

Joseph G. Petrosinelli

Partner

Joe Petrosinelli is the Chairman of Williams & Connolly and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. He is also Co-Chair of the firm's Products Liability practice group. Joe has tried numerous civil and criminal cases in federal and state courts, has been lead counsel in several significant U.S. and international arbitrations, and has represented clients in litigation and investigations matters in Europe, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Joe's civil practice focuses on products liability, mass tort/class action, and complex commercial litigation. He has represented manufacturers and suppliers of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, industrial equipment, military hardware and technology, and various other products in litigation and arbitration matters across the United States and internationally. He also has represented various companies in large contract and other commercial disputes.

In his government investigations and criminal defense practice, Joe represents clients in a wide variety of matters, including federal grand jury proceedings, trial and appellate work in federal and state courts, and international or cross-border investigations. He has defended both individuals and corporations against allegations of mail and wire fraud, false claims, government contracts fraud, FCPA violations, public corruption, healthcare fraud, and securities violations. He and two of his partners successfully represented the petitioner before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Cleveland v. United States*, 531 U.S. 12 (2000), a leading case on the interpretation of the federal mail and wire fraud statutes.

Joe has been recognized or ranked in numerous legal publications, including *Benchmark Litigation* ("2018 Product Liability Attorney of the Year," "2018 Top 100 Trial Lawyers in America," and 2016-2019 "Litigation Star" in products liability), *Chambers USA* (listed as recommended for product liability and mass tort, nationwide, 2017-2018), *Legal 500* (leading lawyers in product liability and mass tort defense: pharmaceuticals and medical devices, 2017-2019), *Who's Who Legal* (named in Life Sciences and Product Liability Defense categories), *Washingtonian* magazine (Washington's Top Lawyers, 2017), *Washington D.C. Super Lawyers* (in civil litigation: defense), and other publications.

Joe has also been involved in the firm's sports law practice, and has represented athletes, professional clubs, and club executives in litigation and contract matters.

Joe was born and raised in Rhode Island. He received his B.A. from



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Education

Georgetown University Law Center,
J.D., magna cum laude, 1991:
Order of the Coif; Associate Editor,
Georgetown Law Journal
Brown University, A.B., 1988

Practice Focus

Arbitration
Civil Litigation and Trial Practice
Commercial Litigation
Congressional Investigations
Criminal Defense and Government
Investigations
False Claims Act and Qui Tam
Financial Services and Banking
Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
("FCPA")
International Disputes
Products Liability, Torts, and Medicine
Securities Enforcement
Securities Litigation
State Attorneys General Investigations

Recognitions

"Product Liability Attorney of the Year,"
Benchmark Litigation, 2018

Brown University in 1988 and his J.D., *magna cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center in 1991. He joined Williams & Connolly in September 1991. In addition to his current tenure on the firm's Executive Committee, he previously served on that Committee from 2005 to 2009. For many years, Joe has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches a course in trial practice focused on expert witnesses.

Representative Experience

Though all cases vary and none is predictive, Joe's experience includes:

- Lead counsel for Pfizer Inc. in two federal MDLs and associated state court proceedings alleging personal injury relating to Pfizer's medications Chantix and Viagra
- Lead global counsel for pharmaceutical manufacturer in connection with government criminal and civil litigation and parallel private civil lawsuits in the United States and Africa
- Lead resolution counsel for medical device company in connection with federal MDL and associated state coordinated proceedings alleging personal injury
- Represented individual and corporate defendants in two-month federal trial of complex commercial litigation alleging breach of contract, fraud, civil RICO, and other causes of action
- Represented foreign executive and his companies in connection with civil RICO lawsuit and parallel FCPA investigation
- Represented global pharmaceutical company in two-week ICDR commercial arbitration involving dispute over patent licensing agreement
- Represented major defense contractor in connection with federal False Claims Act investigation in which the government closed the investigation with no action against the company
- Represented Pfizer Inc., as lead trial counsel, in securities fraud class action resulting from decrease in stock price upon announcement of resolution of certain government investigations. Case was resolved one week before trial.
- Defended pesticide manufacturer in putative nationwide class action alleging property damage and economic loss in connection with pesticide use. Court denied class certification and later granted summary judgment for defendant.
- Represented defendant in two-week state court trial involving

"Top 100 Trial Lawyers," *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018

"National Litigation Star," *Benchmark Litigation*, 2018-2019

"Local Litigation Star," *Benchmark Litigation*, 2016-2019

"500 Leading Lawyers in America," *Lawdragon* magazine, 2019

"Leading Lawyer" in the category of Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense: Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, *Legal 500*, 2017-2019

"Products Liability & Mass Tort (Nationwide)," *Chambers USA*, 2017-2018

"Washington's Top Lawyers," in the category of Civil Defense, *Washingtonian* magazine, 2017-2018

"Life Science Star," *LMG Life Sciences*, 2017-2018

"Washington's Best Lawyers," *Washingtonian* magazine, 2007 and 2015

"45 Under Forty-Five: Rising Stars of the Private Bar," *The American Lawyer*, 2003

Admissions

District of Columbia
Maryland

United States Supreme Court
United States Court of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Eighth Circuits

allegations of theft of trade secrets and other claims. Jury returned verdict for defendant.

United States District Court for the
District of Columbia, District of
Maryland and Northern District of
New York

Resources

Publications

- *Daubert and Psychological Expert Testimony*, 2012
- *Litigation in Foreign Countries Against U.S. Companies*, 2009
- *The Admissibility of DNA Typing: A New Methodology*, December 1990