

# Ryan A. Hauck

Shareholder

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An experienced litigator, Ryan has spent more than a decade defending employers, insurance companies and third-party administrators in worker's compensation matters throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and before the Workers' Compensation Appeal Board. This experience has afforded him the opportunity to develop professional relationships not only with his clients, but also with judges and opposing attorneys.

Ryan has defended all types of workers' compensation claims with low to high exposure arising from orthopedic injuries, traumatic brain injuries, amputations/loss of use, hearing loss, scarring and occupational diseases, and death claims. He has secured positive results for a wide array of clients, from Fortune 500 companies to locally owned family businesses, including regional and national insurance companies and third-party administrators, banks, commercial retailers, manufactures, restaurants, staffing agencies, trucking companies, school districts, churches, nursing homes, medical facilities and construction companies.

From the moment a claim is assigned, Ryan's goal is to achieve a fast and favorable resolution, whether through settlement or litigation. His approach is simple: listen to his clients and communicate with them, early and often, to understand their objectives and formulate and implement an aggressive pragmatic strategy. In addition to his trial work, Ryan counsels clients on all aspects of workers' compensation claims management, including pre-litigation issues and compensability determinations. He works closely with clients to develop a creative risk management strategy focused on reducing workers' compensation exposure in the most cost effective manner possible. Ryan is also experienced in the resolution of Medicare compliance issues that arise in the settlement of workers' compensation claims.

Within the firm, Ryan serves as a member of the Executive Committee Advisory Council, a distinguished group of firm leaders whose purpose is to enhance the communication between the Executive Committee and younger members of the firm's professional

## Practices

- Workers' Compensation Defense

ranks, including associates, special counsel and junior shareholders.

An active member of the local legal community, Ryan belongs to the Allegheny County Bar Association and the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Coalition. He was elected by his peers (in 2019, 2023 and 2025) to serve a two-year term on the Council of the Allegheny County Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section. This committee analyzes all phases, questions and problems in the field of workers' compensation, and attempts to resolve problems that are identified within the practice of workers' compensation through the interaction with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation and its administrative personnel. Additionally, the committee is responsible to keep its members, the bar association, and the public informed of the various developments, amendments, and modifications in the statutory law and regulations relating to workers' compensation.

Ryan graduated *cum laude* from Duquesne University School of Law. He received numerous accolades during his time there, including the Honorable Carol Los Mansmann Excellence in Writing Award, the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in Legal Research and Writing, and the Outstanding Appellate Brief and Oral Argument Awards. While completing his undergraduate degree at Westminster College, Ryan served as a member of a national fraternity and was a two-year basketball letterman.

When Ryan is not advocating on behalf of his clients, he enjoys tailgating and attending Pittsburgh Steeler games, golfing, riding bikes and fishing. Most of all, he enjoys spending as much time as possible with his wife, Ashley, and two children Gavin and Shay.

## **Education**

- Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University (J.D., *cum laude*, 2011)
- Westminster College (B.A., 2007)

## **Admissions**

- Pennsylvania, 2011

## **Honors & Awards**

- The Best Lawyers in America®, Workers' Compensation Law - Employers (2025-2026)
- The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch®, Workers' Compensation Law - Employers (2022)

## **Associations & Memberships**

- Allegheny County Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Coalition

## **Classes/Seminars Taught**

- *Specific Loss / Disfigurement*, Pennsylvania Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Fall Section Meeting, Hershey, PA, October 13, 2023

- *Strategies to Limit Exposure and Minimize Risk, Marshall Dennehey Workers' Compensation Seminar, October 27, 2022*

## Published Works

- "'Raymour' Decision Benefits Insurers And, Arguably, Claimants," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Workers' Compensation Supplement, page 4. October 12, 2021
- "Notice of An Injury Can Be Extended Beyond 120 Days," *Defense Digest*, March 2021, Vol. 27, No. 2

## Significant Representative Matters

- Successfully defended a six-figure workers' compensation claim in which the claimant alleged back and leg injuries and sought over \$60,000 in past wage loss plus ongoing benefits. By collaborating closely with the employer, we preserved and presented key surveillance footage, coupled with compelling medical evidence and strategic cross-examination, to challenge the claimant's factual and medical assertions. The result was a complete denial of the Claim Petition.
- Successfully defended a claim petition that alleged multiple orthopedic fractures and dislocations to the upper extremity, hip, and bilateral lower extremities. The claimant was seeking payment of past and future wage loss and medical benefits. The workers' compensation judge fully adopted our position that the claimant's injuries did not arise in the course and scope of employment. Through strategic reliance on case law, focused cross-examination and close collaboration with the employer to define property boundaries within a commercial complex, we established that the claimant was injured off the premises during an unpaid lunch break, was not furthering the employer's interests, and was not engaged in any activity authorized, directed or otherwise related to her employment at the time of her injury. This resulted in a complete denial of the claim and significant savings in litigation spend because the issue was bifurcated before having to participate in costly medical discovery and evidence.

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## Results

### **Defense Victory Obtained in Workers' Compensation Case**

We secured a complete defense victory, saving our client over \$500,000 in known exposure and likely millions in long-term liability. The workers' compensation judge granted our termination petition and denied the claimant's claim petition, finding that the claimant fully recovered and was not entitled to wage loss or medical benefits. Through medical discovery, we uncovered pre-injury treatment that directly contradicted the claimant's testimony. The judge favored our medical expert, citing no changes on pre- and post-injury MRIs as further evidence undermining the claim.

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## Thought Leadership

October 7, 2021

**'Raymour' Decision Benefits Insurers and, Arguably, Claimants**

March 1, 2021

**Notice of An Injury Can Be Extended Beyond 120 Days**