

Hellen Tuckett

Associate

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Hellen is an associate in the firm's Casualty Department where she handles all areas of general liability, premises liability, automobile liability, personal injury protection (PIP) and civil rights litigation. She has experience in a wide range of matters including motor vehicle accidents, slip and falls, civil rights and sexual assault claims.

Hellen began her career with a local boutique firm. Through this position, she obtained critical training in matters involving affirmative and defense personal injury, complex and business litigation and class actions. Thereafter, Hellen worked in public service, where she specialized in the defense of motor vehicle and slip and fall, civil rights and sexual assault matters. In that position, she successfully prevailed on several motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment and participated in intensive discovery, arbitration, mediation and settlement hearings.

Hellen received her *juris doctor* in 2020 from Rutgers Law School where she was recognized with the Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes Prize, which is awarded to the graduating student who has achieved the best record in the New Jersey Practice course. She graduated *summa cum laude* in 2015 from Kean University with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Political Science. Hellen also graduated in 2008 from Essex County College with an Associate in Science in Paralegal Studies.

While pursuing her J.D. and undergraduate degrees, for over a decade, Hellen simultaneously worked full-time as a paralegal and conflicts analyst for other firms in the tri-state area focused on class actions, personal injury, and employment litigation.

Hellen is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York and in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Education

Practices

- General Liability
- Premises & Retail Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Personal Injury Protection (PIP) Litigation

- Rutgers Law School (J.D., 2020)
- Kean University (B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2015)
- Essex County College (A.S., 2008)
 - Paralegal Studies

Admissions

- New Jersey, 2020
- U.S. District Court District of New Jersey, 2021
- New York, 2022

Languages

- Portuguese (proficient)
- Spanish (proficient)

Associations & Memberships

- Christian Legal Society, Rutgers Law School, 2016-2020
- Moot Court Board Member, Rutgers Law School, 2018-2020

Representative Cases & Matters

Secured a summary judgment in a general liability action arising from a collision between a casino patron and an unidentified individual operating an electric scooter allegedly owned and rented by our client. Plaintiff alleged that the scooter operator reversed into her. She successfully argued that there were no genuine issues of material fact and no evidence to support a theory of liability under ordinary negligence. Specifically, plaintiff failed to establish a prima facie case by failing to demonstrate that a duty of care existed between plaintiff and the electric scooter rental entity, or that the entity had actual or constructive notice that the scooter was defectively designed or otherwise defective in any manner. Plaintiff also failed to produce any expert testimony or liability expert report in support of her claims. The motion for summary judgment was granted unopposed in favor of the electric scooter rental entity. Thereafter, plaintiff moved for reconsideration, arguing that the Court had not been afforded the opportunity to review discovery not specifically requested by plaintiff during the discovery period, which had not been produced. The Court denied plaintiff's motion for reconsideration, finding that plaintiff failed to satisfy the standard required for reconsideration of a final order. The Court reiterated that plaintiff failed to establish that the electric scooter rental entity breached any duty of care and failed to produce a liability expert to opine on the alleged hazardous condition.

Successfully defended a public entity and public employee in litigation arising out of a motor vehicle accident where liability was clearly established on the grounds that plaintiff's expert narrative report constituted a net opinion for failure to provide a comparative analysis of plaintiff's prior medical history and surgeries and a causal connection between her pre-accident and post-accident conditions.

Results

Summary Judgment Won in a Dog Bite Case in New Jersey

We secured summary judgment in a general liability case involving a dog bite. The plaintiff alleged a laceration to the face from a dog bite. The dog was owned by a co-defendant, not by our client, the landlord of the property where the bite occurred. There were no issues of material fact or proof to support a theory of liability under strict or ordinary negligence, and no behavioral signs of aggression were observed by the plaintiff or the property owner's son who hosted the party where the plaintiff was bitten. We argued that the elements under both theories could not be met, and the judge agreed, granting summary judgment.