



## Joanna Piorek

Partner

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Joanna Piorek has represented businesses and professionals for more than 20 years in resolving current disputes and preventing future ones via risk management counseling.

Joanna defends lawyers, accountants, financial advisors, brokers, architects and engineers, among other construction professionals, in state and federal trial and appellate courts and before regulatory and administrative bodies addressing ethical and professional conduct charges. In addition to her professional liability practice, Joanna represents businesses and their owners/directors in commercial disputes and shareholder claims. In her employment practice, she defends employers in discrimination, labor and ERISA claims; conducts investigations and provides risk management counseling in addition to policy drafting and guidance.

Joanna approaches every client and every case as if it were the only one because she understands that is precisely how her clients view the situation. Each matter is distinctive as is its resolution. In every instance and for every client, Joanna exhibits a profound sensitivity to the concerns that go beyond the details of a given claim. Her focus is not only to successfully resolve the given issue or dispute but also to maintain her client's business and professional reputation and future industry goals.

In addition to her legal practice, Joanna leads her office mentoring program, conducting educational and social events for associates and of counsel in her office. Joanna also has the honor of serving as her office's WAVE (Women Attorneys Valued & Empowered) representative, holding meetings and events to support and foster the professional growth of women attorneys at the firm.

In addition, by appointment from the New Jersey Supreme Court, Joanna serves on the District XA Ethics Committee wherein she conducts investigations regarding complaints asserted against attorneys and prosecutes those complaints if appropriate.

### Services

- Accountants
- Appellate
- Construction
- Commercial Litigation
- Employment & Labor
- Lawyers' Liability
- Life, Health, Disability & ERISA
- Professional Liability & Services
- Securities Industry Professionals

Through her involvement with the Polish Consulate in New York, and building on her Polish heritage, Joanna supports and promotes the development and furtherance of Polish-American business and cultural relationships. She is a member of the Kosciusko Foundation and the Central European Business Association.

### **Lawyers Liability**

Capitalizing on the fact that she stands in the shoes of her lawyer clients, when defending a fellow lawyer Joanna approaches the matter with the big picture understanding that such representation demands assurance of a big picture successful result. As most legal malpractice matters involve the "redo" of the underlying matter or transaction, Joanna's experience ranges from general liability claims to real estate transactions to matrimonial matters to contentious estate litigations to complex business ventures gone awry. However, when defending against a particular claim, Joanna's experience in handling ethics matters has made her all too aware of the potential repercussions of an ethical complaint that can destroy reputations and careers. Consequently, she defends her clients passionately while keeping their professional integrity and business secure.

### **Professional Liability**

In her representation of professionals such as financial advisors, accountants and actuaries, along with insurance brokers, Joanna litigates high-exposure matters stemming from failed joint ventures, investments, pension plan administration and coverage issues. In each instance, Joanna is sensitive to the fact that for her client it is not just the matter of someone making a claim against them, rather, it is someone seeking to mar their professional reputation and future business development.

### **Employment Practices Liability**

Joanna's EPL experience originated from assisting then Dean Charles A. Sullivan of Seton Hall Law School in updating the "Cases and Materials in Employment Discrimination" casebook. She has since conducted internal employer investigations concerning discriminatory conduct and other management malfeasance/nonfeasance claims as well as questions of ethical violations. In addition to risk management counseling, she defends employers in varied discrimination and employment -related claims in court as well as before administrative agencies.

### **Commercial & Business Dispute Litigation**

Joanna represents businesses and not-for-profits, as well as their owners, boards, members, directors and officers in commercial litigation and in internal disputes before administrative bodies and in court. Be it resolving a breach of contract claim, negotiating a new contract or addressing business dissolution associated allegations and/or shareholder/partnership disputes, Joanna's litigation and resolution plan is one she develops with her client to ensure the client's long-term needs are addressed and protected beyond the given dispute.

### **Construction**

Joanna's construction defect experience includes commercial buildings, urban residential condominium buildings and suburban townhome complexes as well as private single-dwelling residences, where the claims range from architectural or engineering design

defects to defective use or installation claims, to manufacturing defects.

### **ERISA Coverage / Mental Health**

Joanna is well versed in litigating claims for health and mental health benefits, be they under auspices of ERISA or applicable state law.

### **Education**

- Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D., 2000)
  - Seton Hall Constitutional Law Journal, managing editor; Interscholastic Moot Court Board, Member
- Rutgers University Douglass College (B.A., 1997)

### **Bar Admissions**

- New Jersey

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

### **Professional Affiliations**

- American Bar Association
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Morris County Bar Association
- Essex County Bar Association
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- CLM Construction Magazine, Northeast Representative
- Association of Professional Insurance Women
- Professional Women in Construction
- Kosciusko Foundation, New York
- Central European Business Association

### **Awards & Honors**

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2023-2026
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America® Women in Law*, 2025
- Appointed to New Jersey Supreme Court District XA Ethics Committee, 2017–2025
- Appointed to New Jersey Supreme Court District V Ethics Committee, 2007–2011
- Selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers Rising Stars for Professional Liability Defense,

New Jersey, 2012–2014

- Selected for inclusion in Super Lawyers for Professional Liability Defense, New Jersey, 2017-2022

### **Languages**

- French
- German
- Polish