal Court matters, and New York State Article 78 proceedings all generally related to motor vehicle operation and related issues.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Appeals Court Determines Truck Driver Glancing at His Phone But Not Reading or Responding to Messages Was Insufficient Action to Support Punitive Damages

Westchester
Trucking & Transportation Liability
January 1, 2025

This matter involved a collision at an intersection between a truck and a golf cart where both parties disputed who had the green light and who was at fault for the collision. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

Federal District Court Denied Summary Judgment Where Plaintiff Alleged Injury Due to Falling When a Bus Braked to Avoid Another Vehicle

Westchester
Trucking & Transportation Liability
January 1, 2025

In this matter, the plaintiff alleged he was a passenger on the defendant's bus and was injured when he fell due to the bus stopping short to avoid a collision with another vehicle. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

New York Appellate Division Overturns Summary Judgment Against Defendant in Collision But Affirms Dismissal of Affirmative Defenses of Comparative Negligence Against Plaintiff

Westchester
Trucking & Transportation Liability
January 1, 2025

In a matter illustrating the importance of having a defendant/driver's affidavit that properly articulates an absolute defense to liability in opposing summary judgment, the defendant trucking company and its driver appealed summary judgment, whic Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

Ohio Court of Appeals Confirms Sovereign Immunity Does Not Apply to Municipal Transit Entity as to Operation of Motor Vehicle But Does Insulate Municipality from Suit as to Negligent Hiring, Training, Retention and Supervision

Westchester
Trucking & Transportation Liability
January 1, 2025

This matter presents the issue of sovereign immunity for a standard motor vehicle accident. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

Pennsylvania Court Issued Discovery Sanction Against Defendants for Late Production of Evidence, Opening Door to Questioning Regarding the Company's Driver Oversight Process at Trial

Westchester
Trucking & Transportation Liability
January 1, 2025

This matter involved a motor vehicle accident between the plaintiff and a laundry truck driver, and it illustrates the danger of errors during discovery. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

PUBLISHED WORKS

"To Proximately Cause or Not Proximately Cause?", *Defense Digest*, Vol. 29, No. 3, September 2023

"New York State Finalizes Changes to Insurance Disclosure Law," *New York Law Journal*, May 20, 2022

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Defending Reptile Theory Claims, 2022 Summer Bus Industry Safety Council (BISC) Meeting, Baltimore, MD, July 2022

RESULTS

Dismissal of claims brought against bus yard.

Trucking & Transportation Liability

June 15, 2020

We successfully obtained summary judgment dismissal of all claims against our client in a transportation/premises liability case in the Supreme Court, Nassau County. The plaintiff brought a claim for injuries sustained due to an alleged slip-and-fall in a bus yard owned by our client. The bus yard was leased to a transportation company that employed the plaintiff.

Summary judgment for national bus company.

Trucking & Transportation Liability

June 15, 2020

We obtained summary judgment dismissing all claims against our clients in a motor vehicle matter in the Supreme Court, Suffolk County. The plaintiff brought a claim against our clients, a national bus company, our insured driver, and the local School District for negligence related to a motor vehicle accident that occurred when the plaintiff was working as a bus monitor for the bus company.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully argued and obtained a full dismissal of an arbitration matter filed against our self-insured client. The plaintiff, an insurer, filed an arbitration matter claiming our client owed payment for unpaid medical bills. The plaintiff alleged that the injuries arose from a motor vehicle accident on December 20, 2017 and sought payment for medical treatments provided to the insured in the amount of \$56,804.06. The insurer's position was that the entire amount was owed, that our client had not responded to a request for intercompany reimbursement, and that our client's insured driver had caused the accident. It was our client's position that insurers insured was the sole, proximate cause of the accident as a matter of law, and, therefore, our client was not responsible for any amount of the unpaid medical bills. The arbitrator heard arguments, concluded that our argument was persuasive, and found in full favor of our client in determining our client was not liable for the accident.

Obtained summary judgment dismissing all claims against our client in a premises liability case in Supreme Court, Nassau County. The plaintiff brought a claim against a real estate investment and management company for injuries sustained due to an alleged slip-and-fall in a bus yard owned by our employee. The premises was leased to a transportation company that employed the plaintiff. The motion for summary judgment argued that our client, as an out-of-possession landlord, is only liable for injuries sustained due to a structural defect or specific statutory violation, neither of which were supported by the record. Plaintiff opposed our motion arguing that since the current property manager did not sign the lease amendment and was not managing the property at the time of the incident, he lacked personal knowledge and could not authenticate the lease. The Court rejected these arguments and plaintiff's claims were dismissed in their entirety against our client.

Obtained summary judgment dismissing all claims against our clients in a motor vehicle matter in Supreme Court, Suffolk County. The plaintiff brought a claim against our clients, a bus company, our insured driver, and the school district for negligence related to a motor vehicle accident that occurred when the plaintiff was working as a bus monitor for our client. The school district had contracted with the bus company for transportation services. In our motion, we argued that the bus company, as plaintiff's employer, was protected by the exclusive remedy provision of the Workers Compensation law, that our driver was protected as a "co-employee," and school district could not be negligent for the actions of its independent contractor. The plaintiff sought to argue that she was an employee of the bus company's parent company and was not precluded by the Workers Compensation Law. The Court rejected these arguments and confirmed that plaintiff, as an employee of the bus company who received Workers Compensation benefits, could not sustain negligence claims against her employer and dismissed all claims against our clients. The Court further reconfirmed a prior appellate ruling speaking to the corporate structure of the bus company, which could protect the company from further suits seeking to disregard the Workers Compensation Law.