



CHRISTOPHER M. PLACITELLA

Christopher M. Placitella is a shareholder in the law firm and an accomplished trial lawyer with a nationwide reputation as one of the country's leading legal authorities on mass tort, class actions and asbestos related diseases. He represents individuals injured by defective products and drugs, toxic substances, and environmental damage.

Mr. Placitella is dedicated to working on behalf of victims of corporate misconduct, and this dedication has helped shape the direction of the firm and its values. A problem-solver by nature, he has devoted his career to helping change people's lives and obtaining justice for his clients.

Throughout his career, Mr. Placitella has advised numerous labor unions and consumer organizations across the country on occupational safety and health related issues, as well as educated the public on injuries caused by asbestos, defective drugs, and other toxic substances.

Mr. Placitella has developed an award-winning reputation for his commitment to those who have been harmed due to the wrongful conduct of others. His professional integrity and personal commitment to his clients and his community have provided him with local, regional, and national recognition for his work and service. He is continuously recognized by his peers for his contribution to mass tort litigation.

As a member of the plaintiffs' bar, Mr. Placitella is known for helping to establish a national asbestos litigation group dedicated to successfully and effectively representing individuals suffering from asbestos-related diseases and their families.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Syracuse College of Law, J.D.

(*cum laude*; Law Review and Legal Honor Society), 1981

Fordham University, B.S.

(*summa cum laude*), 1978

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey
- New York
- United States District Court, District of New Jersey
- United States District Court, Southern District of New York
- United States Supreme Court

LEGAL REPRESENTATIONS

- Member of Steering Committee, Multi-District Asbestos Litigation;
- Special Counsel to all State Court Litigants, National Diet Drug Litigation;
- Class Counsel, Johns Manville Class Action Litigation;
- Class Counsel, New Jersey Diet Drug Litigation;
- Member of Steering Committee, National 23 Multi-District TMJ litigation;
- Member of Steering Committee, National Rezulin Litigation;
- Lead Counsel, New Jersey Propulsid Litigation;
- Served as key member of the legal team representing the State of New Jersey against the tobacco industry and helped achieve the largest settlement in the history of New Jersey, totaling \$7.6 billion;
- Mr. Placitella assisted in negotiating what is believed to be the largest settlement in the nation involving a single company in a product liability case involving the diet drugs Pondimin® and Redux® - a \$3.75 billion settlement;
- Trial counsel in the largest consolidated asbestos trial in New York City history, and also obtained the largest punitive damage verdict against an asbestos company in New Jersey's history;

- Served as one of the lead trial counsel in the largest environmental tort settlement on behalf of individuals in New Jersey history, totaling \$38.5 million;
- As part of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, helped organize national pro bono effort to provide free legal assistance for families who lost loved ones in the 9/11 tragedy.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Named as a member of *'The Roundtable: America's 100 Most Influential Trial Lawyers,'* 2011;
- From 2005 to 2011, included in the list of *New Jersey Super Lawyers* by Thomson Reuters, based on peer review ratings;
- Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review AV®-rated lawyer, and included in *The Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers™* in the United States for 2011, published by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell®;
- 2001-2011, included in the list of *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the field(s) of Personal Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions – Plaintiffs, and Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs (Mass Tort, Occupational Disease, Toxic Tort), based on peer review ratings. (Copyright 2011 by Woodward/White, Inc., of Aiken, S.C.);
- Included in the list of *The National Law Journal's* 2005 'Top New Jersey Mass Tort Lawyers';
- Awarded with the 'Gold Medal for Distinguished Service' Award in 1997; the highest award that can be bestowed on a New Jersey trial attorney by his peers, for his dedication in fighting for the rights of victims of environmental pollution by The New Jersey Association for Justice;
- Received the "Pioneer Award" by Consumers for Civil Justice (New Jersey's largest consumer advocacy organization) for fighting for the rights of New Jersey consumers and tort victims;
- Presented the "Meritorious Service Award" by the New Jersey White Lung Association for his fight for the rights of asbestos victims;
- Nominated as National 'Trial Lawyer of the Year' for his work in representing lead-poisoned children.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- The Board of Governors of the American Association for Justice, Member;
- Leaders Forum American Association for Justice, Member;
- Consumers for Civil Justice, Counsel;
- New Jersey Trial Lawyers (now NJAJ), Former President (2001-2002);
- NJAJ PAC, Former Chair.

ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Christopher M. Placitella is the author of a bi-weekly newsletter, "The Mass Tort Update," and has published numerous articles on trial practice, mass tort class action, mesothelioma and asbestos litigation. Mr. Placitella's career has been commemorated a number of times in written works, including: *Poison Pills, The Untold Story of the Vioxx Drug Scandal*, Tom Nesi; *Dispensing with the Truth: The Victims, the Drug Companies, and the Dramatic Story Behind the Battle over Fen-Phen*, Alicia Mundy; *Civil Warriors, the Story of the Tobacco Litigation*, Dan Zeigart; *No Contest, Corporate Lawyers & the Perversion of Justice in America*, Ralph Nader;
- Christopher M. Placitella and Justin Placitella, *A Closer Look at Asbestos Cases*, TRIAL MAGAZINE, Nov. 2011 at 27;
- Christopher M. Placitella, *Why Are Mesothelioma Cases in New Jersey Still on the Rise*, NEW JERSEY LAWYER, Aug. 2011, at 16;
- Placitella & Klein, *The Civil Justice System Bridges the Great Divide in Consumer Protection*, 43 Duq. L. Rev. 219 (2005);
- Placitella & Darnell, *Beshada v. Johns Manville Products Corp.: Evolution or Revolution in Strict Products Liability*, 51 Fordham L. Rev. 801 (1983);
- Christopher M. Placitella, *9-11 The Agony and the Aftermath*, THE JOURNAL, Sept. 2011.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. Placitella volunteers his time to numerous consumer advocacy groups to fight for the rights of people who suffered because of corporate misconduct, including serving as Counsel for Consumers for Civil Justice. Mr. Placitella is also a founder of the Veterans Transition Initiative, and a trustee of the Holidays for the Homeless and Underprivileged, Inc. organization.