

## Michelle D. Coburn

Partner

### Co-Chair, Construction and Surety Practice Group

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Michelle Coburn is a litigator with 20 years of experience. She represents construction companies, product manufacturers, premises owners and trucking companies in the defense of large personal injury matters. She also has experience representing tavern owners in liquor liability and has extensive experience defending general negligence claims for insurance companies.

Michelle's approach toward litigation is early assessment and aggressive representation. Early case assessment and strategizing allows Michelle and her clients to collectively decide the best course of action for each matter. She will aggressively pursue all avenues of investigation and discovery to develop defenses and ultimately successfully resolve each matter through settlement, mediation, arbitration or trial.

Michelle has served as both lead and associate trial counsel in jury and non-jury trials and has handled more than 175 arbitrations in federal and state court.

Michelle is a member of the firm's Marketing, Diversity, and Hiring Committees. She is also a member of the Women's Initiative Committee and chaired the Virginia Barton Wallace Award Committee in 2008 and 2010.

### Representative Matters

- Obtained a defense verdict on behalf of a property insurance company for claims of coverage and bad faith under the "hidden decay"/collapse coverage on the policy
- Negotiated the dismissal of an action, without cost to the client-manufacturer, of a flammable fabrics matter involving burns to a child
- Negotiated successful resolution of a dram shop action involving the death of a pedestrian with an alleged blood alcohol content more than three times the legal limit following a significant investigation into the laboratory and science behind the blood alcohol content
- Obtained a successful verdict in the defense of a large convenience store against allegations that a store manager sexually assaulted a young boy during a frisk for shoplifting

### Practice Areas

Litigation  
Product Liability  
Construction and Surety  
Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability

### Bar and Court Admissions

Pennsylvania  
New Jersey

### Education

Rutgers University School of Law, JD,  
*summa cum laude*, 1991  
Trenton State College, BS, 1988

- Obtained summary judgment in favor of international clothing manufacturer in a flammable fabrics case in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania
- Negotiated favorable settlement on behalf of national shoe and boot manufacturer defending electric hazard rated work boots when decedent stepped on a downed power line and was electrocuted

### **In the News**

Coverage College Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary  
September 22, 2016

The Ninth Annual Coverage College Features True-to-Life Case Study  
October 8, 2015

Coverage College® 2014 Brings Over 600 Students Together for Eighth Annual Insurance Industry Event  
October 3, 2014

### **Events**

Beyond the Nuts and Bolts: Why Coverage is Always Under Construction in Construction Defect Claims  
White and Williams Coverage College | October 26, 2017

If You Build It, They Will Come...Claims That Is  
White and Williams Coverage College | September 22, 2016

Coverage College® 2015  
October 8, 2015

Coverage College® 2014  
October 2, 2014

Twelve Angrier Men (and Women) Reject Your Theory Of The Case: Behind The Looking Glass  
White and Williams Coverage College | October 2, 2014

When The Company Is On The Hot Seat  
White and Williams Coverage College | October 3, 2013

Effective Legal Writing  
Temple University Beasley School of Law (Philadelphia, PA) | March 6, 2013

The Problems of Alcohol Consumption: Liability and Coverage  
White and Williams Coverage College | October 4, 2012

The Impact of Forum on Case Evaluation  
White and Williams Client Seminar | 2012

Taking and Defending Depositions

Pennsylvania Bar Institute | March 6,15, 23 and April 17, 2012

Defending the Automobile Tort Threshold Case

White and Williams Client Seminar | 2011

How to Depose an Independent Witness

Pennsylvania Bar Institute's 2011 Annual Auto Loan Seminar | 2011

How to Handle a Slip and Fall Case

White and Williams Client Seminar | 2011

How to Take an Effective Recorded Statement

White and Williams Client Seminar | 2010

How to Legally Bullet-Proof Your Foster Care Agency

University of Pennsylvania Field Center for Children's Policy | 2009

### **Publications**

Pennsylvania Supreme Court Reaffirms Validity of Statutory Employer Defense

*Construction and Surety Alert* | March 28, 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