

James W. Christie

Senior Counsel

Mediator/Arbitrator/Trial Consultant

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Education:

Ph.D., 1974, University of Pennsylvania

J.D., 1968, Harvard Law School

B.A., 1965, Yale University



James Christie, a co-founder of Christie & Young PC, has practiced for over forty years, primarily in the civil trial arena, including a wide variety of matters – construction, commercial, professional liability (attorneys, accountants, engineers, brokers and architects), insurance coverage, employment and personal injury litigation. His practice is now limited to representation of attorneys in liability/disciplinary matters; mediation and arbitration of Pennsylvania and New Jersey cases, and Trial Consultant.

Throughout his legal career, Jim has tried a large number of complex cases to verdict in the federal and state courts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. He has also represented clients in the state Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Arkansas; in the Second and Third Circuit Court of Appeals; and in the intermediate appellate courts in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. He has substantial experience in arbitration, mediation and alternative dispute resolution matters, both as a lawyer representing clients, and as a mediator and arbitrator. He is recognized as a “lawyer’s-lawyer,” having represented attorneys in front of the Disciplinary Board of Pennsylvania as well as those in disputes involved in joining and leaving law firms. He has served as an expert witness in insurance coverage and professional responsibility matters in both state and federal courts in Pennsylvania. And he regularly lectures to law firms and county bar associations about risk avoidance, professional ethics, professional responsibility and disciplinary matters.

Jim has successfully resolved commercial disputes, shareholder and partner controversies, civil rights issues, and cases involving malpractice. He has represented municipal organizations and their employees in employment-related, civil rights matters; public transportation disputes; casino license; and law enforcement issues. He has also litigated cases based on Title VII, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and state counterparts.

He has counseled employer clients on the hiring and termination of employees; discrimination and sexual harassment matters; and the negotiation and drafting of employment agreements, employer handbooks, and confidentiality agreements. He has substantial experience in employee benefit disputes with an emphasis on welfare benefit plans, including legal issues with respect to HIPPA, all aspects of ERISA, the Internal Revenue Code, and the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

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Perhaps, most importantly, Jim has developed the tools to evaluate objectively the risks and likelihood of a jury or bench-trial verdict, and has successfully advised clients about how, when, and why they should consider settling litigation.

In recognition of his experience and accomplishments, Jim was elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers, membership in which is limited to one percent of the total lawyer population of the United States and Canada. In 2018, he was elected to the American Law Institute, the leading U.S. organization producing scholarly work to clarify and improve the law.

Admitted to Practice:

- Pennsylvania
- New York
- New Jersey
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Third Circuits
- United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey

Practice Areas:

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Disputes
- Insurance Coverage
- Products Liability
- Legal Ethics
- Employment Law
- ERISA
- Civil Rights

Honors:

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers (2002 – Present)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (2006 - 2018)
- American Law Institute (2018)

Professional Organizations and Appointments:

- American Bar Association – National Legal Malpractice Data Center
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association – Professional Liability Committee; ADR Committee
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- Association of the Bar of New York City
- FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority) — arbitrator approved

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Experience as Mediator/Arbitrator:

- 2009 – present – – served as an arbitrator on three – person panels in Philadelphia CCP cases;
- 2014 – present – – served as a judge pro tem (mediator) for the Dispute Resolution Center (Philadelphia CCP);
- 2017 – present – – served as a federal arbitrator in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania;
- May 2018 – present – – served as an arbitrator in FINRA's dispute resolution program.