

# JESSICA D. WACHSTEIN

**SHAREHOLDER** 



#### **AREAS OF PRACTICE**

Health Care Liability
Long-Term Care Liability
Automobile Liability
General Liability
Property Litigation
Premises & Retail Liability
Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith
Litigation

#### **CONTACT INFO**

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#### **ADMISSIONS**

New Jersey 2007

Pennsylvania 2007

U.S. District Court District of New Jersey 2007

#### **EDUCATION**

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey School of Law-Camden (J.D., With Honors, 2007)

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (B.A., High Honors, 2004)

# ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association

Camden County Bar Association

#### **YEAR JOINED**

2008

## **OVERVIEW**

As a member of the Health Care Department, Jessica defends clients in matters involving medical malpractice and nursing home negligence, representing long-term care and sub-acute rehabilitation facilities. She provides legal counsel to hospitals, nurses, allied health professionals, nursing homes and physician practices. Jessica's clients appreciate her ability to think outside the box when evaluating claims to uncover key liability and damage issues and determine the best course of early resolution.

With more than a decade of litigation experience, Jessica has tried several cases to verdict and routinely represents clients at arbitration and mediation. Her past experience includes representing both individuals and commercial clients in a variety of personal injury lawsuits. She has also represented clients in the areas of automobile and premises liability.

Jessica is a graduate of Rutgers University and Rutgers University School of Law. Following law school, she clerked for the Honorable Robert G. Millenky in the civil division of the New Jersey Superior Court in Camden, New Jersey.

### THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### Are PIP Benefits Truly No-Fault Now?

# Mount Laurel Automobile Liability

December 4, 2017

Defense Digest, Vol. 23, No. 4, December 2017 By Jessica D. Wachstein, Esq.\* Key Points: Defense Digest, Vol. 23, No. 4, December 2017. Defense Digest is prepared by Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin to provide information on recent legal developments of interest to our readers.

#### **PUBLISHED WORKS**

"Are PIP Benefits Truly No-Fault Now?," Defense Digest, Vol. 23, No. 4, December 2017

"Sidewalk Liability- What You and Your Condo Association Have in Common," *Defense Digest,* Vol. 18 No. 4, December 2012

## **RESULTS**

# Directed Verdict Secured in Case Involving Alleged Negligence by a Chiropractor

### Health Care Liability January 25, 2024

We successfully defended a chiropractor with a directed verdict on informed consent and a no cause, 7-0, on standard of care. The plaintiff claimed the defendant was negligent in failing to obtain an MRI before adjusting the lumbar spine with a differential diagnosis, which included a herniated or bulging disc.

# Defense verdict in premises liability case with well over sevenfigures at stake.

# Premises & Retail Liability June 15, 2023

We obtained a defense verdict following a 10-day jury trial on behalf of a national home improvement company and garden center, where the plaintiff's demand was over seven figures. The plaintiff, a 79-year-old female, was using a rollator (walker) to assist her walking when she fell at a garden center. Plaintiff claimed that the front wheel of her rollator struck and got caught on the raised baseplate bolts of a column, causing her to fall. The plaintiff was taken out on a stretcher with a fractured leg that required ORIF surgery and a recommendation for future hip replacement.

#### SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully defended a chiropractor with a directed verdict on informed consent and a no cause, 7-0, on standard of care. Plaintiff claimed the defendant was negligent in failing to obtain a MRI before adjusting the lumbar spine with a differential diagnosis which included a herniated or bulging disc. Plaintiff claimed increased risk of harm for foot drop, surgery, pain and suffering and alteration in work and life enjoyment.

Obtained a defense verdict following a 10-day jury trial on behalf of a national home improvement company and garden center, where the plaintiff's demand was over seven figures. The plaintiff, a 79-year-old female, was using a rollator (walker) to assist her walking when she fell at a garden center. Plaintiff claimed that the front wheel of her rollator struck and got caught on the raised baseplate bolts of a column, causing her to fall. The plaintiff was taken out on a stretcher with a fractured leg that required ORIF surgery and a recommendation for future hip replacement. The defense established via an in-store surveillance video, forensic engineering expert and cross-examination, that it was very unlikely that the plaintiff's rollator ever came into contact with the baseplate. Furthermore, even if the plaintiff did contact the baseplate, it was due to her being inattentive and not as a result of any alleged negligence by the garden center. The jury returned a defense verdict after only 35 minutes of deliberation.

Obtained a defense verdict in Monmouth County in a underinsured motorist claim. The jury returned a verdict that plaintiff did not meet the verbal threshold required to sustain a cause of action.