



John P. Johnson, Jr.

Member

Cherry Hill

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John P. Johnson, Jr. has a wide range of experience in commercial litigation matters, estate litigation, and eminent domain litigation, inclusive of involving contract disputes, partnership disputes, directors and officers liability, employment matters, landlord-tenant disputes, franchisor/franchisee disputes as well as class action litigation and legal malpractice actions. John has successfully litigated and defended lawyers in more than 75 matters, including claims sounding in legal malpractice, defense of claims by non-clients against lawyers, as well as representation of lawyers in fee disputes with clients. He currently serves as vice chair, office managing partner for Cozen O'Connor's Cherry Hill office and is also chair of the firm's Commercial Litigation Paralegals. As of September 1, 2016 the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed John as a member of the District 4 Ethics Committee that oversees attorney discipline.

John is the co-author of *Certificate of Merit – A New Threshold Requirement in Professional Malpractice Actions* and *Legal Malpractice: Is the Standard for Establishing Liability in a Transactional Setting Different from the Standard Used in Establishing Liability in a Litigation Setting*.

John received his Bachelor of Science from Widener University in Business Administration. John spent 18 years in the oil business with Shell Oil and Arco Petroleum Products managing the oil companies franchise locations and relationships with franchisees prior to joining the firm. He earned his law degree, with highest honors, from The Rutgers School of Law, where he was a Dean Scholar. John received the New Jersey Bar Foundation Scholarship for his outstanding academic achievement.

Experience

Secured a verdict, after a week-long jury trial, in favor of a New Jersey state agency active in the re-development of the City of Camden in a case involving eminent domain and disputed property valuation. The controversy arose when the state exercised its right to take property in downtown Camden to be re-developed as part of the "Eds and Meds" corridor, and the various property owners demanded more than double the amount offered. The jury -- in Camden -- returned a verdict adopting the state's valuation to the dollar.

Recovered in excess of \$5 million on behalf of one of the largest builders in the United States in a malpractice action against an AmLaw 100 law firm stemming from a transaction involving a country club and housing development in Florida.

Secured dismissal of a claim of malicious prosecution filed against a prominent criminal defense lawyer and his firm in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Won summary judgment in two major matters in which claims were asserted against law firms alleging both tort and *assumpsit*, with exposure in the millions.

Represented 7-Eleven, Inc. in actions against various franchisees related to preliminary restraints and breach of contract issues resulting in monetary damages.

Represented officers and directors of a venture capital group in an investigation and enforcement action by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Practice Areas

- Commercial Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Franchise Disputes
- Litigation

Industry Sectors

- Sports

Education

- Rutgers University School of Law - Camden, J.D., 2001
- Widener University, B.S., 1982

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- New York

Court Admissions

- Commonwealth Court Of Pennsylvania
- Court Of Common Pleas - Bucks County
- Court Of Common Pleas - Chester County
- Court Of Common Pleas - Philadelphia County
- Court Of Common Pleas- Montgomery County
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Superior Court of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Affiliations

- Member, New Jersey Supreme Court District 4 Ethics Committee

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Represented regional advertising firm in commercial landlord/tenant action.

Represented Am-Law Top 100 law firm in a suit alleging claims of legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, and interference with prospective contractual relationships, with exposure in excess in excess of \$30 million.

Successfully represented an estate beneficiary in a multi-million dollar estate litigation.

Represented Rowan-Rutgers University Board of Governors in eminent domain actions.