

Caroline E. Skelton

Associate

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Caroline is an associate in the firm's Casualty Department where she handles matters involving transportation related claims, employment liability, and personal injury for the firm's Connecticut clients. Caroline earned her *juris doctor* from Quinnipiac University School of Law in 2017 and her B.A. from York College of Pennsylvania. During college, Caroline spent a semester at Oxford University in England where she studied social psychology and moral philosophy.

During law school, Caroline served as the Business Managing Editor of the Quinnipiac Law Review. During her second year she served as an intern for the Honorable Joan G. Margolis in the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. She also worked as a law clerk at a small law firm in Hamden, Connecticut where she worked on cases involving property insurance, personal injury, and family law.

Caroline is admitted to practice in Connecticut.

Education

- Quinnipiac University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2017)
- York College of Pennsylvania (B.A., *cum laude*, 2014)

Admissions

- Connecticut, 2017
- New York, 2020

Classes / Seminars Taught

- *Civil Litigation State of Affairs – The Impact of COVID-19 in New York and Connecticut & What's Next*, Marshall Dennehey Client Webinar, May, 2021

Practices

- Automobile Liability
- Trucking & Transportation Liability
- Employment Law

Results

Defense Obtains a Minority View Win in a Personal Injury/Dram Shop Action in the Connecticut Superior Court

After suffering severe brain damage in a motor vehicle accident, the plaintiff brought claims of negligence and recklessness against our restaurant client and other various defendants, including the owners and operator of the offending vehicle, who was charged with multiple criminal offenses (still pending) for operating under the influence. On behalf of our client, cross-claims were asserted for contribution and indemnification. The co-defendants first requested revision of the cross-claims, which were complied with, and then moved to strike the cross-claims as not recognized under Connecticut law. We argued, on behalf of the restaurant and sole proprietor owner, that there was a minority view of Superior Court cases of more recent vintage than that cited by the co-defendants' counsel which supported such cross-claims. We submitted that the rationale behind these cases includes the plain language interpretation that Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 52-572h(c) does not prohibit a defendant from acquiring an apportionment evaluation of another (already named) party's negligence. We argued this is particularly so under the circumstances of a criminally charged co-defendant operating under the influence as the final conduct in the negligence timeline. The Stamford Superior Court agreed that prohibiting the cross-claims would be absurd, irrational and nonsensical.