

MATTHEW R. BARNES

PARTNER

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Matthew R. Barnes is a partner in the Litigation Practice Group, focusing on class actions and commercial litigation.

Mr. Barnes represents both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of class action matters. Mr. Barnes has represented plaintiffs pursuing class claims against one of the nation's largest natural gas producers and has successfully defended companies across multiple industries in class action matters.

In his commercial litigation practice, Mr. Barnes has tried multiple cases to verdict as lead trial counsel, and has secured notable dismissals for clients in both state and federal proceedings.

Recently, in *Murphy v. Spongelle LLC*, 716 F. Supp. 3d 358 (W.D. Pa. 2024), Mr. Barnes obtained dismissal of a lawsuit alleging that his e-commerce client's website and digital services violated Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act. He became the first attorney in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania to successfully argue that online-only companies are not subject to Title III digital accessibility claims within the Third Circuit, which includes Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Court designated the decision for publication and noted that the argument was "one of those occasions when oral argument is actually very helpful to the Court."

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

His commitment to effective advocacy is grounded in his legal training. A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Mr. Barnes was a member of the Georgetown Law Criminal Justice Clinic, representing clients in the D.C. Superior Court. He received Georgetown's Alan J. Goldstein Award, an honor given to the clinic member who best demonstrated "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." He also competed on Georgetown's Moot Court team and served as a judicial intern to Chief Justice Debra Todd of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Representative Matters

Achieved the first dismissal of an ADA Title III digital accessibility lawsuit against a direct-to-consumer e-commerce company in the Western District of Pennsylvania on grounds that online-only companies are not subject to Title III, reshaping the state of the law in a favored forum for website accessibility litigation.

Led the defense of e-commerce, retail, and consumer products companies headquartered across the country in numerous putative consumer class actions, negotiating favorable resolutions in matters with potential multi-jurisdictional exposure.

Obtained dismissal of multiple putative consumer class actions, including claims against jewelry and skincare/aesthetics companies.

Secured dismissal of claims against a technology platform and online marketplace, successfully defending the neutrality of the digital service connecting consumers and service providers.

Served as lead trial counsel in high-stakes commercial litigation, including an eight-figure dispute alleging tortious interference and unjust enrichment, as well as disputes alleging breach of contract and unfair trade practices.

Served as lead counsel for the plaintiff in litigation against a major insurance company, prosecuting claims based on alleged violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law (“UTCPL”) and related commercial misconduct.

Won summary judgment enforcing a contractual waiver on behalf of the world’s largest ski resort owner and operator.

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