

Rochelle Gumapac

Partner

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer | Managing Partner, Providence, RI Office

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Clients come to Rochelle when they are in a tough position and need a staunch ally. Her experience in all levels of the judicial system and multi-discipline practice provides clients the benefit and comfort of having one attorney represent them in multiple matters that may arise.

OVERVIEW

Rochelle Gumapac focuses on complex civil litigation arising from environmental/toxic tort, product liability, real estate professional malpractice, personal injury, premises liability, insurance bad faith claims and construction defect and design. She is also experienced in commercial litigation that arises in and out of bankruptcy, preference actions, fraudulent conveyance actions, cash collateral disputes and claim objection and resolution.

Rochelle has successfully handled numerous matters from initiation to settlement or trial in administrative and regulatory board hearings, all state-level courts in Delaware, District of Delaware Bankruptcy Court, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. She has also handled multi-million dollar catastrophic cases in the area of products liability to trial.

Clients come to Rochelle when they are in a tough position and need a staunch ally. She evaluates their case, intimately familiarizes herself with their industries, macro- and micro-operations, goals, and expectations, and presents multiple strategies for reaching the best possible outcomes. Rochelle is not intimidated by the prospect of trial and the hard work it takes to zealously defend her clients in court. Her meticulous preparation, diverse perspective, and ability to effectively communicate separate her from her peers.

Her experience in all levels of the judicial system and multi-discipline practice provides clients the benefit and comfort of having one attorney represent them in multiple matters that may arise. Rochelle has secured dismissals, via Motions for Summary Judgment, on behalf of her clients with a substantial success rate, sparing her clients the time and expense of having to go through trial.

PRACTICES

Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy
Labor and Employment
Litigation
Product Liability

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Delaware
Rhode Island
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law, JD, 2006
Ursinus College, BA, 2003

MEMBERSHIPS

Delaware State Bar Association
Defense Counsel of Delaware (Board Member)
Defense Research Institute (DE State Representative)
International Association of Defense Counsel
Philadelphia Diversity Law Group
Rhode Island State Bar Association



Rochelle enjoys getting to know her clients, understanding their goals, and collaboratively assisting them with their plans for the future. She has been able to evolve, grow, and become an integral advisor to the companies with which she works. She views issues pragmatically and analyzes the facts and the law from both sides, giving her the ability to develop innovative solutions. She is not afraid to have frank conversations and because she really gets to know her clients, she is able to speak their language and counsel them not only on how to handle the current situation, but how to avoid potential issues in the future.

As White and Williams' first Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Rochelle collaborates with firm management and established firm committees such as Diversity, Associate Development and the Women's Initiative to develop and implement strategic DEI initiatives focused on increasing the recruitment, retention, and promotion of diverse talent. She also partners with legal industry associations to support and shape DEI initiatives industry wide. Additionally, she works with clients to develop DEI programs that encourage long-term generational knowledge, active listening, and inclusion programs to make clients more effective in the way they understand their employees and serve the societies in which they operate.

Prior to attending law school, Rochelle worked as a Stagiaire for the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. While attending law school, she was an intern for the New Castle County Court of Common Pleas and the Delaware Civil Clinic.

Outside of work, Rochelle enjoys raising her 3 children in Delaware and participating in multiple community programs.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

White and Williams Secures Affirmation of Summary Judgment Based on Ohio's Causation Standard For Asbestos Cases
7.22.19

White and Williams Secures Affirmation of Summary Judgment in Catastrophic Personal Injury Case
2.7.18

White and Williams Secures Affirmation of Partial Summary Judgment with Bare Metal Defense
4.21.17

Secured affirmation of summary judgment based on Ohio's Causation Standard for asbestos cases in favor of a major automotive manufacturer in a mesothelioma case

Obtained defense verdict for a major automotive manufacturer in an asbestos mesothelioma wrongful death lawsuit, which alleged decedent's exposure to automotive products through his career as a mechanic caused his disease and subsequent death, following a three-week trial

Obtained defense verdict for service station client in jury trial over catastrophic injuries to a patron injured on premises

Obtained summary judgment for a premises client in a catastrophic loss case

Represented manufacturers of alleged asbestos containing products in toxic tort suits and/or product liability matters

Represented real estate agencies, brokers, and agents in professional liability actions such as contract disputes, negligence, fraud, conspiracy, and misrepresentation allegations, as well as defended them against inquiries and sanctioning by the Delaware Division of Professional Regulation and Real Estate Commission

Represented appraisal companies and appraisers in professional liability actions in state and federal courts as well as administrative and regulatory hearings

Represented insured individuals and companies in negligence, fraud, conspiracy, misrepresentation and insurance coverage actions

Represented commercial creditors and insurance companies in bankruptcy and preference actions; past creditors include lenders, mortgagees, professionals, franchisors, financial institutions and other secured and unsecured creditors

Represented general contractors and subcontractors in disputes regarding construction defects and designs and obtaining mechanics' liens

Represented landowners and tenants in premises liability actions

IN THE NEWS

Rochelle Gumapac Elected President of the Defense Counsel of Delaware
News, 4.2.24

White and Williams Announces New Office Managing Partners
10.5.21

Rochelle Gumapac Named Firm's First Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer
Gumapac will expand and formalize strategic diversity initiatives
1.28.21

Rochelle Gumapac Elected DRI State Representative for Delaware
11.5.19

White and Williams Joins Ford Motor Company's Legal Alliance for Women in a Global Day of Service
9.30.19

Wilmington Office Participates in Career Day at Harlan Elementary School
6.11.19

White and Williams Announces Lawyer Promotions
Six Lawyers Elected to Partnership and Four Associates Promoted to Counsel
1.2.19

White and Williams Joins Ford Motor Company's Legal Alliance for Women in a Global Day of Service
9.27.18

Wilmington Office Organizes Career Day at Harlan Elementary School
6.13.17



EVENTS

Coverage College 2023
Philadelphia, PA, 10.12.23

Coverage College 2022
10.13.22

Ethics/Professional Development
Perrin Conferences Mid-Atlantic Asbestos Litigation Conference (Wilmington, DE), 7.17.19

Update on Jurisdictional Issues
The Mid-Atlantic Asbestos Litigation Conference (Wilmington, DE), 6.15.17

PUBLICATIONS

Arrowood Indemnity – The Latest U.S. Insurer to Enter Liquidation
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith and Financial Restructuring and Bankruptcy, 11.9.23

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Strikes a Deathblow to Substantial Factor Causation in Most Cases; Is Asbestos Litigation Next?
Product Liability Alert, 3.9.21

COVID-19 Supply Chain Disruption Now and Later
Industry Today, 4.13.20

Supply Chain Disruption – Before the Breach and How Best to Protect
Commercial Litigation Alert, 4.3.20

White and Williams LLP Secures Affirmation of Denial to Change Trial Settings Based on Plaintiffs' Failure to Meet the Texas Causation Standard for Asbestos Cases
Product Liability Alert, 4.1.20

US Supreme Court Denies Certiorari in Appeal by Gun Manufacturer, Remington, in Case Brought by Families of Sandy Hook Massacre Victims
Product Liability Alert, 11.13.19

Massachusetts Court Holds Statute of Repose Bars Certain Asbestos-Related Construction Claims
Claims Arising Out of a Deficiency or Negligence in the Design, Planning, Construction and General Administration of Improvements to Real Property Among Those Affected
Product Liability Alert, 3.1.19

