

Butler Buchanan, III

Of Counsel

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Philadelphia – 215.575.2661



Butler (Buck) Buchanan, III previously served as Managing Attorney of the Philadelphia office, Attorney Hiring Chair, and Chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. He transitioned to Of Counsel in 2026 and remains active in attorney recruitment and hiring alongside Melanie J. Forman.

Over the course of his distinguished career, Buck oversaw operations of the firm's 130-attorney Philadelphia office and led firmwide attorney recruitment, while advancing initiatives supporting equal opportunity and inclusion. He also served two terms on the firm's Board of Directors.

Prior to his leadership roles, Buck was a shareholder in the firm's Professional Liability Department for many years where he defended insurance agents and brokers, securities dealers, and attorneys. He also handled environmental and insurance coverage matters. Before joining Marshall Dennehey in 1999, he was a Bucks County Deputy District Attorney and practiced with a defense litigation firm.

Buck is well-known and respected in the Greater Philadelphia legal community, having devoted significant time and years in service to bar, defense and community organizations including the American Bar Association House of Delegates, and leadership roles within the Philadelphia Bar Association and the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel.

Buck earned his B.A., cum laude, from Millersville University and his J.D. from Duquesne University School of Law.

Education

- Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University (J.D., 1979)

- Millersville University of Pennsylvania (B.A., *cum laude*, 1976)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 1979

Honors & Awards

- AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (2009-2021)
- 2021 Renaissance Man Award, Philadelphia Chapter of the National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division
- 2021 Diversity Leader in Business Award, Philadelphia Business Journal

Associations & Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute, Board of Directors, 2001-2004; Pennsylvania State Representative, 1997-2000
- Senior Hearing Officer, Serving the Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 2018 - present; Hearing Officer, 2005-2011
- Insurance Society of Philadelphia, Member of Board of Directors, 2013 - present
- Lawyers Club of Philadelphia, Board of Trustees, 2020
- Montgomery County Archdiocesan Council on Elementary Education, Member, 2013-2017
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Defense Institute
- Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel, President, 2000-2001; Member, Executive Committee, 1996-2002
- Philadelphia Bar Association, Co-Chair, Large Law Firm Management Committee, 2019 - present; Chair, Campaign for Qualified Judges, 2015-2016
- Philadelphia Bar Association, Co-Chair of State-Civil Litigation Committee, 2012-2014; Member, Board of Governors, 2004-2006; 2014 - ; Member, Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, 2012-2014
- Sisters of St. Joseph Welcome Center Advisory Board Member, 2008 - 2018
- Mercy Vocational High School, Board of Directors, 2010-2013

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *Best Practices for Retaining & Promoting Diverse Talent*, Philadelphia Diversity Law Group's Diversity & Inclusion Symposium, November 2015
- Barristers' Association of Philadelphia Leadership Academy, January 2015
- *Do the Right Thing! - Ethical Issues Arising in Litigation*, Philadelphia Bar Association Bench-Bar Conference, October 2014
- *Women in the Profession Roundtable Discussion*, participant, *The Legal Intelligencer*, April 2014
- *Technology and Law*, DRI Annual Meeting
- *The Use of E-Mail and Electronic Documents Storage*, DRI Annual Meeting
- *Electronic Discovery*, DRI Seminar, Chicago, Illinois
- *Insurance Roundtable - Recent Developments Concerning Class Action Litigation*, DRI, Chicago, Illinois

- *Insurance Coverage and Practice*, DRI Seminar, New York, New York
- *Encouraging Ethics in Civility and Pre-Trial Practice*, Pennsylvania Defense Institute, Philadelphia, PA
- *Professionalism and Civility: Is Civility Still the Rule in Civil Litigation Today?* Atlantic City, New Jersey
- *Optimizing Brownfield Liability Recovery Through Insurance Settlement Strategies and Asset Management*, Washington, D.C.
- *Lawyers' Professionalism – What Does It Mean in Everyday Practice?* Philadelphia, PA
- Seminars presented for Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, National Insurance Industry Association

Published Works

- "Success in Recruiting and Retaining Minority Attorneys Starts at the Top," *Diversity Insider Newsletter*, DRI, December 2018
- "Common Sense Ways to Increase Minority Representation Among Interviewees," *The Legal Intelligencer, Diversity Supplement*, April 2011
- "The Importance of Internet and Email Monitoring," *The Practical Lawyer*, December 2006

Significant Representative Matters

- Successfully resolved numerous declaratory judgment actions seeking insurance coverage from numerous insurers wherein plaintiff corporations demanded payment of \$100 million(+) to resolve claims seeking environmental coverage, coverage for hearing loss, coverage for asbestos claims, and various other types of claims.
- Successfully defended case via jury trial wherein plaintiff physician sought several million dollars in coverage for long term disability coverage. Client was the insurance agent that sold the policies in question.

Thought Leadership

April 1, 2026

Marshall Dennehey's Advanced Trial Advocacy & Mock Trial Program Turns 25

December 1, 2022

On the Pulse...Our Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Office