

## LAUREN E. PURCELL

SHAREHOLDER



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Product Liability  
Automobile Liability  
Construction Injury Litigation  
General Liability  
Hospitality & Liquor Liability

### CONTACT INFO

(412) 803-1170  
[LEPurcell@mdwvcg.com](mailto:LEPurcell@mdwvcg.com)

Union Trust Building, Suite 700  
501 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
2013

U.S. District Court Western District  
of Pennsylvania  
2013

### EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh School of  
Law (J.D., cum laude, 2013)

University of Pittsburgh (B.S., cum  
laude, 2005)

### HONORS & AWARDS

The Best Lawyers: Ones to  
Watch®, Construction Law;  
Product Liability Litigation -  
Defendants  
2021-2024

### ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Allegheny County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

The W. Edward Sell American Inns  
of Court

### OVERVIEW

Lauren is a shareholder in the Casualty Department. She concentrates her practice in the areas of product liability, premises liability, auto liability, and construction law. Lauren's litigation experience includes assisting in the management of discovery during the course of litigation, as well as drafting and arguing dispositive motions. Lauren participated in Marshall Dennehey's pro bono program where she was responsible for a social security disability appeal case. Further, Lauren has represented corporate entities at the arbitration and magistrate levels.

Lauren earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh in Psychology, Political Science, and Anthropology, *cum laude*. Prior to law school, Lauren was an assistant buyer for Anthropologie. She received her *juris doctor* from the University of Pittsburgh, *cum laude*, in 2013. While in law school, Lauren served as a legal writing teaching assistant and as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Law and Commerce*. Prior to graduating from law school, Lauren served as a judicial intern for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and also as a legal intern for the legal department of Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc.

Prior to joining the firm, Lauren served as a judicial law clerk with the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas of Somerset County.

Lauren is admitted into practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. Her memberships include the Pennsylvania and Allegheny County Bar Associations, and the W. Edward Sell American Inn of Court.

**THOUGHT LEADERSHIP****Pennsylvania Supreme Court Rules that Procedural Posture of Case Is Irrelevant When Determining Whether a Court Decision Violated the Coordinate Jurisdiction Rule**

**Pittsburgh**  
**General Liability**  
**April 1, 2024**

The plaintiff filed a petition for declaratory judgment with the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, seeking a declaration that its religious elders were entitled to protection under Section 6311.1(b) of the Child Protective Services Law.

**U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania Held that Suicide Is Not a Legitimate Basis for Recovery in Wrongful Death Cases and Cannot Establish Causation**

**Pittsburgh**  
**General Liability**  
**April 1, 2024**

The plaintiff-estate brought an action against the defendant-bank that raised negligence, vicarious liability, wrongful death and survival action claims.

**A Store Does Not Have a Duty to Constantly Monitor its Premises for Potential Hazards, and Any Alleged Failure to Monitor Is Not Enough to Establish Constructive Notice of a Hazard.**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2024**

The plaintiff, a customer of the defendant's store, slipped and fell on water located on the floor of the men's restroom. After the defendant removed the case to federal district court, it filed a motion to dismiss. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2024 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

**The Sufficiency of a Store's Inspection and Maintenance Policies Are Only Relevant After Establishment of Notice of the Hazardous Condition.**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2024**

The plaintiff, a customer at the defendant's store, slipped and fell on a puddle located on the floor of the store's restroom. The defendant filed a motion for summary judgment, arguing it did not have sufficient notice of the water on the floor. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2024 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

**Under Pennsylvania Law, Service of a Writ of Summons on Defendant's Claims Administrator Does Not Constitute Valid Service.**

**Pittsburgh**  
**Premises & Retail Liability**  
**January 1, 2024**

The plaintiff, a customer of the defendant's store, tripped and fell on a mat located in the store. The plaintiff commenced the case in state court pursuant to a writ of summons. However, the writ was never served on the defendant. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January 2024 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"Protecting Your Bar From Claims in the Wake of 'Mortimer', *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 15, 2023

"Employers (Still) Not Liable For Serving Alcohol to Intoxicated Employees," *The Legal Intelligencer*, Liquor Law Supplement, February 10, 2022

"Winning the Golden Ticket: Ownership of Terminal-Printed Lottery Tickets," *Defense Digest*, June 2021, Vol. 27, No. 3

"Should Mandatory Liquor Liability Insurance Be in PA's Future?" *The Legal Intelligencer* Liquor Law Supplement, February 25, 2020

*Note, A Fashion Flop: The Innovative Design Protection and Privacy Prevention Act*, 31 J.L. & COM. 203 (2013)

## PRO BONO ACTIVITIES

Marshall Dennehey's Social Security Disability Pro Bono Program

## RESULTS

### Summary Judgment for Wellhead Manufacturer.

#### Product Liability

**May 11, 2018**

We obtained summary judgment on behalf of a wellhead manufacturer in a product liability matter pending in Western Pennsylvania. The plaintiff drill operator alleged a wellhead was defectively designed, causing oil and gas to escape during operation, which led to a fire at the well site. The plaintiff asserted economic losses in excess of \$1.4 million. We successfully argued that the plaintiff failed to elicit sufficient expert opinion to support the defect claim and also spoliated evidence in discarding the subject wellhead.