

Richard S. Ranieri

Partner / Toxic Tort and Environmental Managing Partner



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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*™. From 2016 - 2023, he was included in the New Jersey edition of Super Lawyers in the area of defense civil litigation. *For more information regarding methodology for these accolades, pursuant to New Jersey Lawyer Advertising guidance, please see here: <https://bit.ly/WGMartindaleHubbell> and <https://bit.ly/WGSuperLawyers>. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court.*

Selected Cases

- Voss v. Tranquillo, A-110-09 (N.J. 2011)
- Duckett v. Wawa, Inc., 3405 EDA 2009 (PA App. Ct. 2011)
- Krzyzanski v. Swepco Tube, A006309-06T5 (N.J. App. Div. 2008)
- Civalier v. Estate of Trancucci, 648 A.2d 705 (N.J. 1994)

Assistant

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Industries

Manufacturing
Food, Beverage & Hospitality
Retail
Construction
Automotive

Practices

Toxic Tort
General Liability
Product Liability
Environmental
Litigation
Alternative Dispute Resolution

Education

Villanova University Charles Widger
School of Law, J.D., 1985
Drexel University, B.S., cum laude, 1982

Bar Admissions

New York
New Jersey
Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

United States District Court for the
Eastern District of Pennsylvania
United States District Court for the

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- Thomson v. Victor's Liquore Store, Inc., 523 A.2d 269 (N.J. App. Div. 1987)

Experience

- ***Results may vary depending on your particular facts and legal circumstances.***
- Secured summary judgment on behalf of a large east coast convenience store chain, on the issue of lack of notice of black ice in a parking lot. The plaintiff claimed she fell on black ice in a parking lot and sustained severe spinal injuries, requiring surgery. The Court agreed with the defendant that there was no evidence that it had notice of the black ice and granted summary judgment and dismissed the case.
- Successfully obtained dismissal of a serious injury/serious disability case 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.). Summary Judgment was affirmed on appeal.
- 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.

Eastern District of New York
United States District Court for the
Southern District of New York
United States District Court for the District
of New Jersey
United States District Court for the Middle
District of Pennsylvania

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- 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.

Professional & Community Involvement

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