



Matthew Bleich

Member

Philadelphia

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Matt Bleich represents clients in commercial and appellate litigation. His trial practice focuses on business disputes and shareholder actions. His appellate practice has involved such diverse subjects as employee disputes, contract disputes, product liability law, and water rights.

Matt received a J.D. *cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. He received a B.A. *cum laude* from Columbia University and an M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Experience

Secured summary judgment for Marriott International, Inc. in a case centering on the plaintiff's allegation that he was severely injured when visiting a hotel in Saudi Arabia that he claimed Marriott owned and operated. The trial court granted summary judgment on the basis that Marriott had no actionable connection to the hotel at the time of the incident and therefore owed no duty to the plaintiff. A three-judge panel of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, affirmed in a unanimous decision, issuing an opinion adopting Marriott's arguments wholesale.

Represented a large busing company in connection with challenging an award of a substantial busing contract with a school district. Filed an injunction to challenge the RFP process and the school district's process and decision to award the contract to another bidder. The basis of the protest was that the school district advised the other bidder that the original bid parameters had changed, and allowed that entity to rebid pricing and other provisions, while the client was not given that opportunity. We challenged the fairness of the process and utilized discovery to solidify client's belief that there was an unlevel playing field. When the school district moved ahead with the contract award in the face of the formal protest, we filed a complaint and preliminary injunction that led to 4,000 documents being exchanged, and 15 depositions being taken, within a 7-day period. After a 10-hour injunction hearing, the court ruled in the client's favor.

Successfully moved to dismiss a complaint on grounds of *forum non conveniens* on behalf of a trucking company, a railroad, and individual defendants in a wrongful death and survival action filed in Philadelphia County stemming from an accident that occurred in New Jersey.

Currently represent private equity firm in complex action involving claims arising from the federal securities laws.

Currently represent manufacturer-subcontractor in contract dispute concerning the construction of a nuclear reactor in South Korea.

Currently represent investment firm in appeal before the Superior Court involving employee severance agreement.

Currently represent health care insurer in appeal before the Superior Court involving the Peer Review Protection Act.

Currently represent insurance company in action alleging wrongful use of civil proceedings. Obtained

Practice Areas

- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement

Education

- Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2008
- University of Pennsylvania, M.A., 2005
- Columbia University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2001

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

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

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dismissal on preliminary objections for failure to state a claim; appeal pending in Superior Court.

Currently represent major ski resort in a bet-the-company appeal involving water rights. Superior Court granted appeal and dissolved injunction. Allocatur petition is pending.

Successfully represented ACE in defeating shareholders action brought to forestall its acquisition of Penn Millers.

In a 10b-5 shareholder class-action, successfully brought motion to dismiss claims asserted against the former outside directors.

Represented Pennsylvania bank in obtaining settlement of shareholder derivative action alleging improper lending practices.

Successfully brought motion to dismiss a complaint alleging denial of benefits under an ERISA-exempt health policy.

Represented investors in claim involving auction rate securities. Case settled on second day of trial.

Conducted audit of prominent university's interactions with minors and recommended new, multi-disciplinary policies and procedures to govern those interactions to minimize risks of abuse.

Represented the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in defeating efforts by the City of Harrisburg to declare bankruptcy.

Represented Internet poker website in federal civil forfeiture proceedings.

Represented international corporation in internal investigation involving potential violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and of regulations of the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

Represent health plan in ERISA action alleging improper denial of benefits.

Achieved a seven-figure victory on behalf of the estate of a decedent whose business partners failed to buy out his interest in the business, as they were contractually bound to do upon his death. After a seven-day arbitration proceeding in which the defendants argued that the decedent had already received most of the buy-out through an earlier distribution, which was not reflected in the company's records due to alleged legal malpractice by the decedent, we achieved a complete victory, including attorney's fees and arbitration costs.