

# Lauren E. Purcell

Shareholder

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Pittsburgh – 412.803.1170



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.

## Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2013)

## Practices

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

- University of Pittsburgh (B.S., *cum laude*, 2005)

## Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 2013
- U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, 2013

## 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

## Published Works

- "A Post-'Sullivan' World Requires a Strong Expert Report." *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 17, 2025
- "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

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## Results

### **Summary Judgment Secured in a Neighborhood Dispute Alleging Excess Water Runoff**

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. Additionally, the

plaintiffs' negligence claim was barred by the two-year statute of limitations, which had expired at least six years before the suit was filed.

### **Summary Judgment for Wellhead Manufacturer**

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.

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## Thought Leadership

January 1, 2026

### **Superior Court Affirms Summary Judgment for Landlord: Lack of Expert Testimony on Fire's Cause Defeats Negligence Claim**

January 1, 2026

### **Superior Court Vacates Termination of Premises Liability Case: Lack of Proper Notice Under Rules 230.2 and 236**

January 1, 2026

### **Federal Court Allows Negligence Claim Against Retailer Under Restatement § 344 for Independent Contractor's Assault**

January 1, 2026

### **Federal Court Grants Summary Judgment to Retailer in Slip-and-Fall Case for Lack of Evidence of Notice**

October 1, 2025

### **Commonwealth Court Vacates Verdict, Holding Comparative Negligence Instruction Improper in Dog Attack Case**

October 1, 2025

### **Pa. Superior Court Reverses Summary Judgment, Finding Fact Issues on Store's Duty to Anticipate Off-Premises Assault**

October 1, 2025

### **Superior Court Affirms Defense Verdict, No Adverse Spoliation Inference Where Lost Video Did Not Capture Incident or Contain Relevant Evidence**

October 1, 2025

### **Court Grants Summary Judgment to Grocery Store Where Plaintiff Failed to Show**

## **Cause of Fall or Notice of Hazard**

July 1, 2025

**Trial Court Allows Punitive Damages Claim to Proceed in Campground Bleacher Fall Case, Citing Monroe Standard**

July 1, 2025

**Superior Court Affirms New Trial in Zoo Injury Case Over Omitted Open and Obvious Jury Instruction**

July 1, 2025

**Superior Court Reverses Dismissal, Holds Electronically Signed Praecipe Timely Filed Upon Receipt by Prothonotary**

April 17, 2025

**A Post-'Sullivan' World Requires a Strong Expert Report**

April 1, 2025

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

April 1, 2025

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

April 1, 2025

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