

PARTNER



Robert J. Kelly
Managing Partner

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EXPERTISE

Complex Tort Litigation
Product Liability Defense
National Product Liability Program
Management
Class Action Litigation
Environmental & Toxic Tort Litigation
Construction Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Contracts
Breach of Warranty
Creditors' Rights
Bankruptcy
Transactional Assistance
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Negotiation
Mediation
Arbitration

Robert J. Kelly is the firm's managing partner. His practice focuses on the defense of recreational and industrial product manufacturers and oil and chemical companies in personal injury, death and property damage cases. He is a trial and appellate advocate with nearly 30 years of experience in New Jersey and New York courtrooms and has been admitted pro hac vice to handle matters pending in numerous jurisdictions.

Mr. Kelly has a long record of the use of early, aggressive motion practice on substantive issues in bringing many complex matters to a swift and successful conclusion. He has served as national counsel supervising asbestos and benzene litigation for Fortune 500 companies. Mr. Kelly has frequently acted as lead and joint defense counsel for a variety of petrochemical companies and product manufacturers, and has recently been involved as lead counsel for recreational product manufacturers in toxic tort lawsuits alleging asbestos and benzene related illness and death. Most recently, Mr. Kelly represented Exxon Mobil Corporation before the New York Court of Appeals in the groundbreaking Parker v. Mobil, in which New York's highest court affirmed the exclusion of two internationally recognized plaintiff's experts while redefining its approach to the admission of scientific evidence. Mr. Kelly's practice also focuses on commercial litigation. He speaks regularly on toxic tort and product liability issues.

Robert Kelly is rated AV® by Martindale-Hubbell.

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ADMISSIONS

NEW JERSEY STATE BAR
NEW YORK STATE BAR
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
U.S. DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS OF NEW YORK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, 2ND AND
3RD CIRCUITS
U.S. SUPREME COURT

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, B.A., 1974
UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND LAW SCHOOL, J.D., 1977

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

DEFENSE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SPORTING GOODS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, LEGAL TASK FORCE
NEW JERSEY SUPER LAWYER (2010, 2012)
STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE SPORTING GOOD MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
LITIGATION TASK FORCE

PRESENTATIONS

"GASOLINE, BENZENE AND KIDNEY CANCER : THE IMPACT OF PARKER V. MOBIL"
(HARRIS MARTIN BENZENE LITIGATION CONFERENCE, LAS VEGAS, NV, MAY 2007)
"PARKER V. MOBIL AND BENZENE LITIGATION" (HARRIS MARTIN BENZENE
LITIGATION CONFERENCE, MIAMI, FL, NOVEMBER 2006)
"PARKER AND ITS IMPACT ON SCIENTIFIC TESTIMONY" (MEALEY'S BENZENE
LITIGATION CONFERENCE, NEW YORK, NY, DECEMBER 2006)
"PUNITIVE DAMAGES" (PETROCHEMICAL LITIGATION GROUP, HOUSTON, TX,
OCTOBER 2006)
"ADVERTISING, WARNINGS & INSTRUCTIONS: HOW YOUR OWN WORDS CAN MAKE OR
BREAK YOU" (2012 SGMA LITIGATION & RISK MANAGEMENT SUMMIT)

REPORTED CASES

PARKER V. MOBIL OIL CORPORATION, 857 N.E.2D 1114 (NY 2006)
WILLS V. AMERADA HESS CORP., 379 F.3D 32 (2D CIR. N.Y., 2004)
MCWILLIAMS V. YAMAHA MOTOR CORP., 987 F.2D 200 (3D CIR. 1993)