GOLDBERGSEGALLA



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Philadelphia

Newark

Manhattan

PRACTICES

Management and Professional Liability

Employment and Labor

Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

Corporate Law and Transactions

INDUSTRIES

Accounting and Consulting

Lawyers and Law Firms

Banking and Financial Services

Seth L. Laver

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

Seth L. Laver, Vice Chair of Goldberg Segalla's Accountants Professional Liability practice, devotes the majority of his practice to defending professionals, primarily representing accountants, attorneys, directors and officers, and design professionals. A trial attorney for nearly 20 years, Seth is admitted to practice in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York, but regularly counsels and represents professionals throughout the United States.

Seth's focus on professional liability includes counseling all professionals in how to minimize risk so that they might avoid litigation, and rigorously defending them when they cannot. He has successfully represented individuals and large professional firms, leveraging his extensive experience to custom fit legal strategies to each client's immediate needs and long-term goals. In a similar vein, Seth assists homeowners' associations and religious institutions. Whether it be a non-party subpoena or high-exposure lawsuit, Seth understands the concerns of professionals and helps to set them at ease in what can be an otherwise difficult journey.

Seth also has significant experience defending accountants, attorneys, and other professionals during disciplinary investigations and proceedings. He takes great pride in helping all professionals navigate through a broad range of ethics-related issues while incorporating risk-management strategies to improve practices moving forward. During the disciplinary process, Seth strives to alleviate the professional's apprehension through honest and open communication, and a clear explanation of the strategy, the execution, and the likely outcomes. In this fashion, Seth is a trusted partner to the professional during perhaps one of their greatest times of need.

An AV-rated attorney, Seth routinely publishes articles and lectures on trends impacting the professional liability and employment landscapes. He is a past chair of, and remains heavily active in, DRI's Professional Liability Committee. He is chair-elect of the ABA's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), having recently been appointed as a Vice Chair.

EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Professional Liability

- Successfully obtained dismissal on behalf of an attorney in an underlying workers' compensation claim in an excess exposure scenario
- Successfully obtained dismissal on behalf of an attorney alleged to have been responsible for his former client's unfortunate suicide
- Negotiated a nominal settlement of an accounting malpractice claim arising from the alleged failure to detect a multimillion-dollar embezzlement scheme orchestrated by the plaintiff's bookkeeper
- Obtained dismissal for an independent auditor in a $50 million securities fraud class action lawsuit by way of a 12(b)(6) motion, signaling a decisive win for the malpractice community
- Successfully applied the in *pari delicto* defense in favor of an auditor to defeat claims brought by the receiver of several insolvent insurance entities

Employment Liability

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- Negotiated a nominal settlement of a wrongful termination/retaliation claim on behalf of a town and its mayor
- Routinely evaluates non-compete and non-solicitation agreements and other post-employment covenants on behalf of employers in myriad industries
- Successfully negotiated a resolution of a wrongful termination, retaliation and age discrimination claim asserted against a university

HONORS & AWARDS

- AV Preeminent Peer-Review Rating (Martindale-Hubbell)
- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2027
- Pennsylvania *Super Lawyers*, Rising Stars, 2010–18

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- New York
- U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

EDUCATION

- Roger Williams University School of Law, J.D., 2004
- Franklin & Marshall College, B.A., 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association (ABA)
  - Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS)
    - *The Brief,* Editor
  - Professional Liability Insurance Committee:
    - Chair-Elect, 2022-23
    - Vice-Chair, 2020
    - Chair, Financial Services Subcommittee, 2019-present
- Center City Proprietors Association: Past Board Member
- Defense Research Institute (DRI), Professional Liability Committee:
  - Industry Chair, 2019-present
  - Chair, 2017-19
  - Vice Chair, 2015-17
  - Seminar Chair, 2013
- Professional Liability Underwriting Society

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Philadelphia Dragons Sports Association, Vice Chair
- Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia, Former Board of Directors
- Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Past Member, Committee for the Jewish Poor
- Louis D. Brandeis Law Society

PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS

PUBLICATIONS

- "Accountant-Owned Law Firms Could Blur Ethical Lines," *Law360*, February 7, 2025
- "Tis the Season for Closing Cases: Tips for Properly Closing a File," *Attorney Protective*, October 18, 2023
- "When Disciplinary and Malpractice Proceedings Collide," DRI's *For the Defense*, April 2022
- "Managing Your Law Practice and Avoiding Malpractice in the COVID-19 Environment, " April 2020
- "Not My Swan Song," DRI's *Riding the E&O Line* (Newsletter of the Professional Liability Committee), November 19, 2019
- "From the Chair: Appreciating the Wins ," DRI For the Defense, April 2019
- "Ugh Oh: Doctrine of In Pari Delicto Severely Restricted in Massachusetts" (Co-Author), DRI *Riding the E&O Line*, December 7, 2018
- ""Tis the Season … for Ethical Breaches?" *AttPro Ally*, Fall 2017
- "Partnership Estoppel: How Resourceful Attorneys Create Unwanted Liability" (Co-Author), DRI *Riding the E&O Line*, August 8, 2017
- "Attorneys: Be a Watchdog for Your Accountant Clients" (Co-Author), DRI *The Voice*, March 29, 2017
- "3 Cases That Clarify When to Call Your Malpractice Insurer" (Quoted) *Law360*, September 28, 2016
- "Risk Management Tips for Attorneys Serving as Local Counsel" (Co-Author), *Law360*, August 19, 2016
- "Why Big Law May Be In Big Trouble After Data Breaches" (Quoted), *Law360*, March 31, 2016
- "Ethical Implications of Posting Video Depositions Online" (Co-Author), *PLUS Journal*, January 2016
- "5 Ways to Avoid the Hidden Ethical Dangers of Client Gifts" (Quoted), *Law360*, February 23, 2015
- "Foley Atty in High Court Row May Have Broken Ethics Rules" (Quoted), *Law360*, February 23, 2015
- "The Case of the Missing Insured: A Tricky Variation On the Consent to Settle" (Co-Author), *Westlaw Journal Insurance Coverage*, January 30, 2014
- "Legal Malpractice Standard: When Former Client Fails to Appeal Unfavorable Judgment in the Underlying Action and Sues the Lawyer Instead" (Co-Author), DRI *Riding the E&O Line*, December 19, 2014
- "Home Is Where the Office Is: Ethical Implications of the Virtual Office" (Co-Author), ABA *Professional Liability Newsletter*, Spring 2014
- "When Is It Criminal to Issue a Subpoena? The Intersection of Subpoena Practice and the Unauthorized Practice of Law" (Co-Author), DRI *For the Defense*, October 2013

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- "Leader Spotlight" (Featured) DRI *The Voice*, August 28, 2013
- "Ohio Weighs In: Texting Prospective Clients," DRI *For the Defense*, June 2013
- "Fantasy Sports: A Real Game-Changer for Employers" (Co-Author), *Lehigh Valley Business*, November 16, 2012
- "Fortifying the Law Firm: Understanding and Protecting Against Cyber Risk," DRI *For the Defense*, July 2012
- "Bernie Madoff and Auditor Liability: Emerging Trends and Defenses," DRI *Riding the E&O Line*, March 15, 2012
- "Social Media-Related Lawsuits Are Rising; Are You Prepared?" *Philadelphia Business Journal*, January 13, 2012
- "Sputtering Housing Market Makes Fertile Ground for Real Estate Professional Liability Claims," DRI *Riding the E&O Line*, November 22, 2011
- "Effective Client Reporting: A Lawyer's Best Friend," *The Legal Intelligencer*, March 31, 2011
- "Joint Defense Agreements: A Primer," *The Legal Intelligencer*, June 2010
- "When Employees Go Bad," *The Legal Intelligencer*, October 2009
- "Dropping the Nickel in a Civil Context," September 2007

PRESENTATIONS

- "What Lies Beneath: Identifying Potential Legal Malpractice Exposure," Attorney Protective, October 18, 2023
- "The Buck Stops Here: Liability and Non-Lawyers" (Co-Presenter), Professional Liability Seminar, New York, NY, December 6, 2019
- "Danger Zones: Preventing Legal Malpractice In Everyday Practice," Attorney Protective, November 20, 2019
- "Risk Management: Help Me, Help You," PICPA, King of Prussia, PA, November 2, 2017

WEBINARS

- "Tips for Identifying Potential Legal Malpractice Exposure," Attorney Protective, October 23, 2024
- "Danger Zones: Preventing Legal Malpractice in Everyday Practice," (Co-Presenter), *Attorney Pro*, December 12, 2018