



Matthew S. Payne

Counsel

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As a member of the firm's Litigation Department, Matthew's practice encompasses many aspects of commercial and business-related litigation.

Matthew has represented individuals and local, regional and national companies regarding issues such as:

- Misappropriation of trade secrets and confidential information;
- Breach of restrictive covenants and noncompetition agreements;
- Fraudulent conveyance of assets by debtors to avoid creditors;
- Disputes between franchisees and franchisors;
- Bankruptcy; and
- Collections and executions

Matthew's recent work on major pieces of litigation includes:

- As second chair in a three-week trial before the Western District Court, Matthew obtained a \$12 million jury verdict in a breach of contract action involving unpaid commissions owed to a clean coal technology company.
- Matthew assisted in obtaining a negotiated settlement of a dispute over the control of a nonprofit corporation, in which the stated desire of the membership of a nonprofit corporation to merge with the firm's not-for-profit client was realized despite the determined opposition of the corporation's board of directors.
- Matthew assisted in obtaining the negotiated settlement of a dispute between a national retailer and its San Francisco-based commercial landlord, regarding the landlord's failure to construct a new commercial space for the retailer.
- Acting as second chair in a state court trial in Allegheny County, Matthew assisted in settling a dispute regarding an aviation fuel tank farm's release of jet fuel onto the client's adjacent land.
- Matthew assisted in negotiating the settlement of a dispute between a New Zealand-based master franchisor for a women's fitness chain and the franchisor and its corporate parent, when the franchisor failed to perform under its agreement with the master franchisee.

In addition, Matthew recent work on behalf of small businesses and other cost-conscious clients includes:

- Matthew has resolved numerous disputes relating to a Pittsburgh-area medical device manufacturer's collection efforts and efforts to recover leased devices.
- Matthew represented a Pennsylvania metal fabrication business before an arbitration panel in a dispute with a local artist.

- Matthew negotiated a settlement between a local optometrist and one of its customers in a dispute over the services provided and over the retirement of a former employee of the optometrist.

Matthew has appeared before state and federal courts in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas, and has worked with local and international arbitration forums.

Services

- Litigation
- Cannabis Law
- Gaming

Before Fox Rothschild

While an undergraduate, Matthew was a Program Director for a regional Crisis Hotline.

Matthew worked for five years as a property/casualty insurance adjuster with Mutual of Enumclaw Insurance's office in Eugene, Oregon. There, he investigated, adjusted and settled claims involving home, business, auto, boat and personal property insurance.

Matthew volunteered with the American Red Cross as a member of a Disaster Action Team, responding to local emergencies such as house fires and floods.

Beyond Fox Rothschild

From 2004 through early 2012, Matthew served as both Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors of the Gay and Lesbian Neighborhood Development Association (GLENDA), a Pittsburgh-based not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting inclusiveness, understanding and community involvement by pairing gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered volunteers with non-LGBT organizations.

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit

Education

- University of Pittsburgh School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2006)
- University of Virginia (B.A., 1997)

Memberships

- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Allegheny County Bar Association

Honors & Awards

- Topics Editor, *Pittsburgh Law Review*