

William B. Larson, Jr.

Partner
Wilmington, DE
302 504 6804
wlarson@mgmlaw.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate
Asbestos Litigation
Business Litigation + Counseling
Construction
Delaware Corporate Litigation
Design Professionals
Employment Litigation
General Liability
Government Affairs
National Trial Team
Premises Liability
Products Liability
Real Estate Litigation
Toxic Tort Liability
Transactional
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.

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.

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 then 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 in arbitrations 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. Several businesses trust Bill to function as outside general counsel. He has also served as an arbitrator and hearing officer.

Bill is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Delaware and routinely appears in all Delaware counties. He is a member of the Delaware State Bar Association and previously served as Chair 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

+ Secured summary judgment on behalf of a Wilmington City Council member in a Delaware Court of Chancery action challenging an effort to remove him from office, resulting in a permanent injunction barring enforcement of the City Council's resolution.
+ Established new law in the Delaware Court of Chancery related to the division of jointly held personal property.
+ Obtained grant of specific performance and money damages in two matters for purchases of real estate after Seller's refused to go through with closing.
+ Obtained a favorable settlement in a business divorce after trial.
+ Negotiated purchase of a start-up business by the founders to resolve pending litigation.
+ Won summary judgment invalidating restrictive covenants that prevented property owner from making changes to property without approval of prior owner.
+ Obtained a TRO related to the UCC sale of New York real estate assets.
+ Prevailed on disputed partition regarding the use of owelty.
+ 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 a 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 Defendant's industry for decades.
+ Obtained specific performance on Court of Chancery for two clients to purchase homes based on an agreement of sale.
+ Obtained a significant arbitration award for a homeowner against a custom home builder for sub-standard construction.
+ Invalidated a developer's liquidated damages clause in an agreement of sale as part of an arbitration.
+ Defeated claims related to alleged breaches of a licensing agreement in a CCLD case.

Recognition

+ *Best Lawyers in America*, Trusts and Estates, 2027
+ *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 2019–2026
+ 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
+ Delaware State Bar Association Real & Personal Property and Estates & Trusts Sections, Member
+ Richard S. Rodney Inn of Court, Bencher Leader
+ St. Thomas More Society, Executive Committee, Past President
+ DuPont County Club, Advisory Board Member, Golf Committee Chair
+ 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, Head of School Search Committee Co-chair
+ Washington and Lee Journal of Energy, Climate, and the

Environment

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