



James H. Heller

Co-Chair, Commercial Litigation Department
Chair, Product Liability

Philadelphia

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Practice Areas

- Product Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- Real Estate Litigation
- Intellectual Property Litigation

Education

- University of Miami School of Law, J.D., 1985
- University of Michigan, B.A., 1982

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. Bankruptcy Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court -- Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of New York

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- American Trial Lawyers Association
- Defense Research Institute
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Product Liability Advisory Council, Inc.

Awards & Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell – AV Preeminent Rating
- ALM Top Rated Lawyer – Litigation
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer 2008-2020
- Best Lawyers in America 2018-2021

James H. Heller, chair of the firm's Product Liability Practice Group and co-chair of the Commercial Litigation Department, joined the firm in August 1985. Jim is a member of the firm's Board of Directors. Jim practices out of the Philadelphia office. Jim handles complex commercial disputes and catastrophic personal injury claims. He has vast litigation experience, including product liability and toxic tort claims, in both individual and class actions, and has appeared in state and federal courts across the country.

During his tenure at Cozen O'Connor, Jim has had extensive litigation experience, trying more than 50 cases to verdict or judgment in state and federal courts throughout the United States. Jim is the national coordinating attorney and national trial attorney for an international product manufacturer. He has litigated hundreds of products' liability matters throughout the United States, many of which involve serious personal injury or wrongful death claims from residential fires or neurological injuries from exposure to carbon monoxide. A number of these claims have been pursued on a class action basis.

Jim has also litigated numerous commercial disputes, including claims of fraud, complex breach of contract actions, shareholder derivative actions and litigation arising out of the sale or merger of publicly held companies. He has prosecuted fraud practices by health care providers, attorneys, and claimants. He also has intellectual property litigation experience having prosecuted claims throughout the United States for patent, copyright, and trademark infringement.

Jim earned his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Michigan in 1982, and his J.D. at the University of Miami in 1985. He is a member of Phi Alpha Delta.

Experience

Delivered a resounding victory in a month-long trial in plaintiff-friendly Cook County, Ill., for a leading manufacturer of consumer safety products. A unanimous defense verdict was rendered after just 2.5 hours of deliberation, defeating allegations that the product failed to operate in response to a fire that caused the plaintiff to sustain catastrophic injuries.

Successfully defended a product manufacturer in a products liability claim that involved multiple deaths, where plaintiffs sought millions of dollars in compensatory and punitive damages for deaths they attributed to carbon monoxide poisoning from a heater manufactured by our client. The jury found for the defense on all issues.

Won several defense verdicts in jury trials by utilizing advanced fire modeling software to quantify and illustrate the movement of flames, heat, smoke, and other products of combustion during a fire event.

Successfully obtained numerous defense verdicts in fire litigation across the country by demonstrating that the plaintiff intentionally set the fire at issue.

Successfully defended product manufacturers and obtained defense verdicts and judgments in a number of products liability claims that involved multiple injuries and deaths, where plaintiffs sought millions of dollars in compensatory and punitive damages for deaths they attributed to the negligent

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manufacture and/or design of its products.

Successfully defended ladder manufacturer from manufacturing and design defect claims where plaintiffs sought millions of dollars in compensatory damages for severe and permanent back and neck injuries sustained from a fall from a ladder.

Obtained dismissal of complaint/litigation for product manufacturer wherein 35-year-old woman suffered serious brain damage from a carbon monoxide exposure.

Ligated first amendment speech issues, obtaining a temporary restraining order and preliminary and permanent injunction preventing protests including picketing and libel and slanderous statements, in front of office and near residences of officers and directors.

Retained after a substantial judgment was entered against a corporation when plaintiff attempted to pierce the corporate veil and collect from the officers, directors and shareholders personally. Represented the officers, directors and shareholders presenting evidence and testimony from lay and expert witnesses and were successful in protecting their personal assets and liability.

Successfully defended a company and obtained a complete defense verdict in a suit filed by its former CEO seeking compensatory and punitive damages relating to his employment and his termination from the company.

Represented an Icelandic corporation in a contractual dispute with its German bank.

Obtained summary judgment for a product manufacturer whose product was alleged to have proximately caused five deaths. The court held that the plaintiffs failed to establish a product defect and/or that the alleged product defect was the proximate cause of the plaintiffs' deaths. This result was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

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