

# Joseph J. McHale

## Partner

Philadelphia, PA

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Joe McHale is a nationally recognized trial attorney and the leader of the firm's products liability & mass tort defense and life sciences practice groups. An experienced litigator, he has tried close to 60 cases to verdict. Joe is also a registered pharmacist, which gives him a unique perspective and insight into the life sciences industry.

Joe's experience as a trial attorney involves representing human services agencies, pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers, pharmacists, physicians, nurses, hospitals, health systems, pharmacy benefits managers and businesses. His work varies from trials in federal and state courts to private arbitrations to appearances before state agencies. His experience covers medical malpractice, health care claims, products liability issues, commercial claims, personal injury claims and insurance matters. He is also counsel to a group of health system risk managers. In addition to his busy trial practice, Joe served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, where he taught Pharmacy Law for more than 25 years.

The professional community recognizes Joe's distinct background, both by requesting his comments on education programs for pharmacists and by appointing him to councils and associations. He is a frequent lecturer for the Pharmacy Learning Network, which provides live continuing education for pharmacists. He was also selected by the International Association of Defense Counsel to serve on the faculty for the 37th Annual IADC Trial Academy at Stanford Law School – a seven-day program that blends faculty instruction and demonstration with individual student participation. The faculty consists of leading defense trial lawyers selected on a National basis from different regions around the country.

## RESULTS

- represented the **Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** with a redevelopment project in Stone Harbor, New Jersey
- serves as lead counsel in defense of class action and mass tort lawsuits facing a juvenile justice facility which includes claims of abuse, harassment and institutional misconduct
- defended a car sharing agency in a products liability claim; while his co-defendant suffered a \$16 million plus verdict, Joe obtained a defense verdict for his client

## FOCUS

Products Liability & Mass Tort Defense  
Health Care Litigation  
Nonprofit & Religious Organizations Litigation  
Insurance Coverage Advisory & Litigation  
Complex Commercial & Class Action Litigation  
White-Collar Defense, Internal Investigations & Corporate Compliance  
Life Sciences  
Litigation  
Special Situations

## BAR ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
New York

## COURTS

U.S. Supreme Court  
Pennsylvania Supreme Court  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

## EDUCATION

J.D., *magna cum laude*, Widener University School of Law  
M.S., Saint Joseph's University  
B.S., Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science

## MEMBERSHIPS

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Pharmacy, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia  
Chairman of Board, Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation  
Past President and current Board Member, Eagles Fly for Leukemia  
Fellow, American Society for Pharmacy Law

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- obtained a defense verdict in a premises liability claim against a school in a matter where the plaintiff suffered debilitating injuries to her hand and demanded over \$1 million to settle the matter
- defended a religious institution in a variety of different matters that resulted in numerous defense verdicts
- defended numerous medical malpractice claims for health systems and practitioners
- as trial co-counsel, obtained a defense verdict for a large pharmaceutical manufacturing company in the first phenylpropanolamine (PPA) case tried in Pennsylvania
- defended a high school basketball coach against a student who claimed she was “mentally abused” by him; a defense verdict was returned after trial
- obtained dismissal for a local hospice at trial against claims from a volunteer who was severely injured after falling off a ladder while working at the hospice
- defended a crane operator and distributor in a case where a worker was severely injured when a crane dropped two tons of steel on him; a defense verdict was returned in less than one hour
- defended a governmental agency in a number of cases of first impression involving the Social Security Act as it relates to reimbursement rates paid to pharmacists, which included obtaining favorable judgments for the agency at the trial and appellate stages
- obtained a defense verdict for the largest manufacturer of spiral staircases in the United States in a products liability matter
- defended a construction company in a products liability/negligence action that resulted in a defense verdict, despite the plaintiff’s demand in excess of \$3 million

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Presenter, “Physical and Sexual Abuse Litigation in PA – From the Plaintiff and the Defendant,” Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association
- Presenter, “Updates in Pharmacy Law,” University of the Sciences’ Philadelphia College of Pharmacy’s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium on Advances in Pharmacy Practice
- Panelist, “Pharmacy Malpractice,” 2013 Developments in Pharmacy Law Seminar
- Presenter, “Pharmacy Law Update” Delaware Valley Society of Hospital Pharmacists
- Presenter, “How Pharmacy Law Impacts You and Your Patients - Real-World Cases and Consequences,” Pharmacy Learning Network Conference
- Presenter, “Pharmacy Law Update” University of the Sciences, Philadelphia

## MEMBERSHIPS

International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)  
American Bar Association, Health Law, Antitrust and Products Liability Litigation Sections  
Defense Research Institute  
Pennsylvania Bar Association



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## RECOGNITIONS

- *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*
- *The Best Lawyers in America*

## IN THE COMMUNITY

Joe serves as chairman of The Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation board and is a board member of Eagles Fly for Leukemia.

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