

JOHN T. MCGRATH JR.

OFFICE MANAGING ATTORNEY
CO-CHAIR, AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY PRACTICE GROUP
SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Automobile Liability
General Liability
Health Care Liability
Catastrophic Claims Litigation

CONTACT INFO

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50 Glenmaura National Boulevard
Moosic, PA 18507

ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
1996

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania
1996

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
(J.D., 1995)

Pennsylvania State University
(B.S., 1985)

HONORS & AWARDS

AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-
Hubbell®

The Best Lawyers in America®,
Insurance Law; Medical
Malpractice Law - Defendants;
Product Liability Litigation -
Defendants
2024-2025

OVERVIEW

John (Jack) is a member of the Casualty Department and co-chair of the firm's auto liability practice group. He focuses his practice on the defense of auto liability, representing over a thousand automobile cases to conclusion. The majority of cases ended in defense verdicts or verdicts lower than the settlement offers. Jack is also the managing shareholder and casualty supervising attorney of the firm's Scranton office with responsibility for the daily operations and oversight of the office's attorneys and support staff.

Jack is a graduate of Penn State University and a former member of law enforcement, having worked for the Lackawanna Sheriff's Department. While attending the Widener University School of Law, Jack worked as the commercial sales manager for ADT Security Systems in Philadelphia and southern New Jersey from 1988 through 1996.

Jack joined Marshall Dennehey in January of 1997 and became a shareholder in 2004. He is currently the lead attorney for the Dunmore High School Mock Trial Team and a basketball coach in his community.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

On the Pulse...Our Scranton, Pennsylvania, Office

Scranton
June 1, 2023

The Scranton office of Marshall Dennehey is now in its 30th year. The firm began in Scranton with two attorneys practicing workers' compensation law. *Defense Digest*, Vol. 29, No.

PUBLISHED WORKS

"The Relationship Between the Handling Attorney and the Claims Professional in Auto Liability,"
Defense Digest, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 2016

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Board of Trial Advocates

Lackawanna County Bar Association

Luzerne County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

1997

RESULTS

Summary Judgment for Marshall Dennehey Client Only, in Multi-defendant Action.

General Liability May 11, 2018

We obtained summary judgment in a general liability case in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiff was an employee of a recently-renovated resort when a solid wooden panel fell down and struck her in the head, causing serious injuries. The plaintiff alleged improper design, manufacture, and installation of the panel against a number of the defendant contractors and subcontractors. It was unclear as to which defendant actually installed the panel.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Defense of several auto cases in which the plaintiffs were killed. In each of these cases the demand was far in excess of the policy limits.

Defense of numerous auto cases involving pedestrians. Many of these cases have been tried to defense verdicts where the plaintiffs' injuries far exceeded the available coverage.

Defense of a hospital where the plaintiff was one of their own staff physicians who had a seizure while at work and was unable to return to his position as a physician. The allegations were that more should have been done initially when he had the seizure and the hospital should have been better equipped to deal with such situations. The lost wages alleged in this matter were over \$7 million.

Defended an auto case in which the plaintiff was killed and plaintiff's counsel evoked the Dead Man's Rule. We were able to show that his expert, a state police officer, had interviewed our insured, thereby negating the Dead Man's Rule. The Superior Court agreed with our argument, and the defense verdict that we obtained in this litigation was upheld.

Defended an oncologist in a case where the plaintiff, an ophthalmologist who claimed he could no longer work, had multiple experts, including vocational, economic, psychiatric, orthopedic, and neurological practitioners. The initial demand was for our policy limits of \$500,000. Through the use of our experts in a non-binding mediation, we were able to show the plaintiffs' experts would not hold up in front of a jury, and the case resolved for an amount far below the policy limits.

Obtained defense verdicts in several auto cases in northeast Pennsylvania where the underinsured motorist claims had gone to arbitration and six-figure awards have been granted. Most involved a minor impact with just soft tissue injuries.