

MATTHEW R. BARNES

ASSOCIATE

MRB@Pietragallo.com

301 Grant Street, 38th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

T: (412) 263-1842

F: (412) 263-4253



MATTHEW R. BARNES is an associate in the Litigation Practice Group and centers his practice on commercial litigation. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Barnes worked as a commercial litigator for an international law firm.

Mr. Barnes has become a leading oral advocate in state and federal courts across Pennsylvania. He has tried multiple cases to verdict as lead trial counsel. In addition to his trial work, he has obtained notable dismissals of his clients from state and federal court cases.

In *Murphy v. Spongelle LLC*, 716 F. Supp. 3d 358 (W.D. Pa. 2024), Mr. Barnes became the first attorney to successfully argue in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania that online-only businesses cannot be sued for website accessibility under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) in federal courts located within the Third Circuit, encompassing Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Western District Court acknowledged the significance of the case, designating the case for publication and noting that the argument was “one of those occasions when oral argument is actually very helpful to the Court.”

Mr. Barnes has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America: Ones to Watch*® 2026 edition for his work in Commercial Litigation.

Mr. Barnes’ commitment to effective advocacy is rooted in his legal training. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Mr. Barnes was a member of the Georgetown Law Criminal Justice Clinic, where he represented clients in Washington D.C. Superior Court. For his work in the clinic, he received Georgetown’s Alan J. Goldstein Award, an honor given to the clinic member who best demonstrates “the use of intelligence, creativity, and resourcefulness in defending clients; the pursuit of excellence as a lawyer; and the ability to lead and inspire others to maximize their potential as lawyers.” Mr. Barnes was also a member of Georgetown’s Moot Court team and served as a judicial intern for Chief Justice Debra Todd of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mr. Barnes is active in the Greater Pittsburgh community. He has been a featured speaker at local community organizations and serves on the board of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, an organization devoted to the training of future civic and community leaders.

Representative Matters

Served as lead trial counsel in defense of eight-figure commercial lawsuit centered on claims of tortious interference and unjust enrichment.

Served as lead trial counsel in defense of breach of contract and Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (“UTPCPL”) claims.

Argued the first successful motion to dismiss an ADA Title III digital accessibility case brought against a direct-to-consumer Ecommerce company in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania. The case changed the state of the law for online companies in the Western District, which had become a popular federal forum for website and digital accessibility litigation. The Court's opinion held that an online-only company – one that does not operate a brick and mortar store – is not subject to suit under Title III of the ADA.

Obtained dismissal through a motion to dismiss of an ADA Title III putative class action brought against a jewelry company in federal court in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Obtained dismissal of lawsuit brought against app that offers neutral online platform for dog owners and service providers to connect.

Successfully argued motion for summary judgment enforcing waiver and resulting in dismissal of claims brought against world's largest ski resort owner and operator.

Successfully argued motion for summary judgment that resulted in dismissal of negligence-based legal malpractice claims against law firm.

Member of trial team that secured a \$4.7 million jury verdict on behalf of a plaintiff, and successfully argued motion for delay damages, which increased the verdict to more than \$5.3 million.

Bar Admissions

Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

U.S. District Court - Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court - Middle District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court - Western District of Pennsylvania