

JOSEPH T. RIVERA

SPECIAL COUNSEL



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Trucking & Transportation Liability
Automobile Liability
Premises & Retail Liability
Product Liability
General Liability

CONTACT INFO

(914) 977-7310
JTRivera@mdwvcg.com

287 Bowman Avenue
Suite 404
Purchase, NY 10577

ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
2012

New York
2014

U.S. District Court District of New
Jersey
2020

U.S. District Court Northern District
of New York
2021

EDUCATION

Fordham University School of Law
(J.D., 2012)

Tufts University (B.A., 2007)

HONORS & AWARDS

Attorneys Listed by Best Lawyers
in America
2024-2025

Lawyers of Color Hot List
2023

Fordham University School of Law,
Lals'a Andrew A. Rivera Alumni
Achievement Award
2021

OVERVIEW

As a member of the Casualty Department, Joseph serves as Special Counsel in the firm's Trucking & Transportation Practice Group, focusing on the defense of high-exposure matters involving commercial and personal automobile liability, general liability, premises liability, and products liability. With deep experience as trial counsel and litigation consultant, he advises on and executes trial strategy in complex cases, including the preparation of motions in limine, Daubert motions, witness preparation, trial presentation, and motions for directed verdict.

Earlier in his career, Joseph handled a nationwide caseload of product liability subrogation and personal injury claims, defending insurance carriers and their insureds—including foreign manufacturers, distributors, and retailers—in federal and state courts throughout the U.S. and Canada. They directed all aspects of litigation, coordinated investigations with experts across multiple disciplines, managed local counsel, and provided strategic legal and indemnification analysis to clients.

In a prior role, Joseph managed a team of eight associates and one senior counsel. He was responsible for developing defense and resolution strategies, overseeing client reporting, and ensuring compliance with client billing guidelines. He also negotiated multi-case retention agreements with experts, consultants, and local counsel, and played an active role in training and mentoring attorneys across the team—from onboarding to ongoing litigation education.

Joseph previously served as co-chair of his then firm's national Hispanic affinity group, helping to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion within the legal profession.

SIGNIFICANT REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Advised and assisted senior counsel in obtaining a defense verdict on behalf of an international manufacturer in West Virginia State Court.

Successfully defended a multi-million dollar appeal on behalf of a pressure cooker manufacturer in the Ninth Circuit.

Prevailed on motion to dismiss on behalf of an international electronics manufacturer facing \$3.5 million dollars in exposure.

Advised and assisted senior counsel in obtaining defense verdict on behalf of a pressure cooker manufacturer in Nevada District Court.

Successfully obtained defense verdict on behalf of international bicycle and national retailer in Connecticut Federal Court.

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Defense Research Institute (DRI),
Member

Fordham Law Alumni Attorneys of
Color Committee

Hispanic National Bar Association
— Region II Deputy President

La Unidad Latina Law Guild,
Founder & Co-Chair

Pharos Charter Academy, Board
Member

Regis High School Bar
Association, Member

Tufts Lawyer's Association,
National Board Member & NYC
Chapter Co-Chair

YEAR JOINED

2025