

LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

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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

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Held that When Plaintiff Fails to Meet the Burden of Demonstrating Good Faith Effort in Diligently and Timely Serving Process, then Actual Notice of the Lawsuit Is Irrelevant

Pittsburgh
Premises & Retail Liability
July 1, 2024

In deciding whether a complaint served after expiration of the applicable statute of limitations period was time-barred, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania applied the reasoning from *Gussom v. Teagle*, 247 A.3d 1046 (Pa. 2021). Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July

Relying Upon Pennsylvania Law, the Federal Court Held that Maintenance Company Owed No Duty of Care to Injured Plaintiff

Pittsburgh
Premises & Retail Liability
July 1, 2024

The plaintiff, while walking to work, slipped and fell in the parking lot on accumulated ice and sustained injuries to his hand, spine, head, neck and back. The matter was removed to federal court based upon diversity jurisdiction. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July

Superior Court of Pennsylvania Held that Landowner Was Not Relieved of Its Duty of Care for Open and Obvious Dangers When It Should Have Expected a Business Invitee to Be Distracted

Pittsburgh
Premises & Retail Liability
July 1, 2024

The plaintiff, a business invitee, broke her ankle while playing disc golf at the defendant's disc golf course. While walking to retrieve her disc, the plaintiff fell when she slipped on a steep slope that contained loose gravel in the grass. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July

Where the Risks of Walking on Snow and Ice Conditions Was Voluntarily Assumed, Summary Judgment Not Warranted Under the Hills and Ridges or Assumption of Risk Doctrines

Pittsburgh
Premises & Retail Liability
July 1, 2024

The plaintiff and a group of her friends stayed the weekend at a home rental they booked using the home-sharing app, Airbnb. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules that Procedural Posture of Case Is Irrelevant When Determining Whether a Court Decision Violated the Coordinate Jurisdiction Rule

Pittsburgh
General Liability
April 1, 2024

The plaintiff filed a petition for declaratory judgment with the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, seeking a declaration that its religious elders were entitled to protection under Section 6311.1(b) of the Child Protective Services Law.

PUBLISHED WORKS

"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.