

Patrick T. Reilly

Co-Chair of the Hospitality & Liquor Liability Practice

Co-Chair, Asbestos & Mass Tort Litigation

PTReilly@mdwcg.com

Pittsburgh – 412.803.2003



Patrick manages the firm's asbestos and toxic tort practice in western Pennsylvania. His practice includes serving as local counsel, trial counsel and national coordinating counsel for various insured and self-insured product manufacturers. Additionally, he represents both major corporate clients and small businesses in product liability, toxic tort and complex environmental and commercial litigation, including defending talc, asbestos, and negligence claims.

In addition to his work in toxic tort defense, Patrick is a member of the firm's Casualty Department. In this capacity he defends all types of general and commercial liability cases, ranging from product liability cases to fall downs. He has worked defending bars and restaurants in both general liability and liquor liability matters for more than ten years.

Patrick also continues to represent automobile manufacturers, car dealerships, and automobile service facilities in claims made for breach of warranty, fraud, unfair trade practices and negligence.

Patrick has both jury and non-jury trial experience. He has tried hundreds of cases within the Commonwealth's Compulsory Arbitration system.

Education

- Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University (J.D., 2006)
- Saint Joseph's University (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2003)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 2006
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 2006

Practices

- Product Liability
- Hospitality & Liquor Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Asbestos & Mass Tort Litigation
- Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation
- General Liability

Honors & Awards

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Commercial Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2024-2027)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Star (2013-2021)
- Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition, Ally-Ready Training Program, 2021

Associations & Memberships

- Allegheny County Bar Association
- Northside Common Ministries, Advisory Board Member (2013 - 2019)
- Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition: Retention Committee Member, 2021 – Present; Survey Committee Member, 2022 – Present

Classes/Seminars Taught

- *Serving Safely: Navigating Liquor Liability in Hospitality*, Marshall Dennehey Client Webinar, September 16, 2025
- *Liquor Liability: The Do's and Don'ts*, Marshall Dennehey Client Event, August 2025
- *Serving Safely: Navigating Liquor Liability in Hospitality*, Marshall Dennehey Client Webinar, May 28, 2025
- *Serving Safely: Navigating Liquor Liability in Hospitality*, Marshall Dennehey Client Webinar, February 25, 2025
- *Liquor Liability Do's and Don'ts: Implementing a Safe Alcohol Service Program for Resorts*, Marshall Dennehey Client Seminar, November 14, 2024
- *Liquor Liability: The Do's and Don'ts*, Marshall Dennehey Client Seminar, August 2024
- *Pursuing and Defending Attorney Fee Claims*, Allegheny County Bar Association, Pittsburgh, PA, August 30, 2022
- *The New Marketing Tool—Creating a Podcast that People Want to Hear*, Pennsylvania Defense Institute (PDI) 2021 Annual Conference, Bedford Springs, PA., July 16, 2021
- *Defending Liquor Liability and Hospitality Claims*, "On a Roll" Podcast with Nichole Perzel, produced by W.N. Tuscano Agency, March, 2021
- *What's Trending in Liquor Law? Help Your Bars and Restaurants Mitigate Their Risk*, Marshall Dennehey Client Presentation, February 9th, 2021
- *Voir Dire and Jury Selection in 2020*, Allegheny County Bar Association Civil Litigation Section - Webinar, August 18, 2020
- *Liquor Law and Insurance Needs: Risk Management for Bars and Restaurants*, Client Hospitality & Liquor Lines Team Virtual Conference, June 18, 2020
- *PENNSYLVANIA Liquor Law AND Insurance Needs: Risk Management for Bars and Restaurants*, Marshall Dennehey Client Seminar, January 13, 2020
- *Voir Dire and Jury Selection in Allegheny County*, Pennsylvania Defense Institute, December 4, 2019
- *Civil Litigation Skills Training - Conducting Voir Dire in Allegheny County*, Allegheny County Bar Association Civil Litigation Section, April 8, 2019
- *Jury Selection Process in the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas*, Women's Bar Association of Western Pennsylvania, June 21, 2018
- *Civil Litigation Skills Training - Conducting Voir Dire in Allegheny County*, Allegheny

County Bar Association Civil Litigation Section, April 5, 2018

- *Discoverability and Proper Use of Claim Notes*, Marshall Dennehey Client Seminar, October 2011

Published Works

- "Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer'," *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 15, 2023
- "Employers (Still) Not Liable For Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees," *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 10, 2022
- "Assessing the Risk of Takeout Alcohol Under the Pa. Dram Shop Law," *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 17, 2021
- "Should Mandatory Liquor Liability Insurance Be in PA's Future?" *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 25, 2020
- "Compulsory Arbitration Useful in Small-Exposure Cases," *The Legal Intelligencer* ADR Supplement, January 20, 2015
- "Don't Bother Trying to Fix It, We'll Just File Suit!," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 18, No. 1, March 2012
- "Substituted Judgment: Does Pennsylvania Law Provide an Appropriate Standard for Withdrawal of Life Support in Non-terminal Patients?" *Duquesne Law Review*, Volume 44, Spring 2006

Significant Representative Matters

- Obtained voluntary dismissal of a dram shop death case where he was able to prove prior to the filing of a complaint that plaintiff's decedent was intoxicated as a result of liquor contained within his home, rather than alcohol allegedly purchased at the client's bar.
- Prepared successful Motion for Summary Judgment in a conveyor belt death case in which we represented the company who purchased the assets of the bankrupt corporation which manufactured the conveyor belt at issue.
- Prepared successful Motion for Judgment on the pleadings in a death case on behalf of a methadone clinic. Plaintiff's theory was that plaintiff's decedent was killed by a driver who had been either improperly treated at the methadone clinic or had been improperly permitted to drive following treatment. He successfully argued that no duty exists to a third party motorist under such circumstances under Pennsylvania law.
- Has handled well over 50 compulsory arbitration cases in counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Has utilized ADR when appropriate, referring a number of cases to mediation where appropriate.
- Has assisted in the handling of numerous cases against bars filed by plaintiffs who alleged improper service of alcohol, either to themselves or to other patrons. These cases have involved fatal motor vehicle accidents, assaults, suicide and other significant and serious injuries.

Results

Claims Against Bar/Restaurant Dismissed in Dram Shop Action

The plaintiff spent the afternoon at our client's restaurant/bar before driving ten minutes

to his local Country Club to continue celebrating his birthday. Ninety minutes after he arrived at the Club, he fell down the stairs and suffered a severe brain injury. His Blood Alcohol Content was roughly three times the legal limit. The plaintiff had previously worked as a high-end custom wood finisher but is now unable to see color, among having other deficits, and he is alleged to be fully disabled. After more than 20 depositions, and despite varying reports as to what the plaintiff had to drink at our client's establishment, we were able to argue that he showed no signs of visible intoxication prior to the last service of alcohol by our client. Our motion was strenuously opposed by the Country Club, who argued there was testimony that the plaintiff appeared intoxicated upon his arrival at the Club. The court agreed with our argument that this was insufficient evidence for a jury to find that our client served alcohol to a visibly intoxicated plaintiff, and, as such, all claims against our client were dismissed and summary judgment was granted.

Thought Leadership

September 1, 2025

On the Pulse...Navigating the New Era of Dram Shop Liability: Marshall Dennehey's Hospitality & Liquor Liability Practice Group Steps Forward

February 15, 2023

Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer'

February 10, 2022

Employers (Still) Not Liable for Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees

February 17, 2021

Assessing the Risk of Takeout Alcohol Under the Pa. Dram Shop Law