

Richard A. Williamson

Partner

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Richard A. Williamson is a partner in the Firm's Litigation and Product Liability & Mass Torts Practices. With over 30 years of experience, Richard is a highly regarded litigator, mediator, and business advisor. He represents clients in the areas of trials and appeals, product liability, mass torts, professional liability and partnership disputes, and corporate law.

Over his career, Richard has handled high-profile litigation cases nationally, some of which have set precedent for case law. He also represents law firms, individual partners, and other partnerships in connection with partnership disputes and break-ups.

In asbestos personal injury litigation, Richard served on the national trial teams for several defendants over the last 30 years. He devised and supervised the implementation of an innovative and cost-effective approach to the defense of tens of thousands of cases on behalf of a major defendant that enabled it to settle cases more efficiently. In asbestos-in-buildings litigation, Richard was appointed by the court as Co-Liaison counsel for all defendants and headed up the representation of two large corporate defendants for more than a decade.

Richard is a thought leader in the legal industry. He often lectures and trains lawyers in litigation and trial techniques, including regularly teaching for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and lecturing on American Lawyer, Practicing Law Institute, New York State Bar Association and New York County Lawyers' Association panels. He is the co-author of chapter 103 entitled "Partnerships" in *Commercial Litigation in New York State Courts*, 5th ed., Thomson West and NYCLA, 2020 plus annual supplements.

Education

- Cornell University (B.A.)
- New York University School of Law (J.D.)

Bar Admissions

- New York
- New Jersey

Related Services

- Litigation
- Product Liability & Mass Torts

- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional Affiliations

- New York County Lawyers' Association (past member of the Board of Directors; past Chair, Committee on the Federal Courts; past Co-Chair of the Special Masters Committee)
- The New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) Foundation, Inc. (Past Vice President and member of the Board of Directors)
- National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Member of Faculty for Trial Techniques
- Hofstra University School of Law, Annual Guest Instructor for Trial Advocacy Course
- American Inn of Court (Master)
- New York City Bar Association, Past Member
- American Bar Association (Member of Section on Litigation; Committee Memberships include Professional Liability and Pre-Trial Practice and Discovery)
- Defense Research Institute (Past Member; Steering Committee of the Professional Liability Committee)
- Hemlock Farms Community Association (past member of the Board of Directors)

Awards & Honors

- *Best Lawyers in America*, 2012-2023
- *New York Super Lawyers*, 2006-2025

Notable Matters

- Selected by the World Trade Center defendants (i.e., the Silverstein affiliated net lessees of the buildings at the World Trade Center site) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to represent them in 9/11 litigation throughout New York and New Jersey in the state and federal courts. Both the New York State Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York appointed Richard as Liaison Counsel for the Ground Defendants (one of the two groups of defendants) in the wrongful death, bodily injury, property damage, and business interruption cases and as Co-Liaison counsel for all defendants in cases alleging respiratory injury.
- Selected by judges to assist in the resolution of numerous high-profile matters, for example, by serving as Special Settlement Mediator in the Bank of New York shareholder derivative actions arising out of the Russian money laundering scandal, as the Successor Liquidating Trustee for two large hedge funds, and as the Liquidating Trustee for the Bondholders Liquidating Trust of a large publicly held

company. In his capacity as Liquidating Trustee, Richard oversaw the successful recovery through the lawsuit he commenced of \$480 million plus other consideration from AT&T, Cox Communications, Inc. and Comcast Corporation. In these capacities, Richard has collected and disbursed more than \$1 billion. In addition, he also has served as a court-appointed Special Referee, as an arbitrator and as a private and court-appointed mediator in major business disputes.

- Served as national counsel for one of the nation's largest and most prestigious professional firms when it was on the brink of financial collapse, leading the legal team in developing and implementing a complex, long-term strategy that included negotiation and nationwide litigation with a number of major groups of creditors that resulted in the restructuring of the firm's debt.

Insights

July 12, 2018

Richard Williamson to Speak at New York County Lawyers' Association's Winning Cases in Federal Court Program