



William Lesser

Member

New York

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William focuses his practice on the representation of clients in utility and energy and commercial litigation matters. He represents utilities, businesses, and nonprofits confronted with complex regulatory and commercial issues. William's work on behalf of clients has involved representation in proceedings before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) as well as assisting public utility clients seeking approval on a variety of transactions from the NJBPU. William has experience representing businesses and individuals in various aspects of litigation, including handling appeals.

William earned his law degree, *summa cum laude*, from Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law, where he was the lead research editor of the *Temple Law Review*. William served a one-year clerkship with the Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He received his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Experience

Representing Trenton Renewable Power, LLC, with respect to transactional and regulatory issues for its biomass facility in Trenton, New Jersey. The facility includes both a large-scale digester of organic food waste products and electric generating units that use the renewable natural gas produced by the digester as fuel, and therefore is classified as a Class 1 renewable facility under New Jersey law. This representation includes assisting in the negotiation of a power sales agreement with an offtaker, providing advice and counsel on issues related to the potential sale of excess renewable natural gas, and seeking approval from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities of a power sales agreement for the sale of renewable energy to a regulated public utility.

Represented New Jersey American Water Company in a regulatory proceeding before the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) by which it secured approval to acquire the Egg Harbor Township water and sewer systems. The matter was the first petition under the Water Infrastructure Protection Act, a New Jersey statute meant to incentivize the acquisition of troubled public water systems by investor-owned utilities. Following NJBPU approval, the firm assisted with financial and corporate issues in connection with the closing of the transaction.

Successfully defended Marriott International, Inc. in connection with a third-party judgment enforcement information subpoena and purported restraining notices filed by Trump-affiliated entities in connection with an action involving the operation of a Panama-based, Marriott-branded hotel. The plaintiffs' goal appeared to be to pressure Marriott to satisfy a judgment obtained against the hotel owner in a Panamanian arbitration. We successfully moved to quash the restraining notices and for a protective order against further discovery directed to Marriott.

Successfully moved to dismiss claims by National Air Cargo Group ("NACG") for breach of contract, tortious interference, unfair competition, and prima facie tort against our client, Maersk Line A/S and its corporate parent, A.P. Moller Maersk A/S (APMM) (*National Air Cargo Group, Inc. v. Maersk Line Limited, et al.* 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 166871, 2019 WL 4735426). The dispute stemmed from a Slot Exchange Agreement that Maersk Line A/S entered into with one of NACG's competitors, which NACG claimed violated an exclusivity provision in a subcontract it had executed with a corporate affiliate of APMM for the transportation of military cargo (which had been at the center of a separate dispute). NACG sought

Practice Areas

- Utility & Energy
- Appellate & Supreme Court
- Commercial Litigation

Industry Sectors

- Renewable Energy

Education

- Temple University—James E. Beasley School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2015
- SUNY-Binghamton, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2012

Bar Admissions

- New York
- New Jersey

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- New Jersey

Affiliations

LGBT Bar Association of New York

Awards & Honors

- New York Metro Rising Stars, Super Lawyers, 2024
**This award is conferred by Super Lawyers. A description of the selection methodology can be found here. No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.*

Clerkships

Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

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\$90 million in compensatory damages and \$100 million in punitive damages. In granting the motion to dismiss, the court adopted our arguments verbatim, holding that Maersk Line A/S was a separate entity which was not a party to the subcontract, that Maersk Line A/S's entry into the Slot Exchange Agreement could not possibly be deemed a breach of the subcontract by the affiliated entity, that a cause of action for tortious interference did not exist as a matter of law, and that the remaining claims were likewise meritless.

Obtained a \$29 million international arbitration award on behalf of a Dutch dredging and marine construction company. The dispute arose when a foreign alumina manufacturer began to curtail the quantities of bauxite it accepted from the client, in breach of a mining contract between the parties. When attempts to negotiate a resolution were unsuccessful, we filed a demand with the International Chamber of Commerce and overcame multiple defenses raised by our opponent to secure the sizable award.