



## Joseph M. Morgese

Partner

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Joseph M. Morgese maintains a varied practice that encompasses commercial litigation, products liability, complex tort and general casualty, transportation, and professional liability matters. He provides strategic legal guidance to private companies and individuals, drawing on a diverse background in litigation, regulatory analysis, and risk management to help clients navigate complex legal challenges and compliance concerns.

Joseph's current practice is informed by a strong foundation in civil defense and dispute resolution. Prior to joining Wilson Elser, he spent two years handling general liability defense work at a regional firm, where he developed the litigation skills and case management acumen that now drive his approach to complex tort, products liability, and commercial disputes. His years in private practice were preceded by a judicial clerkship in the Bergen County Vicinage of the New Jersey Superior Court, where he served in both the Chancery Division, Family Part and the Law Division, Civil Part. That clerkship gave Joseph firsthand exposure to the judicial decision-making process across a range of civil and equitable matters, sharpening the analytical rigor he brings to his current caseload.

Joseph further honed his practical skills during law school through work in the Office of General Counsel for the Broward County School Board—the nation's sixth-largest public school district—where he gained experience advising a large institutional client on legal and compliance issues. He also interned at Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit, Office of the State Attorney, in the Sex Crimes Unit, an experience that deepened his understanding of complex evidentiary issues and sensitive litigation—capabilities that directly support his handling of institutional matters and professional liability claims today.

Beyond his litigation practice, Joseph has served as an undergraduate and graduate adjunct professor at Montclair State University in the Political Science and Law Department, where he taught courses in "Conflict and Its Resolution" and "Statutory & Regulatory Analysis." His academic work reflects a command of regulatory frameworks

### Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Employment & Labor
- Life, Health, Disability & ERISA
- Professional Liability & Services
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Transportation

and dispute resolution principles that enhances the counsel he provides to clients in the commercial, transportation, and professional liability arenas. Joseph was selected to deliver the graduate address at commencement in Montclair State's master's program. As an undergraduate at the age of 18, he ran a successful write-in campaign for a position on his hometown board of education, making him the youngest board member elected in the State of New Jersey.

## **Education**

- Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law (J.D., 2014)
  - Nova Law Review, Volume 38, editor in chief
- Montclair State University (MA in Law & Governance, 2010)
  - Alpha Epsilon Lamda; graduate assistant and vice chair, Graduate Student Organization
- Montclair State University (B.A., 2007)

## **Bar Admissions**

- New Jersey
- New York

## **Court Admissions**

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

## **Professional Affiliations**

- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Bergen County Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Montclair State University, Political Science & Law Department, adjunct professor

## **Awards & Honors**

- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® Ones to Watch™, 2024-2026
- Selected for inclusion in New Jersey *Super Lawyers*® *Rising Stars*™, 2024
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Ones to Watch in the area of Commercial Litigation, 2022-2023
- Selected for inclusion in Rising Stars for New Jersey *Super Lawyers*, 2020-2023

## Client Wins

### **Benford and Morgese Obtain Summary Judgment in Federal Court Action Against Government Contractor Alleging Deceptive Trade Practices**

John Benford (Of Counsel-Orlando) and Joseph Morgese (Associate-New Jersey) obtained a summary judgment in the Middle District of Florida in favor of the firm's client, a government contractor that services more than 250 municipalities in the state of Florida and the throughout the United States. The client assists municipalities in collecting various fees owed by property owners. The plaintiff, a large real estate hedge fund and property owner, sued the client alleging various causes of action, including deceptive and unfair trade practices and violations of the Florida and U.S. constitutions based on the client's business practices. Importantly, the plaintiff sought injunctive and declaratory relief ,which, had plaintiff prevailed at trial, would have caused the client to lose tens of millions of dollars in revenue per year.