

Michael L. Detweiler

Office Managing Attorney

MLDetweiler@mdwcg.com

King of Prussia – 610.354.8271



Michael is a shareholder and member of the Casualty Department and the Managing Attorney of the King of Prussia office. In his 20 plus years of practice experience, Michael has successfully defended clients including but not limited to retail and large corporations, construction companies and contractors, homeowner associations (HOAs), municipalities, tour operators and travel agencies, professionals, and various individuals. He has represented his clients in high exposure personal injury matters involving fatalities and other catastrophic injuries. He has also successfully defended entities and individuals in high exposure construction defect matters, in addition to commercial and breach of contract disputes. He has tried cases to verdict in courts throughout Pennsylvania, including the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Michael serves also as the Casualty Supervisor of the King of Prussia office in addition to his role as managing attorney, providing oversight for strategy considerations and daily operations within the King of Prussia Casualty group and office, generally. His extensive experience with both casualty and professional liability matters provides an invaluable advantage in representing clients who require a firm grasp of both practice backgrounds.

Michael graduated *magna cum laude* from Dickinson College in 1998 and from Boston College Law School in 2002. Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Michael was Assistant City Solicitor with the City of Philadelphia Law Department for two years. He defended police officers, corrections officers, and various City of Philadelphia employees and agencies in civil lawsuits. He is an active member of the local community, which includes his work as President and Chairman of the Board of a Philadelphia elementary school from 2014-2025.

Education

- Boston College Law School (J.D., 2002)
- Dickinson College (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1998)

Practices

- Miscellaneous Professional Liability
- Construction Injury Litigation
- Architectural, Engineering & Construction Defect Litigation
- Product Liability
- Public Entity & Civil Rights Litigation
- Non-Profit D&O
- Real Estate E&O Liability

Admissions

- New Jersey, 2003
- Pennsylvania, 2003
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 2003

Honors & Awards

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Construction Law (2026-2027)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer Rising Star (2007-2008, 2010-2016)

Associations & Memberships

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Board Member, Saint Mary Interparochial School

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *An Overview of Auto Law in Pennsylvania*, Marshall Dennehey Client Webinar, July 22, 2025
- *Travel Advisors E&O Insurance: Lessons in Liability* - Panelist, Travel Professional News webinar, September 12, 2023
- *PHL Airport First Responders Training*, Philadelphia International Airport, Philadelphia, PA, March 30, 2023
- *Defending Planned Community Association Cases: Directors and Officers Liability, Property, and Other Liability Issues*, Engle Martin & Associates, March 2016
- *Legal Issues for Internet Travel Sellers and Travel Insurance for Industry and Consumers*, Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI) Travel Law Seminar, Philadelphia, May 1, 2014
- *Insurance Agents and Brokers Best Claims Practices in Claims Administration and Underwriting*, Liberty Mutual Insurance, December 2013

Published Works

- "Movement No Longer Required: Expansion of the "Operation of Motor Vehicle" Exception in Municipal Cases Since *Balentine*," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 25, No. 2, June 2019
- "When Accidents Happen: Legal Defenses for Travel Advisors," *Travel Advisor*, February 2019
- "Top Legal Considerations for Independent Contractors," *Travel Agent* magazine, September 2014
- "The Motor Vehicle Black Box," *Dispute Resolution Institute: Annual Personal Injury Potpourri 2007*, Co-Author with Ralph P. Bocchino, Esq.

Significant Representative Matters

- Successfully drafted and argued Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings on behalf of international tour operator in a federal court case in which plaintiff (a 35 year old man) drowned while on a fishing excursion near the coast of Costa Rica. (The fishing excursion was booked through the tour operator). The underlying motion was

predicated on applicable tour operator liability law, maritime law, and the Death on the High Seas Act.

- Successfully drafted Motion to Dismiss on jurisdictional grounds on behalf of internationally renowned California golf resort that was sued by plaintiff for severe head and cognitive injuries.
 - Obtained voluntary dismissal of all claims as to tour operator sued by plaintiff for personal injuries as a result of alleged injuries stemming from an accident in a resort in Jamaica.
 - Obtained voluntary dismissal of all breach of contract claims as to local non-profit financial institution in a breach of contract civil action involving close to \$1 million in disputed monies.
 - Obtained numerous defense verdicts as lead trial counsel on behalf of clients in federal court in which plaintiff alleged false arrest, excessive force, and other civil rights violations.
 - Obtained multiple summary judgments on behalf of clients in general casualty and products liability matters.
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Results

Successful Trial Result Achieved in a Philadelphia Premises Liability Matter

We received a successful trial result in a premises liability matter in Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. The plaintiff's expert projected future surgeries and extensive life-long medical care costs of \$1.25 million. Much of our defense centered on damages and demonstrating that the projected future medical care was not supported by the actual medical treatment provided. Additionally, video of the incident was used to demonstrate that the plaintiff had actual/constructive knowledge of spilled water in the premises but proceeded to walk in that area anyway. Forty percent comparative negligence was assigned to the plaintiff, and despite the plaintiff's introduction of the medical cost projection described above, only \$50,000 in future medical care was awarded by the jury. The total award, after a molded verdict, was \$118,800, which our client viewed as a victory in this venue.

Real estate agency dismissed from litigation.

The defense prevailed on a motion to dismiss our real estate agency client. The plaintiff filed counts of fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, conspiracy, conversion, invasion of privacy-false light, breach of contract, and promissory estoppel against the agency regarding an allegedly fraudulent transfer of a private residence by the co-defendant seller of the property. We filed preliminary objections, arguing that the plaintiff's claims lacked sufficient specificity and that the plaintiff failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. The court dismissed all claims against our client.

Thought Leadership

August 17, 2026

**Not So Fast. . . The Limitations of the Pennsylvania RELRA in Plaintiffs' Civil
Actions Against Real Estate Broker and Licensee Defendants**

December 1, 2025

**On the Pulse...King of Prussia Office: A Historic Legacy and a Dynamic Future of
Legal Excellence**