



Michael (Mick) G. Pence

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Mick Pence is a litigation associate in the firm's Pittsburgh office whose practice focuses on complex commercial disputes, mass tort claims, and class action defense.

Mick's litigation and alternative dispute resolution experience includes mass tort multi-district litigation (MDL), class action defense, and commercial contract disputes at the state and federal levels. Mick is experienced in different phases of pre-trial litigation including motions practice and hearings, expert discovery, depositions, and managing e-discovery. He has conducted and defended fact depositions, presented motions in court, and participated in settlement mediations. Mick also counsels clients on managing their risk with regard to commercial contract and arbitration matters. Mick's experience includes cases involving industrial incidents, breach of contract, mass torts, closely held business disputes, retiree benefits, product liability, and claims brought under the Fair Housing Act.

Mick maintains an active pro bono practice and has experience in cases concerning prisoners' rights under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and animal rights under the Endangered Species Act.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Before his legal career, Mick worked as a human resources associate for a multinational health care company in Budapest, Hungary.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Notre Dame Law School, 2020
- B.A., Indiana University, 2016 (*with distinction*)

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 16 May 2023, American Law Institute Vote on Medical Monitoring Could Spur Increased "No-Injury" Claims
- 25 March 2021, Chancery Court Holds that Subsidiary must Advance Legal Fees to Parent Company to Cover Costs from Separate Suit by Subsidiary Against Parent Company

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "ALI's Medical-Monitoring Proposal May Encourage Claims," *Law360*, 28 June 2023
- "How To Navigate Class Incentive Awards After Justices' Denial," *Law360*, 7 June 2023

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Select Current Engagements

- Represent major chemical company in connection with the defense of civil liability and damage claims arising from a series of well-publicized chemical fires at a Texas facility in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in September 2017, including a Texas state-court MDL proceeding involving more than 750 plaintiffs who were allegedly injured and/or suffered property damage during the fires.
- Represent global aluminum company in defense of two separate class actions in federal court brought by labor unions challenging changes made to retiree life insurance and healthcare benefits.
- Represent co-owner of multiple closely held businesses in defending claims for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty and asserting counterclaims for breach of fiduciary duty relating to disputes over income allocation.
- Counsel international ground package delivery company in defending multiple arbitrations asserting breach of contract claims.
- Represent medical equipment network of companies in defending putative class actions asserting breach of contract and unfair trade practices claims.
- Counsel healthcare products company in defending breach of contract, unfair trade practices, and misappropriation of trade secrets claims in arbitration before the American Arbitration Association.
- Represent manufacturing company in defense of declaratory judgment action.

Select Prior Engagements

- Counseled a financial institution in actions brought in multiple jurisdictions by municipalities alleging violations of the Fair Housing Act.
- Counseled a global building materials company in defense of product liability claim.
- Represent animal rights organization asserting claims under Pennsylvania state law and the Endangered Species Act. Case resolved in settlement days before trial was set to commence.
- Represented prisoner-plaintiff in asserting First and Eighth Amendment claims. Case resolved in settlement after surviving summary judgment.