



Andrea E. Hammel

Member

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Andrea E. Hammel is an experienced investigator and trial attorney who represents corporate clients in complex commercial and general litigation matters. Andrea routinely handles a wide array of catastrophic injury cases from inception through trial, primarily in the areas of construction, premises liability, transportation and product liability. Andrea is familiar with a broad range of companies of different sizes and specialties and has extensive experience representing multinational companies in the hospitality, construction, gaming and energy industries. She represents oil and gas companies in litigation involving lease disputes and contract issues and counsels energy clients on permit disputes and land transactions. She also assists large hoteliers and travel management companies, among others, with premises liability matters, contract issues, and non-disclosure disputes. Andrea concentrates her practice on matters that entail extensive discovery, in-the-field fact-finding, and detailed contractual analysis. She is experienced in quickly identifying the pivotal components of a case and relentless in her pursuit of critical evidence.

Beyond pure litigation, Andrea works closely with her clients to understand the full scope and nature of their businesses and limit their exposure to potential claims and litigation. She conducts assessments of internal practices and procedures, develops risk-management protocols, provides employee training, and offers counseling on overall litigation strategy.

Prior to attending law school, Andrea worked in the special investigations unit of an insurance company for 10 years. She not only gained invaluable field experience, she also received training in modern investigative protocol from federal law enforcement agencies, both of which benefit her legal practice.

Andrea is a member of the American Bar Association, Montgomery Bar Association, and Pennsylvania Bar Association.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts from Washington State University and her law degree from the Widener University School of Law.

Experience

Successfully defended a major agribusiness company, in a two-day arbitration, against a claim that it failed to pay approximately \$600,000 (plus \$200,000 in interest) of an annual steam fee to the steam provider for its soybean processing plant, and won a counterclaim against the provider for recovery of approximately \$200,000 in erroneous payments.

Won summary judgment on behalf of Marriott International in a multimillion-dollar wrongful death lawsuit brought by the family of a man who died when a suicide bomber drove into a Marriott hotel in Pakistan. We successfully argued that, under the operative franchise agreement, the franchisee was responsible (under either U.S. or Pakistani law) for handling all security measures at the hotel. This result was affirmed on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Won summary judgment in a precedent-setting case centering on an oil and gas lease covering a parcel of real property later determined to be subject to a reservation of rights covering half of the parcel. After quieting title to the full parcel, the lessor filed a declaratory judgment action against our client (the lessee oil and gas company) seeking a declaration that the lease applied only to half of the

Practice Areas

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law
- Transportation & Logistics Litigation
- Employment Litigation

Industry Sectors

- Hospitality

Education

- Widener University School of Law, J.D.
- Washington State University, B.A.

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Supreme Court of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- Middle District of Pennsylvania
- Superior Court of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey

Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Montgomery Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association

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subject parcel. In granting our summary judgment motion, thus securing our client's rights in the full parcel, the trial court accepted our argument that the plaintiffs were estopped from denying that the lease covered the full parcel by both their contractual promises and by the doctrine of estoppel by deed. This win was affirmed by both the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in written opinions.

Won summary judgment to defeat claims of negligence and breach of implied warranty of fitness for a particular purpose in a personal injury case in which the plaintiff was struck by a forklift sold by our client. In doing so, we convinced the court that a machinery seller has no duty to educate and inform a buyer about the product's safety accessories.

Obtained a unanimous defense verdict in favor of our client, a global transportation company, which faced millions of dollars in alleged damages stemming from a horrific motor vehicle accident in which the plaintiff suffered catastrophic injuries. The plaintiff's estate alleged that our client's employee caused the accident by running plaintiff's vehicle off the road, and then fled the scene. After winning summary judgment on claims of negligent entrustment and negligent supervision, the matter was tried over 2 weeks before Judge Gibson in the Western District of PA. This victory hinged on meticulous accident reconstruction, coupled with several critical evidentiary rulings in our favor on issues such as witness competency, excited utterance, admissibility of Facebook and other internet postings, admissibility of cell phone records, and hearsay.