

Richard S. Ranieri

Partner / Chair of the Toxic Tort and Environmental Group

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Rick Ranieri handles complex environmental litigation claims. Rick defends cases in multiple state and federal courts alleging occupational exposure to asbestos and mass tort/toxic tort substances such as benzene, silica and lead.

Rick is nationally certified as a civil trial advocate. He is also certified by the New Jersey Supreme Court as a civil trial attorney.

Rick's environmental practice includes handling matters involving genetically modified organisms, landfill contamination and hazardous spills.

Rick also represents self-insured entities, insurance companies and third-party administrators in general liability, construction and product liability matters. He routinely works with regulatory agencies on behalf of clients and has experience in alternative dispute resolution.

He has an "AV" peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell. In 2013, Rick was listed as one of Philadelphia's Top Rated Lawyers by *American Lawyer Media* and *Martindale-Hubbell*[™]. Since 2016, he was listed in the New Jersey edition of Super Lawyers in the area of defense civil litigation. The Super Lawyers list is issued by Thomson Reuters. A description of the selection methodology can be found at www.superlawyers.com/about/selectionprocessdetail.html.

Selected Cases

- Voss v. Tranquillo, A-110-09 (N.J. 2011)
- Duckett v. Wawa, Inc., 3405 EDA 2009 (PA App. Ct. 2011)

Assistant

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Industries

Manufacturing
Food, Beverage & Hospitality
Retail
Construction
Automotive

Practices

Toxic Tort
General Liability
Product Liability
Environmental
Litigation

Education

Villanova University School of Law, J.D.,
1985

Drexel University, B.S., cum laude, 1982

Bar Admissions

New York, 2000
New Jersey, 1985
Pennsylvania, 1985

Court Admissions

Eastern District of Pennsylvania
Eastern District of New York
Southern District of New York
District of New Jersey

- Krzyzanski v. Swepco Tube, A006309-06T5 (N.J. App. Div. 2008)
- Civalier v. Estate of Trancucci, 648 A.2d 705 (N.J. 1994)
- Thomson v. Victor's Liquore Store, Inc., 523 A.2d 269 (N.J. App. Div. 1987)

Middle District of Pennsylvania

Experience

- Successfully got a serious injury/serious disability case dismissed on early Summary Judgment Motion in New Jersey State Court, in a case involving an issue of legal "first impression" in the State. An employee of our client fell off a building under construction and received Workers Compensation benefits for the injuries. The worker sued the general contractor for negligence and OSHA violations, but did not bring an employer liability claim against our client/subcontractor employer. The general contractor brought a third-party complaint alleging indirect employer liability, arguing Workers' Compensation immunity did not bar indirect claims for "intentional" claims (OSHA violations, etc.). Time for appeal of this victory has not yet run, and the general contractor has not advised if it will test this ruling in the higher courts.
- Successfully argued through all appellate levels including NJ Supreme Court case involving massive injuries and disabilities in mixed dram shop and motor vehicle case, where issue of statutory construction for lawsuit immunity statutes (bar to claims) in nature of statute of repose, was decided.
- Successfully argued through all levels of appellate court including successfully at the New Jersey Supreme Court, occupational toxic exposure case where worker sued employer, despite worker receiving workers compensation benefits, under dual recovery theory allowed for "reckless indifference" theories, for rectal cancer allegedly due to exposure to solvents and heavy metals.
- On behalf of sole "deep pocket" private defendant, successfully argued before NJ Superior Court causing change in law for municipal liability for related conditions of public property, causing multiple public entities let out initially on Summary Judgment to be brought back in, case involving multiple fatalities and multiple disabling and disfiguring injuries to minor and additional plaintiffs.
- Successfully argued appeal that changed New Jersey Law, on Dram Shop foreseeability issues, in case involving a minor death and multiple, substantial, disfiguring and disabling injuries to multiple minors.

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Professional & Community Involvement

- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- Litigation Management, Council
- Trial Attorneys of New Jersey
- Indoor Air Quality Subcommittee