



William Lesser

Associate

New York

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William is an associate in the firm's Commercial Litigation Group.

William earned his law degree, *summa cum laude*, from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, where he was the lead research editor of the *Temple Law Review*. William served a one-year clerkship with the Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

He received his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Experience

Successfully moved to dismiss claims of breach of contract, tortious interference, unfair competition, and prima facie tort brought by National Air Cargo Group (NACG) against our clients, Maersk Line A/S and its corporate parent, A.P. Moller Maersk A/S (APMM). The dispute stemmed from a Slot Exchange Agreement that Maersk Line A/S entered into with one of NACG's competitors, which NACG claimed violated an exclusivity provision in a subcontract it had executed with a corporate affiliate of APMM for the transportation of military cargo (which had been at the center of a separate dispute). NACG sought \$90 million in compensatory damages and \$100 million in punitive damages. In granting the motion to dismiss, the court adopted our arguments verbatim, holding that Maersk Line A/S was a separate entity which was not a party to the subcontract, that Maersk Line A/S's entry into the Slot Exchange Agreement could not possibly be deemed a breach of the subcontract by the affiliated entity, that a cause of action for tortious interference did not exist as a matter of law, and that the remaining claims were likewise meritless.

Obtained a \$29 million international arbitration award on behalf of a Dutch dredging and marine construction company. The dispute arose when a foreign alumina manufacturer began to curtail the quantities of bauxite it accepted from the client, in breach of a mining contract between the parties. When attempts to negotiate a resolution were unsuccessful, we filed a demand with the International Chamber of Commerce and overcame multiple defenses raised by our opponent to secure the sizable award.

Practice Areas

- Antitrust
- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation

Education

- Temple University—James E. Beasley School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2015
- SUNY-Binghamton, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2012

Bar Admissions

- New York
- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Affiliations

LGBT Bar Association of New York

Clerkships

Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

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