



# Leigh Ann McGeever

Director, Career Development

Philadelphia

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As the firm's director of career development, Leigh Ann is responsible for firm-wide attorney training and professional development initiatives, including associate mentoring, associate orientation and integration, continuing legal education programming, and alumni engagement.

Prior to joining the Legal Talent team, Leigh Ann spent seven years as an associate in Cozen O'Connor's Litigation Department. Her experience as a commercial litigator includes complex commercial cases, commercial contract disputes, and business torts. She has also represented clients in appellate matters at both the state and federal level.

In 2018, Leigh Ann co-founded the Large Firm Associate Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Large Firm Management Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association. The Large Firm Associate Committee's goal is to unite the larger Philadelphia law firms through their associates and provide a forum for Philadelphia's large firm associates to collaborate, share, and grow together while supporting colleagues in their peer firms, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and the legal community as whole. Leigh Ann served as the committee's co-chair from inception through 2020.

Leigh Ann also has experience serving on various editorial boards. She is a former associate editor for TYL, the flagship publication for the Young Lawyer Division of the American Bar Association, and has been a member of the Young Lawyer Editorial Board of The Legal Intelligencer since 2016. Leigh Ann is also a member of the Villanova Law J. Willard O'Brien American Inn of Court.

Leigh Ann also has experience serving on various editorial boards. She currently chairs the Young Lawyer Editorial Board of The Legal Intelligencer, a board she has been a member of since 2016. She is a former associate editor for TYL, the flagship publication for the Young Lawyer Division of the American Bar Association. She also serves on the board of directors for Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.

Leigh Ann received her J.D. from Villanova University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, in English from Virginia Tech. While at Villanova, Leigh Ann served as an associate editor of the *Villanova Law Review*.

## Experience

Won a jury verdict for the defendants in a sexual harassment case that was the first in a series of four filed against our client by a group of former employees, all of whom alleged sexual harassment and hostile work environment. The difficulty level in the case was increased significantly by virtue of the other three plaintiffs being permitted to testify about their own alleged harassment in this trial. We prevailed by focusing the jury on the claims at issue, on the plaintiff's biased expert, and on the fact that her boyfriend had anonymously told the alleged harasser that the lawsuit was fabricated.

Secured a favorable ruling from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on behalf of a law firm facing claims under the Dragonetti Act centered on a request for sanctions/contempt within a post-trial motion it filed in an underlying suit. The Court held 5-2 that intra-case motions are not a basis for suing for wrongful use of civil proceedings under Pennsylvania law.

## Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 2014
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2011

## Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey

## Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

## Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Bar Leadership Institute class
- Young Lawyer Editor Board, The Legal Intelligencer

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Successfully moved to dismiss a putative class action against our airline client facing breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and a variety of other claims stemming from alleged false advertising regarding its enhanced economy class. In dismissing the complaint, which carried potential exposure of millions of dollars, the court accepted our arguments that the claims were time-barred and/or preempted. Before moving to dismiss, we successfully sought an order staying discovery in the case.

Won summary judgment on behalf of a financial institution specializing in debt collection that faced more than 100 claims of alleged violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). We were engaged to replace prior counsel, entered the case just before summary judgment motions were due, and secured dismissal of all claims with prejudice. This win was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Defeated a motion for class certification in a putative class action filed in California state court against our client, a major food manufacturer, alleging that the packaging for a specific type of dog treat misrepresented that the product was “wholesome.” The plaintiffs sought approximately \$8.4 million on behalf of the putative class, plus punitive damages and attorneys' fees under California's consumer protection statutes. We defeated class certification, and plaintiffs agreed to drop all claims.