

Jen Leonardi

She | Her | Hers

Partner

Buffalo

P: 716.858.3789

jleonardi@barclaydamon.com

Education

- Villanova University School of Law, JD
- Canisius College, *Summa Cum Laude*, BA

Practices & Industries

- Mass & Toxic Torts
- Torts & Products Liability Defense

Admitted to Practice

- New York

Court Admissions

- US District Court for the Western District of New York

Biography

Jen concentrates her practice on defending individuals and companies against claims in environmental-exposure litigation, products liability, workers' compensation, and general negligence.

Jen actively defends asbestos and lead-paint claims, representing manufacturers, suppliers, contractors, and site owners in all NYS courts and in the US District Court for the Western District of New York. She routinely conducts lead examination for defendants at depositions in asbestos-related lawsuits, coordinates with asbestos and lead-paint experts, and has successfully argued motions for summary judgment and negotiated numerous settlements and voluntary dismissals.

From pre-suit discovery through trial and resolution, Jen has extensive experience handling all aspects of litigated matters, and is also skilled in negotiating settlements, when appropriate.

In addition to her practice, Jen is a member of the firm's Opportunity, Inclusion & Belonging Partner Committee and serves as pro bono partner.

Bar Associations

- Bar Association of Erie County
- Minority Bar Association of Western New York Criminal Justice Reform Task Force
- New York State Bar Association
- Women’s Bar Association of New York State

Selected Memberships & Affiliations

- Barclay Damon’s Women’s Forum

Representative Experience

- Defended a property owner at trial in lead-paint action.
- Awarded summary judgment on behalf of various clients, including equipment manufacturers, suppliers, and contractors in asbestos claims. Motions were decided on various grounds, including lack of product identification, statute of limitations, and the second injury rule, among others.
- Negotiated numerous voluntary dismissals for various clients in asbestos-related actions.
- Coordinates with various experts in asbestos and lead-paint-related claims to defend actions at trial and/or negotiate settlements when appropriate.
- Acts as defense liaison counsel in various asbestos cases throughout the Seventh and Eight Judicial Districts. This involves close contact with the courts and co-defendants relative to selection of trial dates and defense needs as the litigation progresses.
- Obtained summary judgment for a roofing manufacturer in a living mesothelioma case with only two viable defendants and a settlement demand of over $1 million, saving the client the cost of trial and a potentially large adverse verdict.

Prior Experience

- Damon Morey LLP, Partner
- Gibson, McAskill & Crosby LLP, Law Clerk
- Gielowski, Federice & Caligiuri, LLP, Associate

Selected Community Activities

- Daemen College Paralegal Studies Program, Board of Directors Member
- Special Olympics, Volunteer
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Volunteer

Selected Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®: Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants, 2025–2027; Product Liability Litigation – Defendants, 2024–2027
- Selected to *Super Lawyers* Upstate New York: Civil Litigation—Defense, 2023–2026
- Erie County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project, Pro Bono Coordinator Award, 2025
- *City & State New York*, Above & Beyond: Social Services List, 2024
- Selected to *Super Lawyers* Upstate New York Rising Stars: Civil Litigation—Defense, 2013–2017, 2019–2020

Selected Speaking Engagements

- American Conference Institute 23rd National Forum on Asbestos Claims & Litigation, “The Science and Theories of Liability Behind ‘Each and Every’, ‘Single Fiber’, and ‘Cumulative” Exposure’”

Selected Media

- Law360 Pulse, "Barclay Damon Partners Talk 100% Pro Bono Participation"
- *Villanova Environmental Law Journal*, “It’s Still Here! The Continuing Battle Over Asbestos in America”

Selected Alerts & Blog Posts

- NYS Appellate Court Confirms Low Threshold for Specific Causation Evidence in Toxic Tort Cases
- Appellate Division Affirms Victory for Insurers by Precluding Claims Representative's Testimony
- US Supreme Court Strikes Down "Bare Metal" Defense and Expands Manufacturers' Duty to Warn in Maritime Products Liability Case
- New York Court Of Appeals Rejects "Reverse Engineering" Method Of Reaching Expert Opinion On Causation In Toxic Tort Case