

Patrick J. Bernal

Partner

Overview

Patrick navigates highly complex cases, providing his clients with services including trial and appellate advocacy, and pre-litigation dispute resolution. He provides businesses of all sizes with employment-law advice, and also helps his clients resolve disputes with insurance companies. Patrick regularly handles class-action and multi-party lawsuits.

Patrick previously worked with several east coast law firms, gaining experience with a range of legal areas including employment, insurance coverage, environmental claims, securities fraud, and qui tam suits. He has appeared in state and federal proceedings in California, Colorado, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

Experience

- Recovered a \$1 million jury verdict for a property-owner client, in an appeal of an eminent domain decision by a public utility board. The board had originally awarded Patrick's clients only \$25,000.
- Represented an insurance company client in successfully appealing a trial-court decision, which had required it to pay the entirety of a judgment against a contractor held responsible for significant head injuries to a high-school basketball star. The appellate court reversed, agreeing with Patrick's client's argument that the insurance policy should be found void *ab initio* based on the insured's fraud in its insurance application.
- Successfully prosecuted an insurance-coverage claim through all stages of litigation, including appeal to the Vermont Supreme Court. The Supreme Court agreed with Patrick's municipal client that its insurer was required to cover the full value of money embezzled by a former treasurer, including the interest that the town had lost from being deprived of its money for decades.
- Helped a manufacturer client secure a dismissal with no cost, after it was alleged to have caused the fatality of a truckdriver burned to death by molten mulch. The court agreed with Patrick's client's argument that it was not proximately responsible for the fatality. Instead, the action was settled by other defendants for an eight-figure amount.



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Industries

Food & Beverage

Practices

Class Action, Collective Action &
Multidistrict Litigation

Commercial Litigation

Labor & Employment Relations
Litigation

Workplace Safety & Health

Professional Activities

- Member, Federal Bar Association

Education

- Boston College Law School, Juris Doctor (J.D.), 2004
- Colby College, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), *magna cum laude*, 2001

Admissions

- Colorado
- New York
- Vermont
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York
- United States District Court, Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court, District of Vermont
- Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- United States District Court, District of Colorado

Related News

EVENT

May 21, 2019
31st Annual Labor & Employment Relations Law Seminar

PUBLICATION

January 11, 2019
U.S. Supreme Court Rejects “Wholly Groundless” Exception Which Had Limited Enforcement of Arbitration Agreements

PUBLICATION

November 27, 2018
Expanded PFAS Monitoring Requirements on the Horizon for Many Water Utilities

NEWS

August 20, 2018
Michael Best Expands with Combination of Modus Law