

# Rita F. Barone

Partner

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Rita F. Barone received her B.A. degree in History from Rutgers University in 1992, and her J.D. degree, cum laude, from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1995. At Seton Hall, Ms. Barone served as the Symposium Coordinator for the Constitutional Law Journal.

Following law school, Ms. Barone served as law clerk to the Honorable Joseph C. Messina, J.S.C. in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Middlesex County. She then joined the firm of Sullivan & Graber, where she practiced civil litigation in the area of insurance fraud defense.

Rita has over twenty-five years of litigation experience and has tried dozens of jury cases to verdict. Her areas of expertise include School Law, Employment Law and Insurance Coverage and Defense. Rita's Insurance Coverage and Defense practice primarily includes the defense of insureds in auto, premises liability, employment and professional malpractice matters.

## EDUCATION

Rutgers University (B.A.)

Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D.)

## PRACTICE AREAS

Insurance defense  
Automobile liability  
Nursing home liability  
Employment law  
Affirmative action investigations  
School law

## ADMISSIONS

New Jersey  
Federal District of New Jersey  
United States Supreme Court

Rita participates in the firm's mentorship program which, in part, provides second chair experience to less experienced trial attorneys at the firm. Rita is frequently retained by public and private entities to conduct Affirmative Action and HIB investigations. She has been continually recognized as a Super Lawyer™ in School Law and has arbitrated to final decision and tried cases to jury verdict in a variety of cases involving cutting edge issues.

Since joining Flanagan, Barone & O'Brien (f/k/a Purcell, Mulcahy & Flanagan) in 1998, Ms. Barone has developed expertise in the area of School Law. She has represented numerous school boards throughout the State in the areas of special education, HIB, school board ethics, residency issues, student discipline and discrimination, tenure and contractual personnel matters. Ms. Barone regularly lectures and advises school district employees in all area of School law.

From 2006-2008, she was an Adjunct Professor of Legal Research and Writing at Seton Hall University School of Law. She is a member of the New Jersey State Bar Association and served on the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyer's Division. Ms. Barone is also a Member of the New Jersey Association of School Attorneys, and a member of the New Jersey Defense Association and the Somerset County Bar Association. Her community involvement includes President, Vice President and Member of the Watching Hills Regional Board of Education, prior President, Vice President and Member of the Long Hill Township Board of Education, member of the Morris Area League of Women Voters, and committee member on the State League of Women Voter's study on regionalization of school districts.

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