



Heather Austin

Partner

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Heather Austin serves as deputy regional managing partner of the firm's Philadelphia office and cochair of the national Life, Health, Disability & ERISA Practice. Heather concentrates her practice in the area of ERISA litigation; however, her litigation experience includes the representation of businesses in a variety of actions that include but are not limited to breach of contract, violation of non-compete covenants and wrongful discharge disputes. Heather also represents companies in Interpleader actions filed in state and federal courts and has extensive experience defending insurance carriers and private entities against claims brought under ERISA and state laws relating to the denial of disability and life insurance plans.

Despite her extensive litigation experience, Heather understands that litigation is not the right tool for every dispute and she works with her clients to understand their interests and needs and to make their priorities her own. She is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey and is admitted to practice in several federal district courts.

Community Involvement

Heather is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a former member of the Board of Managers of the West Philadelphia YMCA. Additionally, Heather is a former member of the Board of Methodist Services for Children and Families and Methodist Family Services of Philadelphia, two organizations that service the needs of women, children and families with, among other things, financial, mental health and substance abuse issues. Heather has served as a mentor through various organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Philadelphia Futures. She currently serves as the chair of the firm's Cluster Mentoring subcommittee, which offers associates, of counsel and junior partners an opportunity to engage in a meaningful way with some of the firm's most seasoned practitioners through a hybrid program that consists of both one-on-one and group mentoring.

Services

- Employment & Labor
- Life, Health, Disability & ERISA

Education

- Temple University James E. Beasley School of Law (J.D., 1999)
- University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1993)

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Maryland

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

Professional Affiliations

- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar; Life, Health, Disability and ERISA Committee
- Philadelphia Bar Association, former editor in chief, *The Philadelphia Bar Reporter*

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *Rising Stars for Pennsylvania Super Lawyers*, 2011
- Awarded the "Outstanding Young Lawyer Award," Barristers' Association of Philadelphia