

BONNER KIERNAN

BONNER KIERNAN TREBACH & CROCIATA LLP



Joseph S. Crociata

Partner

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Mr. Crociata is a Founding Partner of the Firm, and as one of the Firm's senior trial attorneys, he has been recognized as "AV rated" by Martindale-Hubbell. He has tried dozens of matters to verdict in New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Alaska and the District of Columbia, has specially appeared in cases throughout the continental United States.

He has defended railroads in employee/FELA and third-party/passenger bodily injury and property claims for over twenty-five years, and heads the firm's rail litigation practice. The cases he has tried for passenger and freight carriers have arisen from the operation of major passenger terminals, the design and operation of escalators and motorized vehicles, as well as all aspects of the maintenance and operation of trains and rail, including issues relating to derailments and crossing accidents. In addition, he has tried and litigated numerous cases involving allegations of injury based upon ergonomic theories such as "repetitive stress," "worn body syndrome" and "whole body vibration."

Mr. Crociata has decades of experience in the defense of national clients in the hospitality industry. He has defended cases involving simple premises issues and motor vehicle liability, more complex matters arising from outbreaks of food- and water-borne pathogens, and serious bodily injury and trauma due to breaches of security or negligent use of force upon arrest.

Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Aviation / Airline Legal Liability
Construction and Construction Defect Employment
Insurance Coverage and Reinsurance
Premises / Landlord Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability
Railroad / Federal Employers' Liability Act
Trial and Appellate Practice

Education

Washington College of Law of the American University, J.D., 1982
State University of New York at Brockport, B.A., 1979

Bar and Court Admissions

District of Columbia Court of Appeals
Maryland Court of Appeals

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Mr. Crociata is a member of the firm's construction litigation group, and has litigated contractual disputes between contractors and site owners arising from environmental and nuclear remediation projects. He has also litigated extracontractual claims and remedies, including cases involving allegations of fraud, and negligent or intentional misrepresentation. He also has extensive experience in the litigation and trial of insurance disputes.

He also defends and counsels employers on the handling and litigation of employee claims for wrongful discharge, discrimination and harassment and has appeared before administrative agencies and courts on their behalf. Mr. Crociata has practiced before the EEOC, the Maryland Human Relations Commission and the Commonwealth of Virginia Human Rights Commission. In addition to his litigation-related activities, he has written or revised employment manuals for national telecommunications companies and charitable associations.

A licensed pilot since 1972, Mr. Crociata practiced exclusively for a time in the defense of aviation product and professional liability actions, insurance coverage cases and general aviation tort matters. He was also active in the litigation and trial of matters involving allegations of airline legal liability, as well as those arising from airport operations. He has defended domestic and international carriers from claims of passenger bodily injury, cargo loss and delay, and has also participated in the defense of product claims against maintainers and remanufacturers of components of transport-category aircraft.

Mr. Crociata has been retained to serve on arbitration panels resolving major commercial and contractual disputes, whose awards have been uniformly upheld on appeal. He has also served as counsel before arbitration panels in insurance matters. He has served as a court-appointed mediator and arbiter for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he has also served as a trainer and evaluator of attorney/mediators.

United States District Court
for the Northern District of
Illinois

Northern District of Illinois
Trial Bar

United States District Court
for the District of Columbia

United States District Court
for the District of Maryland

United States District Court
for the Northern District of
New York

United States Court of
Appeals for the District of
Columbia Circuit

United States Court of
Appeals for the Seventh
Circuit

United States Court of
Appeals for the Fourth
Circuit

United States Court of
Appeals for the First Circuit
Supreme Court of Illinois

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Professional & Community Affiliations

American Bar Association

Chicago Bar Association

Bar Association of the District of Columbia

District of Columbia Defense Lawyers Association

National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel

Defense Research Institute

Lawyer/Pilots' Bar Association