



William B. Larson, Jr.

Partner

Wilmington

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PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate
Asbestos Litigation
Business Litigation
Construction
Delaware Corporate Litigation
Design Professionals
Employment Litigation
General Liability
Government Affairs
Premises Liability
Products Liability
Real Estate Litigation
Toxic Tort Liability
Transactional
Transportation
Trusts + Estates Litigation

EDUCATION

Washington and Lee University School of Law, JD, 2011
Washington and Lee University, BA, *magna cum laude*, 2008

BAR ADMISSIONS

Delaware
US District Court, District of Delaware
US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Overview

Bill Larson is a native Delawarean with deep ties throughout the state and a well-rounded litigator, counselor, problem solver and trial attorney with extensive experience in Delaware general and commercial litigation; real estate litigation, trusts and estates litigation; local government matters; and national products liability litigation.

Before practicing law, Bill spent seven years in Lexington, Virginia, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in Politics and a Juris Doctor degree, both from Washington & Lee University. While at Washington & Lee School of Law, he served as a writer on the Washington & Lee Journal of Energy, Climate, and the Environment; was a member of the Moot Court Board; and was Vice President of the Student Body. He also represented indigent defendants in the school's Criminal Justice Clinic.

After law school, Bill returned to Delaware where he began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge John A. Parkins, Jr. of the Delaware Superior Court. As a law clerk, Bill assisted Judge Parkins on a variety of civil and criminal matters including managing the Delaware asbestos docket. Bill then joined MG+M where he spent over four years focusing on products and premises liability litigation, toxic tort litigation, litigation of local government matters, and general litigation. He then followed a civic calling to serve the City of Wilmington as Senior Assistant City Solicitor and Special Deputy Attorney General. His duties for the City included litigating cases, managing personal injury litigation, prosecuting criminal matters, drafting legislation, negotiating settlements and property transactions, and advising Mayor Mike Purzycki and City department heads. He also served as Chairman of the City's Zoning Board of Adjustment, a quasi-judicial body that issues rulings on land use matters.

Following a rewarding two-year tour of duty for the City, Bill returned to MG+M, where he serves as a key litigator in all of the firm's Delaware litigation with experience in every Delaware court. He also represents clients before the Register of Wills and other administrative bodies in Delaware and advises clients on disputes that may result in litigation. He continues to serve as the City of Wilmington's Ethic Commission Counsel and has advised the Delaware Senate on ethics matters.

Bill prides himself on listening to clients and working with them on solutions based on their specific needs whether it means litigating a case to trial or negotiating an efficient resolution and preserving business relationships. He is also a registered lobbyist and works with clients on legislative solutions as appropriate.

Bill is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Delaware. He is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association and serves as a former Chair and current council member of the Association's Litigation Section.

Bill lives in Wilmington with his wife Stephanie and their daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing tennis and golf, and remaining active in the local community.

Experience

- + Obtained a TRO related to the UCC sale of New York real estate assets.
- + Prevailed on disputed partition regarding the use of owelty.
- + Secured a TRO in the Court of Chancery preventing enforcement of a town ordinance on state preemption grounds.
- + Won a replevin trial to recover a stolen piece of artwork and return it to the family, who owned it.
- + Obtained a use variance for a developer before a local Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- + Drafted procedures for the Delaware Senate Rules and Ethics Committee.
- + Represented municipality in politically sensitive negotiations of public-private partnership to renovate prominent athletic facilities on municipal property. Successfully negotiated an agreement that was approved overwhelmingly by City Council and subsequently implemented resulting in a first-class facility.
- + Served as legal advisor for the City of Wilmington Ethics Commission's first successful prosecution of an ethics violation.
- + Won a motion to dismiss based on Delaware's County and Municipal Torts Act.
- + Prevailed in a ruling upholding the constitutionality of City of Wilmington's Vacant Property Registration Fee.
- + Secured a defense verdict in [Benjamin F. Johnson v. American Biltrite, Inc.](#) In a unanimous decision, the jury of 12 found that the plaintiff's exposure to asbestos from the defendant's floor tile was not a substantial factor in causing his mesothelioma.
- + Secured a defense verdict for a joint compound manufacturer in a mesothelioma case with no alternative exposures to asbestos products by convincing the court to exclude plaintiffs' general negligence and design defect claims, leaving only a failure to warn claim (against a defendant that had provided adequate warnings).
- + Secured a defense verdict in a mesothelioma case in the first federal asbestos trial in Delaware in recent memory.
- + Prevailed on a summary judgment motion in a low shares mesothelioma case by convincing a Delaware Court that the product identification was insufficient even though the Plaintiff worked in

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Defendant's industry for decades.

- + Prevailed on summary judgment in an asbestos lung cancer case by arguing the court should compare the alleged work with a defendant's products to a lifetime of smoking.
- + Prevailed on summary judgment in an asbestos mesothelioma case by arguing there was insufficient evidence to establish the aviation product at issue contained asbestos.

Recognition

- + *Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023–2024*
- + *Delaware Business Times* Top 40 Under 40, 2022
- + *Delaware Today* Top Lawyer for Government Affairs 2019–2023
- + Washington and Lee University School of Law, Calhoun-Bond Award
- + Omnicron Delta Kappa
- + Pi Sigma Alpha

Involvement

- + International Association of Defense Counsel
- + City of Wilmington Rock Manor Golf Corporation, Legal Counsel
- + Delaware State Bar Association Litigation Section, Past Chair, Council Member
- + Delaware State Bar Association Real & Personal Property and Estates & Trusts Sections, Member
- + Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court, Member
- + St. Thomas More Society, Executive Committee, Vice President
- + United States Tennis Association Delaware District Council, Past Chair
- + Washington and Lee University, Young Alumni Law Alumni Council Member; Past President Delaware Alumni Association
- + Archmere Academy, Board of Trustees Member, Governance Committee Chair
- + Journals: Washington and Lee Journal of Energy, Climate, and the Environment

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