

Michelle M. O'Brien

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Michelle is a partner in the firm's litigation department where she specializes in insurance defense and coverage matters in addition to commercial litigation. Michelle handles a variety of civil litigation matters from intake through appeal. She regularly handles jury trials to verdict, and strives to strike the appropriate balance between early resolution, where appropriate, and zealous advocacy on behalf of her clients, when needed.

Michelle O'Brien is a 2008 graduate of the Honor's Program at King's College, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, where she received a Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, in Political Science and Spanish. During college, Michelle served as a legal intern for a boutique personal injury firm in Pennsylvania. Thereafter, Michelle attended Seton Hall University School of Law as a part-time evening student, while working at the Purcell firm as a law clerk.

EDUCATION

Seton Hall University
School of Law (J.D.)
King's College (B.A.)
Graduate of the Brennan-Vanderbilt
American Inn of Court

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate Practice
Automobile Liability
Bad Faith Litigation
Commercial Litigation
General Liability
Insurance Coverage
Insurance Litigation
Employment Law
Professional Liability Defense
Personal Injury
Property and Casualty

ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
New York
U.S. District Court for the District of
New Jersey

During her time at Seton Hall, Michelle served as a Clinic Attorney in the Civil Litigation Clinic of the Law School's Center for Social Justice. After law school, Michelle served as law clerk to the Honorable Heidi-Willis Currier, J.S.C., in the Middlesex County vicinage of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division.

Prior to re-joining the Purcell firm, in 2016, Michelle was an associate at prominent Morris County firm Graham Curtin where she dedicated her practice to professional liability matters with an emphasis on legal malpractice and ethics grievances based upon underlying actions in several areas of practice and subject matters.

Michelle is a past-President and active member of the New Jersey Defense Association. In 2016, the NJDA honored Michelle as its Young Lawyer of the Year. Michelle was awarded the DRI Exceptional Performance Citation for 2022-2023. In 2023, she was the recipient of the NJDA's Attorney of the Year Award. That same year, Michelle was recognized by the New Jersey State Bar Association's NJ Commission on Professionalism in the Law with the 2023-2024 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award, bestowed by Justice Barry T. Albin (ret.)

Michelle is also a Trustee of both the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey and Middlesex County Trial Lawyer's Association, as well as an active member of the Middlesex County Bar Association where she dedicates her time to community-oriented as well as bar and association activities. Michelle was named the 2021 Young Lawyer of the Year Award by MCBA. In 2025, she was recognized by the MCBA's prestigious Civil Trial Practice Award.

