

LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



AREAS OF PRACTICE

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

CONTACT INFO

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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

Court Grants Summary Judgment in Mall Slip-and-Fall Case Over Trivial Tile Height Difference

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

April 1, 2025

A Pennsylvania trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the defendant in a slip-and-fall case at a mall. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

Court Grants Summary Judgment in Slip-and-Fall Case Under Hills and Ridges Doctrine

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

April 1, 2025

A trial court had ruled in favor of the defendants in a slip-and-fall lawsuit arising from an ongoing snowstorm, citing the hills and ridges doctrine. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

Expert Testimony Requirement in Negligence Claims: Pennsylvania Court Affirms Summary Judgment

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

April 1, 2025

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania reaffirmed the necessity of expert testimony in negligence cases involving complex medical causation. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

Landowner Liability for Falling Trees: Pennsylvania Court Affirms Duty to Safeguard Public Highways

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

April 1, 2025

Landowners in urban areas have a legal responsibility to prevent foreseeable dangers posed by trees on their property. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

Pennsylvania Court Affirms Dismissal of Roofer's Injury Claim Over Ladder Accident

Pittsburgh

Premises & Retail Liability

April 1, 2025

In a recent decision, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania upheld the dismissal of a roofer's negligence lawsuit, ruling that the alleged danger posed by an improperly placed ladder was "open and obvious." The plaintiff claimed he was injured when the ladder fell. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

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.