

# John J. Connolly

Partner

John J. Connolly represents individuals and business entities in civil litigation and appellate matters.

He often represents lawyers and law firms in legal malpractice claims, disciplinary proceedings, and ethical disputes. He also advises lawyers and law firms on a range of legal ethics issues, including potential conflicts and confidentiality issues in civil and criminal contexts. John currently serves as a general counsel to the firm.

John has represented individuals and businesses in business torts, insurance coverage disputes, constitutional torts, securities and consumer class actions, shareholder disputes, employment disputes, and a variety of common law contract and tort actions in federal and state courts.

John is co-editor of *InsightZS*, a legal blog dedicated to thoughtful discourse on emerging litigation and investigations issues of the day. He is also the editor of two books on the Maryland Constitution and the author of numerous articles focusing on legal and judicial ethics and Maryland statutory and common law. He has given presentations on legal ethics and Maryland legal history.

An experienced appellate litigator, John is recognized in that area by *The Best Lawyers in America*. He was first listed in the Maryland edition of Super Lawyers in 2007. In 2015, he was elected as a member of the American Law Institute, and he is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

## Professional leadership

- Board of Trustees, Historical Committee, U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- Member, American Law Institute, 2015
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation, 2015

## Recognitions

- The Best Lawyers in America, Appellate Practice; Commercial Litigation; Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law; Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants
- Super Lawyers (Maryland)



## Baltimore

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## Practice focus

- Legal Profession and Ethics
- Business Litigation
- Pro Bono

## Education

- University of Maryland School of Law, J.D., with honors, 1991
  - Order of the Coif
  - Articles Editor, *The Maryland Law Review*
- University of Virginia, B.A., with high distinction, 1981

## Languages



ZUCKERMAN  
SPAEDER

- DC Courts, Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2022
- Daniel M. Gribbon Pro Bono Advocacy Award, 2011
- Maryland Bar Foundation, Legal Excellence Award, 2011

### **Bar admissions**

- Maryland
- District of Columbia

### **Court admissions**

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

### **Clerkships**

- Hon. Lawrence F. Rodowsky, Court of Appeals of Maryland

### **Representative matters**

- Represented a number of lawyers in proceedings before state and federal disciplinary agencies, including the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, in matters that have never become public.
- Represented national, regional, and local law firms in malpractice actions and counseled law firms on ethical obligations in pending litigation matters.
- Represented owners of closely held corporation in disputes with co-owner.
- Represented automobile dealership in defense of class action complaints.
- Represented a national pharmacy chain in defense of thousands of suits by state and local governments to recover costs alleged to have been caused by the shipment and dispensing of prescription opioids.
- Represented lawyers in business disputes with their firms



- Counseled law firms who have received civil and criminal subpoenas for client information.
- Counseled law firms facing motions to disqualify.
- Counseled lawyers and law firms on a range of ethical issues.
- Represented major shareholder in investment fund in disputes with fund management
- Represented executive in trade secrets litigation.
- Represented one of the country's largest privately held retailers of alcoholic beverages in constitutional and statutory challenges to state licensing regulations.
- Represented, since 2005, individuals detained by the U.S. military at Guantanamo Bay and at Bagram Air Force Base.

