



## Joseph A. Manno

### Partner

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Joe Manno defends companies against claims alleging federal and state statutory liability, product liability, and general negligence in repeat, mass tort, and individual high stakes litigation.

In his human rights practice, Joe serves on the national and trial counsel teams defending international hotel franchisees and franchisors in cases alleging liability involving alleged human and sex trafficking. These claims often require the defense of allegations based on diverse liability theories including: Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO), the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Act, and general tort. Joe is experienced in all facets of human rights litigation, from discovery, expert work-up, mediation, and trial.

In his product liability practice, Joe has defended a wide array of products, including snowmobiles, golf cars, medical devices, HVAC equipment, refrigerant press fittings, electrical equipment, paints, electronic cigarettes and vaporizers, hose fittings, and chemicals. Joe also leads national counsel teams defending personal injury claims related to escalators and elevators in hotels, casinos, arenas, and shopping centers throughout the country.

Though Joe has deep experience in all facets of litigation, he is known for his ability to quickly develop expertise in specialized statutory frameworks, product engineering and design, science, and medicine, making him a key strategic partner on numerous and varied national counsel teams. For repeat litigation, Joe has a heightened appreciation for the value of a consistent but nimble national strategy in case work-up, discovery (both offensive and defensive), and legal issues and implements those strategies through effective (and winning) trial themes. Joe devotes over half his practice in federal courts across the country.

When not traveling on client matters, Joe and his wife Natalie have their hands full with their two young children, who frequently try to make appearances on Zoom meetings.

### **Education**

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- The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., summa cum laude, 2014); Akron Law Review, Articles Editor
- The University of Akron (B.S., magna cum laude, 2011); University Honors Scholar

### **State Admissions**

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- Ohio, 2014
- Pennsylvania, 2020

### **Federal Admissions**

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- United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio

### **Service Areas**

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- Mass Tort & Product Liability
- Maritime
- Fire Litigation
- Hospitality

### **Experience**

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- Defense jury verdict in Pennsylvania product liability/personal injury wrongful death case
- Defended national hotel brand and operator in an 11-plaintiff jury trial involving RICO, negligence, and TVPRA liability theories (resolved prior to verdict)
- Obtained multiple dismissals and affirmations on appeal for a national elevator manufacturer and servicer in product liability and negligence cases
- Hung jury in product liability/property damage fire case
- Managed and defended to resolution more than 100 Longshore claims against a Great Lakes vessel owner involving single occurrence in federal court in Wisconsin
- Oversaw the defense of thousands of mass tort claims against an HVAC manufacturer as a member of its national coordinating counsel team (led product training, motion strategy, expert development, and all facets of exit strategies) in state and federal courts across the country

## Publications & Events

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### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Beyond the Headlines: Practical Strategies to Prevent and Respond to Labor Trafficking Risk in Light of Recent Litigation,” Tucker Ellis 2025 In-House Counsel Summit, Cleveland, Ohio (October 2025)
- “Ethical Emailing,” Tucker Ellis Ohio Professional Conduct Program, Cleveland, Ohio (December 2015)

### PUBLICATIONS

- “Understanding Labor Trafficking Laws as Litigation Surges,” Reuters, *Westlaw Today* (August 2025)
- “Accessing Health Data From Smart Devices in Personal Injury Litigation,” *Legaltech News*, law.com (April 2025)
- “Stubborn Facts Can Make Bad Pleadings,” *OACTA Quarterly Review* (Summer 2021)
- “Don’t Let License Rules Snuff Out Your Fire Expert,” *Law360* (May 2019)
- “That Which We Call ‘Any Exposure’ by Any Other Name Would Smell as Rotten: The Transmogrification of the ‘Any Exposure’ Opinion,” *DRI’s For The Defense* (November 2018)
- “*Schwartz v. Honeywell* – A Dead-End on the Detour from Dose,” American Bar Association, Section of Litigation, Mass Torts Litigation Committee (August 2018)

### Honors

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- Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Stars® (2020–2024)

### In the Community

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- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association
- Ohio State Bar Association
- Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Time Well Spent Honor Society