

## JOSHUA W. BROWNLIE

ASSOCIATE



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice  
Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation  
Employment Law  
School Leaders' Liability  
Premises & Retail Liability

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
2021

U.S. District Court Eastern District  
of Pennsylvania  
2021

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit  
2022

### EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law  
(J.D., cum laude, 2021)

Rowan University (B.A., summa  
cum laude, 2018)

### HONORS & AWARDS

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers  
Rising Star  
2024

### OVERVIEW

Joshua is a member of the Professional Liability Department where he focuses his practice on appellate advocacy and post-trial motions and appeals. Joshua's practice also includes representation of clients in matters concerning civil rights and public entity litigation, employment law, school leaders' liability, as well as premises and retail liability. Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Joshua served in the chambers of the Honorable Daniel D. McCaffery of the Superior Court of Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the resolution of complex civil and criminal matters at the appellate level. Prior to serving in chambers, Joshua participated in Marshall Dennehey's Summer Associate Program and served as Intern to Widener University Law School Dean, Rodney A. Smolla, where he updated federal and state jurisdictional changes in First Amendment jurisprudence for the legal treatise, "Smolla & Nimmer on Freedom of Speech."

In 2021, Joshua received his *juris doctor* from Widener University School of Law where he graduated *cum laude*. During law school, Joshua was regularly recognized on the Dean's List and held senior positions on various honor societies, including Widener Law Review, the Transactional Law Honor Society and the Moot Court Honor Society. During his tenure on the executive committee of the Moot Court Honor Society, Joshua earned top marks in many interscholastic, appellate moot court competitions including top oralist in the 2021 Touro Law Center's National Moot Court Competition on Law and Religion. As a result of his interscholastic performance, Joshua was inducted into the Order of the Barristers, an honorary organization for graduating law students and practicing lawyers who demonstrate exceptional skill in trial advocacy, oral advocacy, and brief writing.

Joshua is active in the community. He donates his time as a Cabin Buddy at Camp Erin, a bereavement camp for youth in Philadelphia, as well as a contributor to Steps to Cure Sarcoma, a non-profit organization dedicated to building a community of support for those in need and working to raise awareness and funds to continue the fight against sarcoma cancers.

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Federal Bar Association

Order of the Barristers

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia Bar Association

The Bar Association of the Third Federal Circuit

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## YEAR JOINED

2021

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### Marshall Dennehey Announces 2024 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

May 17, 2024

Twenty-eight attorneys across Marshall Dennehey's six Pennsylvania offices have been selected to the 2024 edition of Pennsylvania Super Lawyers magazine.

[Read More](#)

### Marshall Dennehey Named 2024 Litigation Department of the Year for Appellate Law By ALM's Pennsylvania Legal Awards

Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice

March 15, 2024

Marshall Dennehey was awarded with the 2024 Litigation Department of the Year for Appellate Law by ALM's prestigious Pennsylvania Legal Awards.

[Read More](#)

### The en banc Third Circuit concludes citizens with prior felony convictions for welfare fraud are among 'the people' protected by the Second Amendment.

Philadelphia - Headquarters

Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation

July 1, 2023

In 1995, Bryan David Range pleaded guilty to one count of making a false statement to obtain food stamps in violation of Pennsylvania law and faced up to five years' imprisonment. Following the conviction, Mr. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 2023 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

### Following Commonwealth v. Alexander, Article I, Section 8 of the Pennsylvania Constitution continues to permit warrantless "inventory searches" of impounded automobiles.

Philadelphia - Headquarters

Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation

April 1, 2023

In Commonwealth v. Alexander, 243 A.3d 177 (Pa. 2020), the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania held that Article I, Section 8 of the Pennsylvania Constitution affords greater privacy interests than the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April 2023 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

### Due Process Clause of 14th Amendment does not require municipalities provide pre-termination hearing where employee's position is eliminated following good faith government reorganization.

Philadelphia - Headquarters

Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation

January 3, 2022

The plaintiff was chief of police from 2006 until the Township eliminated the department in 2016. In March 2016, the supervisors passed a resolution and enacted an ordinance eliminating the department. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

## CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

*Competencies for LGBTQ Clinical Practices: LGBTQ Rights and Their Progeny*, Chestnut Hill College Master's Program, 2020; 2021.

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Handing Over the Public's Purse: Political Subdivision Employees, Indemnification and Assignments," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 27, No. 5, December 2021

## RESULTS

### Defense Verdict Secured in Section 1983 Malicious Prosecution Trial

**Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation**  
**September 15, 2023**

We secured a defense verdict in a Section 1983 malicious prosecution trial in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiff alleged that our client's law enforcement officers falsified evidence and testimony in order to maliciously prosecute him for conspiracy for engaging in the illegal sale of narcotics. We successfully contended that the former narcotics detective, who corroborated the plaintiff's complaint, was lying, and called various members of our client's narcotics unit to testify about the facts of the investigation.

### Appellate court affirms district court order dismissing a federal civil rights lawsuit.

**Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice**  
**Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation**  
**February 10, 2023**

A unanimous panel of the the Third Circuit affirmed an order of the U.S.E.D. Pa., which had granted a Rule 12 motion to dismiss in favor of a former Assistant District Attorney. The plaintiff had plead guilty to murder and other offenses in 1990 after shooting a man in the back four times. In 1993, the plaintiff filed a petition under Pennsylvania's Post Conviction Relief Act (PCRA), claiming ineffective assistance of counsel. The crux of his argument being his counsel failed to object when the court incorrectly stated the meaning of life imprisonment.

### District court order dismissing a federal civil rights lawsuit affirmed.

**Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation**  
**December 29, 2022**

A panel of the the Third Circuit unanimously affirmed an order of the U.S.D.C. for the District of Delaware which granted a Rule 12 motion to dismiss in favor of law enforcement officials. The plaintiff filed suit under Section 1983, seeking damages for the alleged violation of his Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights following a traffic stop, for driving under the influence of alcohol, and the lawful seizure of blood alcohol evidence.

### Township immune from liability pursuant to Pennsylvania's Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act.

**Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation**  
**December 12, 2022**

We obtained summary judgment in favor of a township client. The Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County entered judgment as a matter of law in favor of the township, dismissing with prejudice the plaintiff's negligence and negligent supervision claims. Counsel argued, and the court agreed, the township was immune from liability pursuant to Pennsylvania's Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act, 42 Pa. C.S. § 8541 et. seq.

### Township granted Rule 12 motion to dismiss.

**Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial Practice**  
**Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation**  
**December 9, 2022**

We successfully obtained from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit affirmance of a district court order granting a township's Rule 12 motion to dismiss. The panel agreed with the appellees and concluded the District Court exercised proper discretion in dismissing the complaint since the plaintiffs failed to assert under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 plausible claims of federal constitutional violations.