

Dylan J. Smith

Associate

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Dylan is an associate attorney in the Casualty Department, where he concentrates his practice on product liability, premises liability, and automobile liability matters.

He earned his *juris doctor* from Temple University Beasley School of Law, graduating *cum laude*. During law school, Dylan pursued various hands-on learning opportunities. He interned at a plaintiff's firm, focusing on the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Litigation. In his third year, he contributed to the Systemic Justice Project at the Stephen and Sandra Sheller Center for Social Justice, where he assisted clients in filing motions to waive court fees associated with their convictions and proposed a rule change to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to streamline court processes. Additionally, he held an externship with the City of Philadelphia's Tort Litigation unit.

Before law school, Dylan gained litigation experience as a legal practice assistant at a Philadelphia defense firm, supporting cases in patent, antitrust, and labor and employment law. He holds both a Bachelor and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University.

Education

- Temple University Beasley School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2024)
- Drexel University
 - M.S., 2020; B.S., 2020

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 2024

Representative Cases & Matters

- Obtained summary judgment in a premises liability case pending the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The case involved an alleged trip-and-fall at a Chester County

Practices

- Product Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Premises & Retail Liability
- General Liability

movie theater. At the close of discovery, we filed a Rule 702 Motion challenging Plaintiffs' expert and a Motion for Summary Judgment. The Court granted both, finding that Plaintiffs' expert did not satisfy the "reliability" or "fit" requirements of Rule 702; and finding that Plaintiffs could not prove that the defendants were on notice of an any allegedly hazardous condition.

- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of our client, a nonprofit organization, in a premises liability action in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The plaintiff allegedly fractured her leg after slipping and falling on an icy walkway outside the client's community center. We argued that her claims were barred by a liability waiver she signed as part of her membership application. Although the plaintiff denied signing the waiver, the court ordered targeted discovery, and both parties retained handwriting experts. The court ultimately found that the defense had persuasively established the authenticity of the signature and that the plaintiff's unsupported denials were insufficient to create a genuine dispute of material fact. Summary judgment was entered in favor of our client.
- Assisted in securing a defense verdict in Delaware County after a four-day jury trial in a premises liability case against a local school. The plaintiff, a student, claimed an Achilles heel injury and Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS), despite medical evidence to the contrary. The defense, which included aggressive cross-examination of medical and liability experts, along with surveillance evidence, successfully demonstrated the plaintiff's return as an undefeated captain of the school's tennis team. The case also featured a rejected \$200,000 mediation offer before the plaintiff's demand of \$1 million. After 2.5 hours of deliberation, the jury ruled in favor of the school.
- Successfully obtained an order granting a Petition to Open a Default Judgment in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, allowing the client to defend a motor vehicle liability claim involving a \$17,945.25 judgment—much of which exceeded the policy limits. The ruling significantly reduced the risk of an excess verdict and preserved the client's right to litigate the matter.

Results

Successful Trial Outcome: Defense Prevails in Premises Liability Case

We secured a defense verdict in Delaware County after a four-day jury trial in a premises liability case against a local school. The plaintiff, a student, suffered an Achilles heel injury when cut by a door edge and claimed diminished leg function and Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS). Despite undergoing two surgeries, neither her surgeons nor treating physicians diagnosed CRPS. During trial, the defense highlighted that the student returned the following year as undefeated captain of the school's tennis team, winning at the state level. The case involved aggressive cross-examination of medical and liability experts, along with surveillance evidence of the plaintiff. Before trial, the demand was \$1 million, while the school offered \$200,000 at mediation—an offer the plaintiff rejected, walking out and refusing further negotiations. After just 2.5 hours of deliberation, the jury ruled in the school's favor.

Thought Leadership

June 1, 2025

Tsunami or Business as Usual: What Does the New Motorcycle Lemon Law Hold for Pennsylvania?