



CAPABILITIES / LITIGATION

Appellate

Our clients turn to our Appellate attorneys either to reverse a wrong from below or to make sure the decision below remains in place.

OVERVIEW

“The most important thing we can do for a client on an appeal? Win.”

— Mathieu Shapiro

Obermayer’s litigation attorneys are frequently retained by clients and lawyers to represent them in appeals before both state and federal courts around the country. These include Pennsylvania’s Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts. More particularly, this also includes the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which is based in Philadelphia and has appellate jurisdiction over the District of Delaware, the District of New Jersey and Pennsylvania’s Eastern, Western and Middle Districts.

Our Appellate team reviews a full lower court record with fresh eyes to understand how the appellate court will see that record, to step away from the presentation below, and to frame the record in a way that will be compelling to the appellate court. We do this both for cases we handled below and for cases handled by another attorney in the first instance, where the client is ready to change direction.

Our Value

Obermayer’s Appellate attorneys appear regularly in many different appellate courts. As a result of our years of experience, we understand how to see the record from the point of view of the appellate panel, rather than simply repeating the arguments made in the lower court.

We also have substantial experience with Pennsylvania’s “King’s Bench Petition” procedure. That is, we regularly persuade the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to take jurisdiction over a matter which ordinarily would not yet be reviewed by the Supreme Court because of the case’s public importance.

Our Clients

Clients seek our counsel to handle difficult appeals of lower court decisions in the federal and state appeals courts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and throughout the U.S.

EXPERIENCE

- We obtained a declaration that the tax structure applied to casinos in Pennsylvania was unconstitutional. The decision saved our client money and will change Pennsylvania law.
- We represented a father, in a child support case, who shared physical custody of his children but was ordered to pay an excessive child support amount. We appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, who reversed the trial court's order, and changed the law in Pennsylvania on how child support is calculated for high-income parents.
- We had a Superior Court panel affirm a decision for individuals which we will cheaply, efficiently and finally end a taxing litigation with a neighbor over property lines and the construction of a small addition the neighbor erroneously believed encroached on his property.
- We had the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit affirm a District of New Jersey decision dismissing a breach of contract complaint that involved the New Jersey Sales Representatives' Rights Act, getting our client – a financial institution – out of the case without discovery.
- We have been asked by local government units to file amicus briefs in important, tax-related public policy litigation.

ATTORNEYS

Key Contacts

Mathieu J. Shapiro

MANAGING PARTNER
215.665.3014
mathieu.shapiro@obermayer.com

Vaishnavi Arshanapally

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3011
vaishnavi.arshanapally@obermayer.com

Alexander Barnes

PARTNER
215.665.3184
alexander.barnes@obermayer.com

Jeffrey S. Batoff

PARTNER
215.665.3064
jeffrey.batoff@obermayer.com

Ivo J. Becica

PARTNER
215.667.6335
ivo.becica@obermayer.com

Melissa M. Blanco

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3097
melissa.blanco@obermayer.com

Dove A.E. Burns

PARTNER
860.256.0745
dove.burns@obermayer.com

Tara Burns

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3056
tara.burns@obermayer.com

Walter W. Cohen

PARTNER
717.221.7920
walter.cohen@obermayer.com

Julie R. Colton

PARTNER
412.288.2474
julie.colton@obermayer.com

Michael F. Eichert

PARTNER
215.665.3274
michael.eichert@obermayer.com

Steven A. Haber

PARTNER
215.665.3253
steven.haber@obermayer.com

Samantha J. Koopman

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3045
Samantha.Koopman@obermayer.com

William J. Leonard

PARTNER
215.665.3228
william.leonard@obermayer.com

Melissa A. Maione

ASSOCIATE
215.665.2921
melissa.maione@obermayer.com

Henry J. Noye

PARTNER
215.665.3196
henry.noye@obermayer.com

Stacey L. Pitcher

PARTNER
860.256.0744
stacey.pitcher@obermayer.com

Melissa A. Scacchitti

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3103
melissa.scacchitti@obermayer.com

Leslie B. Spoltore

PARTNER
302.274.3062
leslie.spoltore@obermayer.com

Daniel P. Finegan

PARTNER
215.665.3166
daniel.finegan@obermayer.com

Andrew J. Horowitz

PARTNER
412.288.2461
Andrew.Horowitz@obermayer.com

Lars J. Lederer

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3188
lars.lederer@obermayer.com

Elizabeth K. Lilienthal

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3224
elizabeth.lilienthal@obermayer.com

Joseph J. McGovern

PARTNER
215.665.3058
Joseph.McGovern@obermayer.com

Matthew S. Olesh

PARTNER
215.665.3043
matthew.olesh@obermayer.com

Nicholas Poduslenko

PARTNER
215.665.3256
np@obermayer.com

W. Patrick Scott

PARTNER
215.665.3003
patrick.scott@obermayer.com

Tricia A. Swann

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3266
tricia.swann@obermayer.com

Bruce C. Fox

PARTNER
412.288.2462
bruce.fox@obermayer.com

W. Frank Johnson, Jr.

ASSOCIATE
267.675.4978
frank.johnson@obermayer.com

Thomas A. Leonard III

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
215.665.3220
thomas.leonard@obermayer.com

Paige Macdonald-Matthes

PARTNER
717.221.1609
pmm@obermayer.com

Hillary J. Moonay

PARTNER
215.606.0755
hillary.moonay@obermayer.com

Raymond A. Petruccelli

ASSOCIATE
610.234.4873
raymond.petruccelli@obermayer.com

Michelle L. Ringel

ASSOCIATE
856.857.1423
Michelle.Ringel@obermayer.com

Charles L. Shute Jr.

OF COUNSEL
215.665.3026
charles.shute@obermayer.com

Lawrence J. Tabas

PARTNER
215.665.3158
lawrence.tabas@obermayer.com

Adam Tanker

PARTNER
215.606.0754
Adam.Tanker@obermayer.com

George C. Thompson

ASSOCIATE
412.209.1326
George.Thompson@obermayer.com

Michael D. Vagnoni

PARTNER
215.665.3066
michael.vagnoni@obermayer.com

Robert I Whitelaw

OF COUNSEL
215.665.3206
robert.whitelaw@obermayer.com

Edvard Wilson

ASSOCIATE
215.665.3240
edvard.wilson@obermayer.com

Brett Wiltsey

PARTNER
856.857.1435
brett.wiltsey@obermayer.com

RELATED CAPABILITIES

Adoption

Child & Spousal Support

Commercial Litigation

Custody

Divorce

Domestic Abuse

Employment Litigation

Local Governments & Municipal Authorities

Mediation

Name Change

Paternity

Transparency and Public Data