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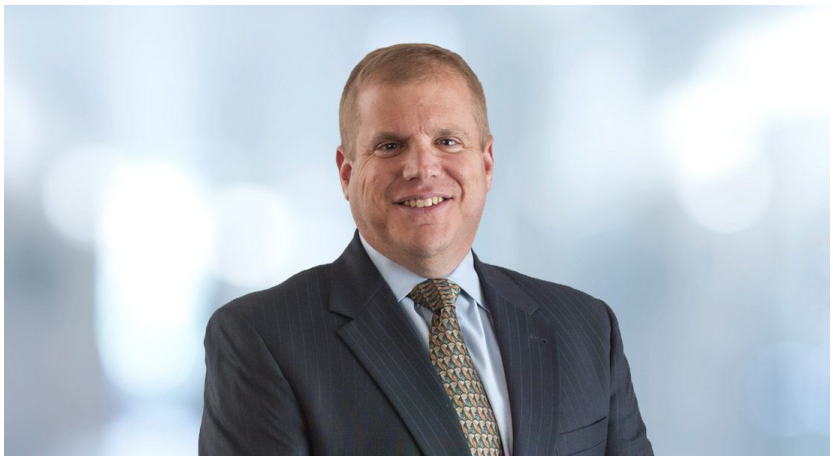

Matthew W. Rappleye

Shareholder and Co-Chair, Appellate Advocacy and Co-General Counsel

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Services and Industries

- Appellate Advocacy
- Insurance Law
- Healthcare
- Healthcare Litigation
- Risk Management and Quality Assurance
- Attorney and Judicial Ethics and Discipline

Education

Boston University School of Law, J.D., cum laude, 1992

University of Pennsylvania, B.A., 1989

Admissions

Pennsylvania

Illinois

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Matthew W. Rappleye concentrates his practice on health law, appellate advocacy and insurance coverage issues. His practice involves the representation of hospitals, doctors, and healthcare professionals and includes counseling, mitigation and litigation. He advises healthcare clients on risk mitigation, quality improvement and medical staff issues, closely working with hospitals and physician practices on risk, claims, ethical and compliance issues.

Matt has an extensive appellate practice and presents arguments and briefs regularly in the Pennsylvania Superior Court, Commonwealth Court, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Matt has briefed and argued appellate victories for his clients in each of these venues in a wide range of issues.

Matt is also the firm's Co-General Counsel and manages professional responsibility and professional liability risk matters for the firm and is a member of the Insurance Law Group. Matt has an extensive insurance counseling and insurance coverage practice. He works closely with the underwriting committees of several professional liability insurers and assists in the drafting of insurance contracts, policy language, and endorsements for insurers as well as providing advice and counsel with respect to internal manuals, policies and applications. Matt handles insurance coverage questions and insurance coverage litigation. He has advised professional liability insurers and insureds, general liability insurers and insureds and others on the scope, meaning, and interpretation of policy provisions. He has litigated coverage questions in state and federal court in the Commonwealth as well as other courts around the country. Matt also has experience advising clients on insurance bad faith issues and litigating insurance bad faith claims in Pennsylvania.

Matt has worked closely with the Pennsylvania Insurance Department and Mcare on various issues pertaining to professional liability insurance coverage. He has participated in Pennsylvania Insurance Department hearings regarding questions pertaining to Mcare coverage and has litigated Mcare coverage in the Commonwealth Court.

Experience

- Briefed and argued the appeals in many recent matters including:
  - Superior court affirms summary judgment in favor of hospital and physicians where plaintiff served untimely expert reports.
    Miller v. Pottstown Hospital, et al., 356 A.3d 860 (table) (Pa. Super. 2026) (Beck, J.)
  - Superior court affirms summary judgment in favor of physician and surgery center where plaintiff failed to establish sufficient extension of statute of limitations under the discovery rule.
    Werner v. Beetel, M.D.,352 A.3d 956 (table) (Pa. Super 2025) (Kunselman, J.)
  - Superior court reverses plaintiff verdict and remanding for new trial because (i) Plaintiff's counsel made improper statement during opening that prejudiced defense, and (ii) trial court misstated increased risk of harm standard in jury instructions and verdict slip.
    Lewis v. Reading Hospital and Luo, M.D., 345 A.3d (Pa. Super. 2025) (Stabile, J.)
  - Superior court quashes plaintiff's appeal and concluding order not final per Pa. R.A.P. 341.
    Bosley v. York Hospital, 2024 WL 48880099 (Pa. Super. 11/25/24) (Kunselman, J.)

  - Superior court affirms in part and reversing in part nonsuit) (affirmed nonsuit of corporate negligence claims but reversed nonsuit due to conflicting expert testimony on vicarious claims as testimony not fully contradictory.
    Shultz v. York Hospital, et al., 319 A.3d 35 (table) (Pa. Super. 2024) (Olson, J.)
  - Superior court affirms defense verdict in favor of hospital and, among other things, re-affirming and refining corporate negligence standard.
    Ruff v. York Hospital, 257 A.3d 43 (Pa. Super. 2021) (Shogan, J.)
  - Superior court reverses nonsuit finding that expert testimony was rendered with requisite degree of reasonable certainty.
    Rolon v. Davies, M.D., 232 A.3d 773 (Pa. Super. 2020) (Stabile, J.)
  - Third Circuit affirms ruling that hospital was immune from suit under the Pennsylvania Workers Compensation Act.
    No. 15-2728, 647 Fed. Appx. 126 (3d Cir. Apr. 19, 2016).
  - Supreme Court denies application for exercise of King's Bench powers in case where no underlying injury occurred and the damages claimed arose from a fear of future infection.
    No. 208 MM 2017 (Feb. 27, 2018)
  - Superior Court concludes venue in a medical malpractice case may lie where care is being directed and decisions are being made by a physician.
    166 A.3d 1265 (Pa. Super. 2017), appeal denied, No. 483 EAL 2017, 2018 Pa. LEXIS 1531 (Pa. 2018).
  - Superior Court affirms compulsory non-suit in bowel perforation case due to failure of the patient's expert witness to testify to the requisite degree of medical certainty.
    No. 1383 MDA 2016, 2017 Pa. Super. Unpub. LEXIS 1280 (Apr. 6, 2017), appeal denied, 172 A.3d 1117 (Pa. 2017).
  - Superior Court held the Mental Health Procedures Act does not require a final commitment determination to be made within two hours of arrival to a treatment facility.
    No. 6 MDA 2016 (Pa. Super. Nov. 15, 2016).
  - Superior Court upholds trial court's decision to permit a hematologist to testify regarding the standard of care of an interventional cardiologist
    145 A.3d 1171 (Pa. Super. 2016).
- Former national counsel for an insurer defending and coordinating coverage litigation in multiple jurisdictions
- Successfully defended insurance bad faith matter to defense verdict at arbitration

Professional Affiliations

- Chester County Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Former Member of Board of Directors, Junior Achievement of Berks County
- Former Board Member and Chair of Administration, Finance and Personnel Committee, Threshold Rehabilitation Services, Inc.