

MELANIE J. FOREMAN

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability
General Liability
Trucking & Transportation Liability
Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation

CONTACT INFO

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2000 Market Street, Suite 2300
Philadelphia, PA 19103

ADMISSIONS

New York
2014

Pennsylvania
2014

U.S. District Court Eastern District
of Pennsylvania
2016

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit
2024

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law
School (J.D., 2013)

University of Pennsylvania (B.A.,
summa cum laude, 2008)

HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to
Watch®, Product Liability Litigation
- Defendants; Transportation Law
2021-2025

Craig M. Perry Service Award,
Philadelphia Bar Association
2019

Pennsylvania Super Lawyers
Rising Star
2023-2024

OVERVIEW

Melanie is a shareholder in the Casualty Department, where she defends insured and self-insured entities against claims in state and federal court. She focuses her practice on litigation related to product liability, premises and municipal liability, and commercial transportation. Melanie has served as lead trial counsel and as second chair in multiple civil litigations. Melanie is also responsible for taking depositions, making oral arguments before the Court, and drafting pleadings and motions, having successfully obtained final adjudication via the summary judgment phase.

Prior to joining the firm, Melanie served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Annette M. Rizzo in the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, Court of Common Pleas. During her tenure, Melanie drafted judicial opinions and conducted pre-trial conferences by mediating between parties to settle cases and ensure cases were trial-ready.

Melanie is heavily involved in the Philadelphia legal community. She is a Board member of Community Legal Services (CLS), and also co-chairs its Leadership Council and Board Development Committee. Melanie is the Founder and Chair of Justice Rising, a young professionals organization associated with CLS that is dedicated to access to justice for all. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and also sits on the Large Firm Associates' Committee. She serves as the President of the Temple American Inn of Court.

Melanie also volunteers her time with the women's collective giving organization, Impact100 Philadelphia, and the University of Pennsylvania's Alumni Interview Program, serving as Co-Chair of the Philadelphia region's interviewing of prospective undergraduates.

Melanie is a two-time graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, earning her Bachelor of Arts in 2008 *summa cum laude* and her *juris doctor* in 2013. She is barred in Pennsylvania and New York.

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Community Legal Services, Board Member; Co-Chair, Leadership Council; Co-Chair, Board Development Committee

Impact100 Philadelphia, Young Philanthropist

Justice Rising Advocates, Community Legal Services, Founding Chair, 2017

Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Board Member

Pennsylvania Bar Association

Philadelphia Bar Association, Assistant Secretary; Board of Governors, 2020-2023; Co-Chair, Annual Bench Bar Conference, 2023

Philadelphia Legal Assistance, Co-Host, 25th Anniversary Jubilee for Justice

Temple American Inn of Court, Vice President, 2022-2023; Treasurer, 2021-2022; President, 2023-2024

University of Pennsylvania Alumni Interviewing Co-Chair, Philadelphia Region

Disciplinary Board of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Hearing Committee Member

YEAR JOINED

2015

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.

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Marshall Dennehey Attorneys Elected to Leadership Positions of the Philadelphia Bar Association

December 20, 2023

Melanie J. Foreman Will Serve as an Officer and Jahlee J.

[Read More](#)

Melanie J. Foreman Elected President of the Temple American Inn of Court

General Liability

June 23, 2023

Melanie J.

[Read More](#)

Melanie J. Foreman Elected to the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation

Product Liability

General Liability

January 18, 2023

Melanie J. Foreman, shareholder in Marshall Dennehey's Philadelphia office, has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

[Read More](#)

Marshall Dennehey Announces 2023 Shareholder Class - Largest in Firm's 60-Year History

December 8, 2022

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that 20 attorneys, 12 men and eight women, have been elevated to shareholder effective January 1, 2023.

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PUBLISHED WORKS

"Do a World of Good," *The Philadelphia Lawyer*, special pro bono issue, May 2024

"Conflicting Opinions on Personal Injury Jurisdiction Over Foreign Corporations Linger in Pa.," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Personal Injury Supplement, November 2020

"The Fight to Stop Predatory Lending in Pennsylvania," co-author, *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 24, 2019

"Endless Statute of Limitations For Uninsured Motorist Claims In Pennsylvania?," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 1, March 2018

"Young Professionals and Community Legal Services Partner Up," co-author, *The Legal Intelligencer*, January 24, 2017

"When Targeted Killing Is Not Permissible: An Evaluation of Targeted Killing Under the Laws of War and Morality," *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*, January 2013

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT

Negligence 101 - A Pennsylvania and Florida Legal Overview, Marshall Dennehey Client Presentation, December 15, 2020

PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Community Legal Services Leadership Council

Justice Rising, Founder and Chair, Philadelphia, PA

RESULTS

Successfully Defended SEPTA in a Wrongful Death and Survival Case

General Liability

Trucking & Transportation Liability

December 4, 2024

We successfully defended the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) in a wrongful death and survival case in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. The case involved the death of a pedestrian, Vincent Boykin, struck by a SEPTA bus, with the plaintiff, his father, disputing the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's suicide ruling. The defense presented a forensic psychiatrist's testimony confirming Mr. Boykin's high suicide risk. Although SEPTA was found 40% negligent, the decedent's 60% negligence barred recovery of damages.

Defense Verdict for Public Transportation System in Philadelphia's Court of Common Pleas

Trucking & Transportation Liability

December 2, 2024

We obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a public transportation system in a Wrongful Death and Survival case in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. The case involved the death of a pedestrian, struck by a bus, with the plaintiff, his father, disputing the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's suicide ruling. The defense presented a forensic psychiatrist's testimony confirming the deceased's high suicide risk. Although the transportation system was found 40% negligent, the decedent's 60% negligence barred recovery of damages.

Plaintiffs' class action certification attempts thwarted.

Class Action Litigation

November 1, 2022

We received a favorable decision from the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas Commerce Program. Our motion to strike the plaintiffs' class action certification was granted, effectively dismissing the plaintiffs' attempts at a class action lawsuit against a transportation authority.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Successfully obtained a defense verdict for a public transportation system in a Wrongful Death and Survival case in the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas. The case involved the death of a pedestrian, struck by a bus, with the plaintiff, his father, disputing the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's suicide ruling. The defense presented a forensic psychiatrist's testimony confirming the deceased's high suicide risk. Although the transportation system was found 40% negligent, the decedent's 60% negligence barred recovery of damages. The claim was further limited by statutory caps applicable to Commonwealth entities.

Successfully obtained summary judgment in an alleged sex abuse case pending in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiff, a minor, alleged that he was abused by an unidentified assailant while at a summer camp in 2002. In granting the motion and dismissing the lawsuit, the judge himself noted that it is rare for the court to enter summary judgment in cases of this nature.