

Geoffrey F. Sasso

Partner

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Geoff Sasso is a litigator with over a decade of experience handling sensitive, high-profile, and high-exposure matters for entities operating in the manufacturing, higher education, healthcare, non-profit, construction, and financial industries. Over the years, Geoff has handled a variety of matters including catastrophic product liability and personal injury lawsuits, civil rights actions, healthcare matters, surety claims, and various business and commercial disputes. Outside of the courtroom, Geoff is also frequently retained to conduct confidential, internal investigations for both pre-suit and preventative purposes.

Geoff's healthcare practice is particularly diverse and he has represented providers and institutions in a variety of litigation and non-litigation matters touching on issues of professional liability, general liability and contractual disputes. Geoff is also frequently retained to advise authors and institutions in matters relating to disclosure and ethics requirements for peer-reviewed, medical journals. In addition, Geoff is one of the attorneys on the forefront of the emerging area of civil rights liability for medical providers and, over the past several years, has successfully defended numerous lawsuits involving §1983 claims against physicians and hospitals.

While in law school, Geoff was chosen to be a member of the Moot Court and Moe Levine Trial Advocacy Honor Societies. In his final year of law school, Geoff completed a clinical externship within the chambers of Chief Magistrate Judge M. Faith Angell of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Prior to entering private practice, Geoff served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Paul Innes in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Mercer County.

Representative Matters

- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of medical providers in a complex civil rights lawsuit alleging a §1983 claim arising from medical testing performed to investigate potential child abuse and successfully opposed plaintiffs' appeal to the Third Circuit (*Billups v. Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center*, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 163473 (M.D. Pa. 2017), *aff'd*, 2018 U.S. App. LEXIS 25800 (3d Cir. 2018))

Practice Areas

Healthcare

Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Higher Education

Product Liability

Construction and Surety

Bar and Court Admissions

Pennsylvania

New Jersey

New York

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Education

Widener University School of Law, JD, 2006

Loyola College in Maryland, BA, 2003

- Secured the complete dismissal – and denial of leave to amend – of various § 1983 claims asserted against two medical providers arising from a child abuse evaluation (*K.S. v. O'Dell*, 2018 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 55957 (M.D.Pa. 2018))
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of medical providers in a complex civil rights action arising from a report of suspected child neglect prompted by the parents' refusal to consent to necessary medical treatment for their newborn and refusal to cooperate with the provision of care and successfully opposed plaintiffs' appeal to the Third Circuit (*Ferris v. Milton S. Hershey Med. Ctr.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 133927 (M.D.Pa. 2016) aff'd 2017 U.S. App. LEXIS 12448 (3d Cir. 2017))
- Obtained permissive intervention in a two-year old, concluded class action alleging thousands of aggregated Telephone Consumer Protection Act violations and succeeded in decertifying the class action and voiding a preexisting \$15,000,000 judgment (*Local Baking v. Westfield Rental Mart*, 2014 WL 2807536 (App. Div. 2014))
- Successfully argued that a bankruptcy debtor is required to list as an asset of the bankruptcy estate a personal injury claim which arises post confirmation but prior to dismissal of the bankruptcy action or risk being estopped from pursuing that claim in a later lawsuit (*In re Cibelli*, 2016 Bankr. LEXIS 1933 (Bankr. D.N.J. 2016))
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of the insurer in a coverage dispute and secured affirmance from the New Jersey Appellate Division despite claims that insured's conduct was negligent and that extent of injuries sustained by plaintiff were not reasonably foreseeable; court inferred intent to injure as a matter of law, disregarded the negligence allegation based on facts developed during discovery and determined that the injuries sustained were inherently probable (*State Farm Fire and Casualty Company v. Carbo*, 2013 WL 2435438 (N.J. Super. A.D.))
- Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a maintenance company on statute of limitations grounds despite plaintiff naming fictitious defendants prior to expiration of the statute (*Beam v. Transportation and Security Administration, et al.*, 2013 WL 1903306 (D.N.J.))
- Successfully opposed four Rule 72 appeals addressing the scope of discovery to an insurer in a declaratory judgment action arising from underlying trademark/trade dress infringement claims (*Katiroll Co. v. Kati Roll & Platters Inc.*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 158234 (D.N.J. 2014))
- Briefed and argued the first matter before the Pennsylvania Superior Court raising an issue of *forum non conveniens* after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's holding in *Bratic v. Rubendall*; *Lee v. Bower Lewis Thrower*, 102 A.3d 1018 (Pa. Super. 2014)
- Assisted in establishing the law in New Jersey that the Affidavit of Merit factors set forth in N.J.S.A. 53A-41(a) are inapplicable to nursing specialties and lawsuits involving general medical standards of care (*Harbeson v. Underwood Memorial Hospital*, 2009 WL 1766598 N.J. Super. (App.Div. 2009))

