

MICHAEL A. MALIA, ESQ., LL.M.

EXPERIENCE

Michael joined Peri & Stewart, LLC as a partner in 2017. Before joining the firm, Michael litigated and tried to verdict sophisticated fraud scheme lawsuits, defended personal injury cases, handled other complex litigation, and counseled clients on appropriately tailored litigation and trial strategies. He was previously a partner at a New Jersey law firm where he managed civil litigation from initial filing through jury verdict and appeal. Michael was formerly a trial attorney for the Philadelphia-based corporate law department of a Fortune 500 insurance company.

Michael is a seasoned trial attorney with diverse first chair experience, trying more than 50 cases. He has taken jury trials to verdict in 9 of the 21 counties encompassing North, Central and South Jersey. Michael acted as lead trial counsel, successfully representing plaintiff insurance companies in a six-month trial, resulting in multimillion dollar judgments against ten defendants- Allstate New Jersey Ins. Co., et al. and the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance v. Gregorio Lajara, et al. Michael has extensive experience representing clients, from individuals to Fortune 100 companies, in varied complex lawsuits and disputes, including:

- Fraud suits: insurance, healthcare, financial and consumer.
- Commercial litigation.
- Personal injury cases.
- Insurance coverage matters.

Over the past several years, Michael has developed a passion for helping parents of children who are bullied, representing them in their struggle with the public and private schools who should be protecting the victim, but have failed to do so. He calls this part of his practice the most personally rewarding. Michael has represented families in education law matters in negotiating with schools, as well as before boards of education, administrative law judges and in civil litigation. He is proud to stand up for students in their hard fought battles with school districts (See <https://www.app.com/story/news/education/2018/08/01/point-beach-high-activists-win-their-first-fight-being-recognized/864681002/>). Michael was nominated to New Jersey's Best Lawyers for Families 2018 and 2019 in several categories, including Anti-Bullying Law. Michael has represented individuals in bullying and special education law cases as a long-time volunteer attorney for the Volunteer Lawyers for Justice (VLJ). On June 8, 2017, he was the guest speaker at the VLJ's Summer Soiree to benefit the Children's Representation Program held at the Essex Fells Country Club (See <http://www.vljnj.org/news/2017/7/18/second-annual-summer-soiree-success>). The VLJ also invited Michael to participate in its volunteer and client testimony video, directed by an Academy Award nominated documentary filmmaker (See 02:57 of the video found at <http://www.vljnj.org/vlj-takes-cases-and-changes-lives>).

BOARD CERTIFICATIONS/HONORS

Michael is triple board certified: Certified by the Supreme Court of New Jersey as a Civil Trial Attorney; Certified in Civil Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy; and Certified in Civil Pretrial Practice Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has been selected to the Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent Peer Rated Lawyer list, the New Jersey Super Lawyers list for 2018 and 2019, and the New Jersey Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 (See <https://www.martindale.com/fairfield/new-jersey/michael-anthony-malia-2160930-a/> and <https://profiles.superlawyers.com/new-jersey/fairfield/>

lawyer/michael-a-malia/bd88d8d8-266d-4fe1-9e43-0efe81af3860.html). He is also a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society (See <http://www.litcounsel.org/about/overview/>).

After accepting a membership invitation from the Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance, Michael completed the CLM's 2015 Litigation Management Institute (LMI) hosted at Columbia Law School. The National Board of Trial Advocacy asked him to draft examination questions and grade answers of lawyers seeking to become Board Certified in Civil Trial Law. He is a court-appointed arbitrator in Ocean County.

Michael has lectured at training programs on a variety of subjects ranging from litigation/trial strategy to direct and cross-examination of experts. Additional engagements encompassed: being an instructor at the New Jersey Defense Association's (NJDA) Annual Trial College; speaking at NJICLE's Seminar, Hot Topics in Special Education Law in 2018; presenting at the New Jersey Special Investigators Association's Annual Anti Insurance Fraud Training Seminar; moderating and serving as a panelist for the NJDA's ADR seminar; and speaking at the NJDA's Annual Convention. At the NJDA's Annual Convention in Lake Placid in June 2018, Michael was installed as President-Elect of the NJDA for the 2018-2019 term; and is in line to be President during the 2019-2020 term. Michael is also currently the Editor-in-Chief of the New Jersey Defense, as well as Chair of the NJDA's ADR and Fraud Committees, the latter which he founded. He was Secretary/Treasurer and Chair of the NJDA's Finance Committee during the 2017-2018 term. Michael served on the NJDA's Board of Directors from 2015 to 2017. He is a member of the Defense Research Institute (DRI) and the New Jersey State Bar Association. Michael attended the 2019 DRI Leadership Conference in Chicago.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Uncovering Fraud in the Referral Relationship II," New Jersey Defense, Spring Issue (2017)
- "Uncovering Fraud in the Referral Relationship," New Jersey Defense, Volume 29, Issue 3 (2014)
- "The Appellate Division Slays the Bad Faith Dragon in UM Lawsuit," New Jersey Defense, Volume 28, Issue 2 (2013)
- "None the Wiser: The Law Division's Split Decisions on Whether Outstanding Medical Bills are Admissible in Minimum PIP Cases," New Jersey Defense, Volume 27, Issue 3 (2012)
- "The Appellate Division Stifles Fraud Discovery in Suspicious PIP Disputes," New Jersey Defense, Volume 26, Issue 2 (2010)
- "Still No Bootstrapping Allowed: The Supreme Court in Agha Reinforces the Brun Holding," New Jersey Defense, Volume 25, Issue 3 (2009)
- "Pardo No Longer a Plaintiff's Sword: Jury to Decide Whether a Herniation is a Permanent Injury," New Jersey Defense, Volume 25, Issue 1 (2009)

EDUCATION

Michael is an honors graduate of the University of Scranton and received his law degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In addition, Michael received an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy from the Temple University Beasley School of Law.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Michael is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, New York state court and the Supreme Court of the United States.