



Zielinski, Richard J.

Position: Partner

Contact

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Mailing Address

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Location

Buffalo, New York

Practice Areas

- [Appellate Advocacy](#)
- [General Litigation](#)
- [Insurance Solutions](#)
- [Product Liability, Fire & Life Sciences](#)

Admissions

New York, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York; U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York; U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of New York ; United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit



Biography

Richard concentrates his practice on civil defense litigation, with a focus on complex litigation, insurance coverage, labor law, contractual disputes, products liability, and premises liability. Richard's experience in defense litigation is extensive, having worked in-house for a J.D. Power –ranked insurance company, where he represented the company and its insureds in a wide range of matters, from tort defense to contract disputes.

Trial advocacy has been Richard's passion and the cornerstone of his career. In September 2020, he tried the first case to go to trial in Erie County since the pandemic. Adapting to new physical requirements and protective health measures reaffirmed the importance of flexibility and quick thinking in his legal practice.

When not in the courtroom, Richard enjoys spending time with his wife and their two children, running, and playing ice hockey.

Education

- SUNY at Buffalo Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2015
- Buffalo State College, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2012

Honors

- Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Stars 2019-2026

Professional Leadership

- New York State Bar Association
- Charles S. Desmond Inn of Court



Representative Matters

- Successfully secured partial summary judgment in a Southern District of New York insurance coverage action arising from a premises liability lawsuit involving a Verizon technician injured during WiFi installation. The court held that the co-insurer owed the building owner a duty to defend, but no duty to indemnify, finding that the injury occurred in a non-leased basement area to which the tenant lacked free access and which was not necessary for the tenant's use or enjoyment of the demised premises.

Presentations

- CLE Course, Bar Association of Erie County - The Basics of Litigating a Motor Vehicle Case