Recognition & Involvement

Geoff is the Vice President and one of the co-founders of Young Professional Scouts, an alumni networking organization run through the Cradle of Liberty Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America (COLBSA). He is also a proud Eagle Scout and serves as a member of the Greater Philadelphia National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) Committee, as well as the Steering Committee and the Scholarship Selection Committee for the COLBSA's annual Eagle Recognition Dinner.

Geoff is a volunteer with the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Youth Courts program. The Youth Courts program promotes the use of student-run jury trials that provide restorative punishments for school-related disciplinary infractions. Geoff is

also a certified arbitrator for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

In the News

13th Annual Coverage College Hosts Over 400 Insurance Professionals
November 1, 2019

White and Williams Announces Lawyer Promotions
January 2, 2019

12th Annual Coverage College Features Current Trends and State of the Insurance Claims Industry
October 23, 2018

Law Week 2017: Associates Volunteer for Lawyers in the Classroom and Legal Advice Live
May 5, 2017

Coverage College Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary
September 22, 2016

Geoff Sasso Presents Young Professional Scouts Scholarship
June 3, 2016

Events

COVID-19 Insurance Program
Webinar | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | August 11, 2020

Coverage College 2019
October 24, 2019

Print Preview: The Evolution of 3D Printing and Its Liability Implications
12th Annual Coverage College | October 4, 2018

Game of Drones: Liability and Coverage Disputes are Coming
White and Williams Coverage College | September 22, 2016

Publications

Healthcare Goes Viral: Guidelines for Returning to the Front Lines
Healthcare Alert | April 24, 2020

Fighting COVID-19 Across State Lines: Relaxing Provider Licensure and Renewal Requirements
Healthcare Alert | March 25, 2020

FTC Acts to Block Jefferson/Einstein Hospital Merger
Taking Care of Business | March 2, 2020

New York City Courts Put Lawsuits Under the Child Victims Act on Hold
General Litigation Alert | December 12, 2019

Pennsylvania Follows Multi-State Movement to Modify and Extend Statutes of Limitation for Sexual Abuse Claims
General Litigation Alert | December 2, 2019

Third Circuit Upholds Dismissal of Civil Rights Claims Arising from Report of Suspected Child Neglect
Healthcare Alert | July 21, 2017

Patient Care of Constitutional Proportions: Exposure to Civil Rights Litigation
Healthcare Talks | May 22, 2017

Youth Courts Initiative Aims to Educate and Improve the Futures of Local Students
Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division At Issue | Spring 2017

Game of Drones: Liability and Insurance Coverage Issues Coming
The Legal Intelligencer | August 30, 2016

New Jersey Appellate Division Affirms Grant Of Permissive Intervention To Void Settlement Obtained By Legally Invalid Class Action
Commercial Litigation Alert | July 2, 2014

Permissive Intervention Granted To Void Two-Year Old Settlement Entered In Favor Of Legally Invalid Class Action
Class Actions Alert | June 24, 2014

New Jersey Appellate Division Allows Dram Shop Case to Proceed Despite Lack of Direct Evidence Showing Negligent Service of Alcohol
Litigation Alert | March 18, 2013

Cases & Deals

White and Williams Obtains Dismissal of Civil Rights Claims Against Medical Providers Arising From A Child Abuse Evaluation
April 2, 2018