

Michelle Molinaro Burke



Counsel

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Michelle Molinaro Burke is a trial lawyer that understands that in today's business climate, clients demand practical and cost-effective solutions to litigation. She strives to understand her clients' long-term goals and partners with her clients not only to resolve pending litigation, but to provide forward-thinking solutions with an eye towards diverting future litigation. A practical yet creative problem-solver, Michelle is skilled at seeing the "big picture" from very early on in her cases. Armed with early case development and an understanding of the law, Michelle determines the case strategy and designs and executes a streamlined discovery plan aimed to posture the case or individual claims for dismissal on summary judgment. Although Michelle's goal is to keep her clients out of the courtroom, Michelle is experienced in adeptly and aggressively trying cases, and has obtained favorable results for her clients.

Michelle serves as both primary and local defense counsel and manages a large docket of products liability, toxic tort, commercial and general civil litigation matters. She handles all aspects of complex litigation and is adept at developing defense strategies, coordinating all aspects of discovery and crafting successful dispositive motions.

Michelle serves in a variety of roles, including: serving as national coordinating counsel and trial counsel for a major elevator manufacturer in defense of asbestos exposure claims; as counsel for a Fortune 100 chemical company for litigation and liability matters; as counsel to a major automobile manufacturer; and as counsel to many other small and large businesses and insurance companies in general liability matters.

In addition to her clients, Michelle is also respected as a leader among her peers. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation's Products Liability Committee, and has also served in other leadership roles within the Section. She has also been recognized on the *New Jersey Super Lawyers* "Rising Stars" List, Personal Injury Products: Defense, since 2014, and was recently recognized in *The Best Lawyers of America*, 2020 Edition, for "Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants | Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants."

Representative Matters

- Served as lead trial counsel in a personal injury case involving a collision between two tractor trailers where the plaintiff alleged significant personal injuries. After a weeklong trial, the jury ultimately found the plaintiff to be 50% at fault for the accident, and awarded a minimal verdict of \$25,000 while declining to award any damages for pain and suffering.
- National coordinating counsel and trial counsel for major elevator manufacturer in defense of asbestos exposure claims.
- Counsel for two major chemical manufacturers, including a Fortune 100 chemical company, in New Jersey asbestos litigation and other product and premises liability matters.
- Counsel to major automobile manufacturer in asbestos and other product liability litigation.
- Defended an engineering/supplier firm in a public works construction project against a product liability and breach of warranty action and obtained a dismissal of several key claims.
- Defended a national restaurant chain against a purported class action alleging consumer fraud due to excessive sodium content of meals.
- Obtained dismissal of several hormone therapy failure-to-warn cases.

Practice

- ▀ General Liability
- ▀ Life Sciences Litigation
- ▀ Litigation
- ▀ Product Liability
- ▀ Toxic and Environmental Tort

Industries

- ▀ Chemical
- ▀ Life Sciences
- ▀ Manufacturing

Related Media

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- ▀ Michelle Burke Tries Case to Favorable Verdict

Bar Admissions

- New Jersey, 2005
- New York, 2006
- United States District Court, District of New Jersey, 2005

Education

Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY, J.D., 2005

Rutgers College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, B.A., Economics and Labor Studies, 2002

International Association of Defense Counsel, Trial Academy, Stanford University, August, 2015

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