



PETER J. NEESON

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Peter J. Neeson, a practicing trial attorney for 40 years, is Chair of Rawle & Henderson's Environmental, Toxic and Mass Torts Department where he concentrates his practice in those areas. As part of his departmental responsibilities, Mr. Neeson has been involved in the defense of numerous toxic tort matters in multi-district and class action cases in both state and federal courts, including, but not limited to, formaldehyde, multiple chemical sensitivity, sick building, latex glove, benzene, underground storage tank, orthopedic bone screw, pharmaceutical and asbestos litigation including the defense of over 3,000 such cases against a major manufacturer. He has also participated in the defense of several generators in CERCLA superfund cases. Mr. Neeson has been the National Coordinating Counsel for a major insurance carrier in the FRT litigation and has had National Coordinator responsibilities in the asbestos, latex glove and the PPA pharmaceutical drug litigations. On behalf of his clients he has been lead counsel on several appeals in front of both the Pennsylvania Superior and Supreme Courts, including two recent Supreme Court cases involving asbestos issues, one of which was *Betz v. Pneumo Abex*, a decision which changed the causation law in that state.



Mr. Neeson is a frequent writer and speaker on litigation issues and is the author and/or editor of a number of publications, including his efforts as the editor and co-author of a 1995 ABA-TIPS book on the Comprehensive General Liability Policy. Mr. Neeson is the past Chair of Products, General Liability and Consumer Law Committee of the ABA Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), a former member of its governing Council, and nineteen years ago spearheaded the development of the National Trial Academy in conjunction with the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Utilizing state of the art technology, the National Trial Academy is widely recognized as the premier forum of its kind in which to train young lawyers how to try jury trials. In February of 2004 Mr. Neeson was elected as Vice Chair of the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section. He assumed the chairmanship of this ABA Section in August of 2006. In that same year, Mr. Neeson founded and co-inaugurated the TIPS Leadership Academy, a diversity program specifically designed to develop and train future community and bar leaders. It was the first national bar association program of its kind. In 2012, in recognition for his leadership and bar efforts on behalf of the TIPS Section, Mr. Neeson was awarded the James K. Carroll Award, the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed on an ABA-TIPS member for outstanding vision and leadership in the profession. Mr. Neeson is also a member of the Defense Research Institute, the Pennsylvania Defense



Institute and a past member of the Executive Committee of the Philadelphia Association of the Defense Counsel.

Among his *pro bono* activities, Mr. Neeson was Vice Chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee for Eastern Pennsylvania, a current member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Sports Congress (now PHL Sports), the City's civic/business facilitator for the promotion and development of sporting events in the City, past President of the Philadelphia Amateur Sports Corporation, General Counsel and a member of the Executive Committee for Philadelphia Women's Basketball 2000, the local organizing committee for the NCAA Women's Final Four basketball tournament and an Executive Committee Member for the 2003 U.S.G.A. Women's Amateur Golf Championship held in Philadelphia. Mr. Neeson was also general counsel and a member of the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia 2016, Philadelphia's previous effort to bid for the summer Olympics in 2016. More recently, Mr. Neeson has been asked to serve as general counsel and the Chair of the Board of the Biotech Foundation, an innovator of new vaccine and biofuels technology. Since 2009, Mr. Neeson has been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Judicial College, the organization which trains the country's state court judges. He is a past Chairman of the Board of the National Judicial College.

Mr. Neeson graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a B.S. in Aero Space Mechanical Engineering in 1970 and from the University of Miami (*cum laude*) with a J.D. in 1978. He is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania and New York, as well as the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has been rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell in 2019 for the 25th consecutive year. Mr. Neeson was individually honored when he was selected by his peers in an extensive nomination and polling process conducted by Thomson Reuters as one of Pennsylvania's Super Lawyers from 2004 through 2019. He was selected as a 2013 Top Rated Lawyer for Energy, Environmental and Natural Resources by Martindale-Hubbell.

PRACTICE AREAS:

Environmental Law
Toxic and Mass Torts Law
Insurance Coverage Law
Products Liability Law

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Pennsylvania, 1978
New York, 1990

COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court



EDUCATION:

University of Miami (J.D., *cum laude*, 1978)
University of Notre Dame (B.S., 1970)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS:

Moderator, *"Building My Brand for Success in the Profession,"* ABA TIPS Section Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 2015
The Current Status of Architects' and Engineers' Malpractice Insurance, Insurance Counsel Journal, January 1978
Voir Dire: A Trial Technique in Transition, *The American Journal of Trial Advocacy,* Volume 4, Number 3, Page 23 (Spring 1981)
ABA-TIPS Reference Handbook on the Comprehensive General Liability Policy (1995 Publication) (Editor)
Pennsylvania: Asbestos Litigation – "Every Exposure" Theory Rejected, *Rawle's Reports,* Vol. 16, No. 9, September 2012

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

Philadelphia Bar Association
Pennsylvania Bar Association (Member, Executive Council, Young Lawyers Division, 1983-1985)
American Bar Association (Tort and Insurance Practice Section, 1988 --2006; Products, General Liability and Consumer Law Committee, Chair-Elect, 1992-1993, Chair, 1993-1994)
Founder of TIPS National Trial Academy 2000
TIPS Council 2001-2004
Chair of TIPS August 2006
Co-Founder of TIPS Leadership Academy 2006
Defense Research Institute
Pennsylvania Defense Institute
Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel
U.S. Olympic Committee for Eastern Pennsylvania (Vice Chairman)
Philadelphia Sports Congress (Member of the Board of Directors)
Philadelphia Amateur Sports Corporation (President)
The Notre Dame Club of Philadelphia (Board of Governors)
Philadelphia Women's Basketball 2000 ("PWB 2000") (General Counsel/Executive Committee)
2003 U.S.G.A. Women's Amateur
Biotech Foundation (General Counsel and Chair of the Board of Directors)
Philadelphia 2016 (incorporator, general counsel, member of Board of Directors)
National Judicial College (2009 -); Treasurer 2011; Chairman of the Board (June 2014)