



Wesley A. Prichard

Associate

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OVERVIEW

Mr. Prichard focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation and disputes, including oil, gas & resources and construction & infrastructure. Mr. Prichard has diversified litigation and alternative dispute resolution experience, ranging from initial investigation, discovery, appeal, and settlement. He has prepared pleadings, taken depositions, prepared and argued motions, and negotiated settlements.

Oil, Gas & Resources. Mr. Prichard has assisted in matters involving trespass, conversion, royalty disputes, construction disputes, lease construction, bankruptcy, and class certification. His practice in this area also includes government enforcement and white-collar crime, assisting in matters concerning federal investigations of environmental laws

Construction & Infrastructure. Mr. Prichard has worked on disputes involving multi-million dollar construction projects, representing general contractors and design subcontractors. He has assisted in matters involving project delay and defects, force majeure, and mechanic's liens. Mr. Prichard also has public contracting experience, with a focus on bid protests.

Investigations, Enforcement and White Collar. Mr. Prichard has assisted in internal investigations, preparing for employee interviews, and revising compliance plans. He has experience with the False Claims Act and the ethical obligations of attorneys conducting internal investigations.

Appellate Litigation. Mr. Prichard has worked on amicus curiae briefs before the United States Supreme Court on matters concerning freedom of religion, and has assisted in preparing briefs before the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in habeas corpus matters.

In addition to his core practices, Mr. Prichard represents pro bono clients in First Amendment matters, prisoner's rights litigation, victims of nonconsensual pornography, and protection from abuse applications.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Mr. Prichard was a summer associate in the firm's Pittsburgh office in 2016.

During law school, he served as an extern for the Honorable D. Michael Fisher of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He also served as an intern for the Honorable Maurice B. Cohill Jr. of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Investigating, Litigating, and Avoiding Issues under the False Claims Act Applied to Health Care Providers,” K&L Gates, February 20, 2019.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 2017 (*magna cum laude*; *Order of the Coif*; *University of Pittsburgh Law Review Editorial Board*; *Appellate Court Competition Award*; *Law School Trial Advocacy Award*)
- B.S.B.A., Geneva College, 2014 (*Valedictorian*)

ADMISSIONS

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

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 24 June 2020, Mass Arbitration, Más Problems: Class-Action Procedures May Guide Solutions to Issues in Mass Arbitrations (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 30 April 2018, Boots on the Ground: PIL Task Force Targeting Opioid Providers in the War on Drugs (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Wesley A. Prichard, *Compelling Interest Cacodoxy: Why the Contraception Mandate Fails RFRA's Compelling Interest Analysis*, 78 Pitt. L. Rev. 245 (2016).
- Survey of Pennsylvania Privacy and Related Claims Against the Media, *MLRC 50-State Survey: Media Privacy and Related Law, 2018-2019* (Articles, 2018-2019).
- *What You Don't Know Can't Hurt You, Right? Resolving the Inherent Tension between the Yates Memo and the Collective Knowledge Doctrine in Environmental Criminal Enforcement Actions* (Articles, 2018).

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Complex Commercial Litigation and Disputes
- Appellate Litigation
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Investigations, Enforcement, and White Collar
- Oil and Gas

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Represent habeas corpus petitioner before the Third Circuit in case concerning what constitutes a second or successive petition.
- Represent prisoner-plaintiff in Section 1983 claim alleging First and Eighth Amendment violations. Composed and argued multiple successful discovery motions, including an award of attorney's fees, took multiple depositions, and composed a successful brief in opposition to summary judgment
- Defended diversified chemicals manufacturer in mass tort putative class action and related individual actions. Provided legal management to insurance adjustment program, prepared for and assisted in taking and defending expert depositions, drafted Daubert motion and notices of removal, and assisted with insurance coverage matters.
- Defended LLC member in breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims arising from a dispute over commercial leases. Prepared for and assisted in taking a deposition, and composed a successful contested discovery motion.
- Composed certiorari- and merits-stage amicus curiae briefs on behalf of veterans and veteran's organizations in case before the United States Supreme Court concerning whether a cross-shaped war memorial violates the Establishment Clause.
- Investigated allegations of sexual assault, workplace harassment, or caregiver/educator misconduct for multiple charitable and educational institutions.