



John A. Vitagliano

Of Counsel

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White Plains, NY – 914.872.7367

John Vitagliano handles the pre-litigation, litigation, settlement and trial of a wide range of cases brought against municipalities and their representatives, including police departments and police officers.

Prior to joining Wilson Elser, John spent more than four years as an Assistant District Attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, where he was a felony prosecutor in the Special Victims Bureau. John handled investigations and cases involving domestic violence, sexual assaults and serious physical injury to children. While at the DA's office, John tried numerous criminal cases to verdict.

John also handled several election law matters in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties, and he previously worked at the Westchester County Board of Elections, and was a Special Projects Coordinator on several local and statewide campaigns. During law school, John was a summer intern with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, and served an intern for the Honorable Susan Cacace in the Westchester County Criminal Court.

Municipal Litigation

John Vitagliano handles and defends municipal liability claims, including violations of the Civil Rights Act; charges of police brutality; and claims of wrongful conviction, malicious prosecution, excessive force, negligent supervision and training, false arrest and false imprisonment. John also handles zoning and land use matters involving municipalities and claims involving tort liability, discrimination and retaliation in employment, wrongful discharge and sexual harassment. He also defends a variety of prisoner-related claims, including those involving the treatment, diagnoses and prevention of COVID-19 in correctional facilities.

Child Victims Act (CVA)

Services

- Municipal/Local Government

Since joining the Municipal Practice at Wilson Elser, John has handled several CVA matters filed in New York, representing and defending municipalities. He is certified in ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocols in regard to interviewing child victims of sexual abuse. As an Assistant District Attorney in the Nassau County District Attorney's Office, John participated in Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings regarding sexual abuse investigations against children that involved the Department of Social Services, Child Protective Services, the District Attorney's office, the police department and other governmental entities.

Education

- Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University (J.D., 2017)
 - cum laude
- Fordham University (B.A. Economics, 2013)

Bar Admissions

- New York

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York

Awards & Honors

Selected for inclusion in *New York Metro Super Lawyers® Rising Stars™* in the State/Local/Municipal category, 2025