

Joseph J. Peluso Jr.

Associate

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Joseph is an associate in the Health Care Department, focusing his practice on representing hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare professionals and entities with medical malpractice claims.

Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Joseph worked for a Pittsburgh-based defense firm and a regional healthcare system. His experience advising senior leadership, physicians, healthcare practitioners, and managers on medical malpractice, compliance, privacy, physician networks, pharmacy, finance, supply chain, and other operational matters gives him a comprehensive understanding of the complex challenges healthcare providers face. This firsthand knowledge enables him to anticipate risks, understand the unique challenges confronting healthcare professionals and institutions, and develop effective defense strategies that reflect both the legal and practical realities of patient care.

Joseph also served as an Assistant Public Defender with the Allegheny County Office of the Public Defender, where he represented all persons unable to obtain legal counsel in any criminal action where representation is constitutionally guaranteed. During his time with the Public Defender's Office, he practiced in the office's Pre-Trial and Appellate Divisions, defending clients with charges ranging from summary offenses to major felonies. Joseph also worked as a Judicial Law Clerk with the Indiana County Court of Common Pleas for the Honorable (later President Judge) Thomas M. Bianco and Honorable Senior Judges Joseph A. Nickleach, Thomas M. Piccione, and Timothy P. Creany.

Joseph earned his *juris doctor* from Duquesne University School of Law. As a law student, Joseph was a Staff Writer and Student Articles Editor for the *Duquesne Business Law Journal*, authoring a published article addressing the unionization of college athletes. In addition, Joseph was a certified legal intern in Duquesne Law's award-winning Veterans Court Program, an innovative treatment court program offered through the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas which brought together district attorneys, public defenders, peer mentors, law enforcement officers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs representatives, and counselors to help veterans facing legal trouble

Practices

- Medical Malpractice

with a focus on lowering the recidivism rate among participants. He also interned with the Honorable Harry F. Smail Jr. in the Westmoreland County Court of Common Pleas.

Joseph is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania.

Education

- Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University (J.D., 2016)
- Seton Hill University (M.B.A., 2021)
- University of Notre Dame (B.A., 2013)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 2016
- U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, 2024

Honors & Awards

- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, 2026
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star List, 2026
- American Bar Association Award of Achievement for Service to the Public – Won't You Be My Neighbor, 2025 Allegheny County Bar Association Bar Leadership Initiative Class Project

Associations & Memberships

- Allegheny County Bar Association
- Duquesne Law Alumni Association

Published Works

- *Caught in the Wave of Change: Why Scholarship Student-Athletes Should be Allowed to Unionize* (17 Duq. Bus. L.J. 259)