



Dawn Attwood

CO-CHAIR, INSURANCE LAW

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PRACTICE AREAS

Litigation
Insurance Law
Public Entity Law
Appellate Advocacy
Employment Law
Food, Beverage & Hospitality

EDUCATION

B.A., Fordham University, 1990, *magna cum laude*
J.D., Widener University School of Law, 1994, *cum laude*

Dawn Attwood serves as co-chair of the firm's Insurance Law practice. Her complex civil litigation practice focuses on public entity defense and insurance defense, as well as employment and commercial litigation on behalf of both public and private sector clients. Dawn has extensive experience at the trial and appellate levels representing private commercial insureds, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, New Jersey Transit, a number of county prosecutor's offices, boards of education, and municipalities. She is proficient in handling product liability, civil rights, and employment actions, along with dram shop, premises liability, automotive liability and coverage matters. She has also represented private clients with respect to bar admissions. She has handled numerous appeals in both the Appellate Division and Supreme Court of New Jersey and has been granted certification several times on novel and significant legal issues.

Prior to joining Pashman Stein Walder Hayden, Dawn was a partner at DeCotiis, FitzPatrick & Cole, LLP. Before that, she spent five years with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, where she defended the State in tort, contractual and employment litigation matters and tried several civil jury matters involving the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, the Federal Employer's Liability Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. As co-counsel, she assisted in the successful prosecution of a municipal court judge in a trial before a specially appointed three-judge panel, affirmed on appeal to the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Representative Matters

Our firm is proud of the results it has achieved for clients, some of which are noted here. Of course, each legal matter is unique on many levels, and past successes are not a guarantee of results in any other pending or future matters.

- Obtained favorable outcome on behalf of glass manufacturer in connection with claims that glass units were defective and unfit for intended use, and that manufacturer breached implied and express warranties with sale of units.
- Obtained defense jury verdict on behalf of Department of Corrections officer in civil rights matter involving excessive force and failure to intervene claims.
- Obtained dismissal at jury trial for client defendants at close of plaintiffs' case in wrongful death/child abuse suit.
- Successfully appealed and obtained reversal in the Supreme Court of trial court's denial of summary judgment, based on the Tort Claims Act's notice provisions.
- Successfully appealed and obtained reversal of \$7.6 million jury verdict in premises liability action.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of cleaning company against claims for contractual defense and indemnification asserted by the property owner.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of municipality where employee's estate sued under the wrongful death exception to the Workers Compensation Act following fatal accident. The trial court's decision was affirmed on appeal.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of county prosecutor's office, individual prosecutors and investigators, in a federal civil rights matter brought by the mother of an abused child, who had been arrested for tampering with the child victim witness in an effort to hinder the prosecution and protect the child molester, who was ultimately convicted. Summary judgment was affirmed on appeal to the Third Circuit.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of public authority in fatal motor vehicle accident, based on Tort Claims Act immunities.
- Successfully obtained summary judgment on behalf of City and its police officers in civil rights action involving false arrest and malicious prosecution claims.

Reported Decisions

- *Stewart, et al. v. New Jersey Turnpike Authority, et al.*, 249 N.J. 642 (2022)
- *Jones v. Morey's Pier, Inc.* 230 N.J. 142 (2017)
- *Mandal v. Port Authority of New York and New Jersey*, 430 N.J. Super. 287 (App. Div.), petition for certif. denied (2013)

- *Mann v. Heil Packer*, 2010 WL 98883 (App. Div. 2010)
- *Hyatt v. County of Passaic*, 340 Fed. Appx. (3rd Cir. 2009)

Honors & Awards

Selected for inclusion in the list of:

- New Jersey Law Journal, Mentors, 2021
- New Jersey Super Lawyers, 2020, 2022-2023
- Martindale Hubbell, AV Preeminent

The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found at http://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process.html.

The Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings list is issued by Martindale-Hubbell. A description of the selection methodology can be found at http://www.martindale.com/Products_and_Services/Client_Review_Ratings.aspx.

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

Community & Professional Associations

- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Association of the Federal Bar of the State of New Jersey

Bar Admissions

New Jersey

New York

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey