

Karen "Missy" E. Minehan

Shareholder

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Missy is a member of the Health Care Department where she focuses her practice on the defense of professional medical negligence and premises liability claims, as well as medical licensing matters before licensing boards such as the Pennsylvania Boards of Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Nursing, and Psychology. Her individual clients include physicians, nurses, Patient Care Technicians (PCTs), Certified Nurses Aides (CNAs), therapists, mental health professionals, and other health care providers. Missy's institutional clients include acute and rehabilitation hospitals, long-term and skilled nursing facilities, correctional medicine providers, and outpatient dialysis facilities.

Missy has handled matters encompassing a wide range of medical issues, including retained foreign objects, ob/gyn, wound care, patient falls, and neurological injuries. She has significant jury trial, arbitration, mediation, appellate, and administrative law experience.

After receiving her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College, where she played intercollegiate soccer and spent her junior year in Paris, France and Yaounde, Cameroon, Missy graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs with a J.D. and a Master's Degree in International Affairs.

Missy's bar admissions include the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and U.S. District Court for the Western, Middle, and Eastern Districts of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She is frequently called upon to lecture on a wide array of topics in the field of health care litigation.

Outside of her professional career, Missy is an active volunteer in her local community. She served as a Girl Scout leader to a troop that advanced from Brownie to Ambassador. She interviewed prospective high school students for admission to Wellesley College as an alumna volunteer and served as the President and Vice President of the Southeastern

Practices

- Medical Malpractice
- Long-Term Care Liability

Pennsylvania Wellesley College Club. She worked as a puppy sitter for the Susquehanna Service Dog. An avid skier, Missy co-founded and continues to lead the Camp Hill Middle and High School Ski & Snowboard Club. In addition, Missy is currently a Member and the Secretary of the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library Board of Trustees.

Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D., 1996)
- University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs (M.A., 1996)
- Wellesley College (B.A., 1991)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 1996
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1999
- U.S. District Court Middle District of Pennsylvania, 1999
- U.S. District Court Western District of Pennsylvania, 2018

Honors & Awards

- AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Rising Star (2006-2007)

Associations & Memberships

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Cleve J. Fredricksen Library Board of Trustees, Member and Secretary
- Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, former Troop Leader
- Southeastern Pennsylvania Wellesley Club, Member, former President, former Vice President

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *Mitigating and Responding to a Professional Liability Claim: Documentation, Discovery, and Depositions*, Skilled Nursing Development Institute's Administrator Appreciation Event, August 6, 2025
- *Arbitration Agreements: Hot Topics and Best Practices*, client webinar, March 19, 2025
- *Trends, Tips, and Tricks in the Defense of Long-Term Care Facilities*, PACHRM/PDI Conference, July 14, 2023
- *From Arbitrations to Schedule Zs: Trends, Tips and Tricks to Navigate the Written Discovery Process in Long-Term Care Civil Litigation*, Marshall Dennehey Trends in Health Care and Health Law Seminar, May 5, 2022
- *Reduce Your Risk: Understanding the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA)*, February 18, 2021
- *Pitfalls of Social Media and Nursing*, May 8, 2018
- *ED Documentation: Are You Writing Enough?*, April 2018
- *Event Management, Documentation and Disclosure: Trends, Dangers and Best Practices*, March 2015
- *Understanding Advance Health Care Directives in Pennsylvania*, March 2015

- *General Liability, Professional Liability and Other Interesting Litigation Issues*, February 26, 2015
- *The Medical Licensing System in Pennsylvania*, 2012
- *Expert Retention, Review, and Testimony: From Start to Finish*, October 8, 2007
- *Defensive Documentation*, co-presenter, April 2007
- *Medical Records Law in Pennsylvania as it Pertains to Litigation Issues*, co-presenter, Lorman Education Services, August 2006
- *A Statutory Tour Through the Peer Review Protection Act, MCARE Act and the Patient Quality Improvement Act of 2005*, co-presenter, October 2005
- *Avoiding Lawsuits and Facing the Ones You Cannot Avoid: Documentation, Event Review, Deposition and Trial Testimony*, co-presenter, May 2005
- *An Overview of Pennsylvania Law as it Relates to HMA Medical Malpractice*, co-presenter, January 2005
- *Best Practices for Hospital Investigation of Patient Care*, October 2004

Published Works

- “The New and Broadened Law Governing Venue in Pennsylvania Medical Malpractice Cases,” *Defense Digest, JDSupra*, March 2023
- “The Public Policy Exception to the Enforcement of Foreign Judgments: Necessary or Nemesis?,” 18 Loy. L.A. Int'l & Comp. L. J. 795 (1996)

Significant Representative Matters

- Obtained a defense award on behalf of a skilled nursing facility in a wound case after a two-day arbitration.

Results

Defense Award Obtained in a Contested Wound Case

We secured a defense award on behalf of a skilled nursing facility in a hotly contested “wound” case after a two-day arbitration. The 93-year-old plaintiff had been a resident at the nursing facility for over three years without having suffered any pressure injuries, despite a plethora of risk factors. In August 2019, she was transferred emergently to an acute care hospital where she was diagnosed with a myocardial infarction (MI) and cardiogenic shock. The hospital administered five days of a vasopressor, a life-saving medication that can increase the risk of pressure injuries, and recommended that she consult with palliative medicine due to her poor condition and prognosis. Within several weeks of her return to our client’s facility, she was found to have a Stage III left heel wound and a Stage II left buttocks wound. The wounds were treated and resolved within four and five months, respectively. At 99 years of age, she still resides at the facility.

Defense Verdict in Ohio Medical Malpractice Case

We obtained a medical malpractice defense verdict on behalf of a skilled nursing facility in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in Cleveland, Ohio. The children of an 82-year-old skilled nursing resident brought a lawsuit after their mother developed shingles and associated meningitis and passed away. They claimed the facility had inadequate

infection control and failed to identify signs/symptoms of developing changes in their mother's condition. The defense proved the facility offered the appropriate vaccinations that were required by the state of Ohio and that the standard of care did not require the facility offer or administer the Shingrix vaccine to its residents. They also proved the facility properly monitored the resident's signs and symptoms; that she did not exhibit any classic signs or symptoms of shingles at the facility; and that the facility timely sent her to the ER for evaluation when her condition changed. In closing arguments after a five-day trial, the plaintiffs asked the jury for \$3 million. The jury deliberated for 75 minutes and returned with a defense verdict.

Thought Leadership

March 1, 2023

The New and Broadened Law Governing Venue in Pennsylvania Medical Malpractice Cases