

# LITIGATION

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**A**fter more than fifty years of successful relationships with a broad range of clients, we are recognized today as one of the premier insurance carrier and self-insured defense firms in New Jersey. To accommodate our expanding litigation activity, we have organized this area of our practice into sub-groups supervised by a partner.

**AUTO INSURANCE:** This unit of attorneys is devoted to defense of automobile negligence cases referred by major insurance carriers, including claims of personal injury, first party benefits and uninsured/underinsured motorist arbitrations.

**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY:** The specialists on this team focus primarily on the liability of architects and engineers, which is generally coupled with the defense of construction litigation. Members have had long experience in actions involving attorneys, pharmacists, real estate and insurance brokers.

**PRODUCT LIABILITY:** Our client list has included dozens of manufacturers of industrial and consumer products throughout the world. Our attorneys have served as defense counsel of record in matters which have resulted in significant reported decisions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITY:** Our environmental and toxic tort unit handles cases involving pollution, hazardous waste clean-up and asbestos-related claims. In 1983, we served as defense counsel in the Supreme Court case of *Ayers v. Jackson Township*, one of the seminal cases in New Jersey dealing with issues of liability and damages in toxic waste sites.

**PREMISES LIABILITY:** We continue to represent some of America's largest retailers and commercial property owners. We focus on issues of insurance coverage, indemnification and construction standards. The team also specializes in handling prosecution and defense of shoplifting, false imprisonment and false arrest cases.

**EMPLOYMENT:** We represent both individuals and corporations in employment law related matters. Our attorneys appear in administrative hearings, state and federal court.

**LIQUOR LIABILITY:** New Jersey case law has evolved in areas of social host liquor liability and traditional dram shop liability. Our attorneys are experienced in both areas and have been involved in the defense of significant injury claims.

**NEW JERSEY TORT CLAIMS:** We continue to represent a number of government entities in the defense of claims brought under the New Jersey Tort Claims Act. In support of this, many of our members have served as municipal counsel, while others remain active in local government.

**LARGE LOSS SUBROGATION:** In matters which evolve from fire and workers' compensation subrogation, our attorneys work closely with the claim department for an insured, seeking subrogation against culpable third parties. Our specialist team is equipped to cover a wide range of cases- from work-related claims, fire damage, product liability to construction losses.

HACK, PIRO, O'DAY, MERKLINGER,  
WALLACE & MCKENNA  

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COUNSELLORS AT LAW