

EDWIN B. PALMER

BIOGRAPHY

Edwin B. Palmer is a Member of Burns White, focusing his practice on the defense of personal injury claims involving complex medical and scientific issues relating to occupational and/or environmental exposures to solvents, diesel fumes, and other substances, and the defense of repetitive stress injury matters and environmental nuisance claims. Mr. Palmer handles the defense of OSHA citations, notices of violation, and any ensuing litigation.

Mr. Palmer has represented numerous companies, including chemical manufacturers and distributors and railroads in environmental, occupational, and regulatory compliance matters. His trial experience includes the successful defense of clients against multiple claims of toxic solvent encephalopathy, various cancers, Parkinson's disease and hearing loss.

Mr. Palmer is currently defending several personal injury claims of brain damage and various cancers alleged to have resulted from occupational and environmental solvent exposures at an EPA Superfund Site.

In addition to his toxic tort practice, Mr. Palmer has advised and represented clients in claims involving whole body vibration, musculoskeletal disorders, occupational hearing loss, products liability, workers' compensation litigation, risk assessment, and Social Security disability matters. Mr. Palmer also consults with clients on contractual matters, including contract drafting, and risk management and risk avoidance techniques. Mr. Palmer has been involved in the defense of several OSHA matters and writes and presents about OSHA-related matters including OSHA guidance and requirements with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Palmer is admitted in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the Supreme Court of West Virginia, and the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia. Mr. Palmer is a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association and the West Virginia State Bar Association.

Mr. Palmer has been an invited speaker at railroad and insurance industry conferences, Mealey's, and the Pennsylvania Bar Institute.

Mr. Palmer received his B.A. magna cum laude in Government and International Studies from the University of Notre Dame in 1994 and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1997.



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CREDENTIALSAreas of Law

- Transportation
- Toxic Torts
- Occupational Illness Litigation
- OSHA Regulation
- Environmental
- Business

Education

- University of Notre Dame (J.D. 1997)
- University of Notre Dame (B.A. 1994)

Bar and Court Admissions

- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- West Virginia
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- The Supreme Court of West Virginia
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia

Memberships

- National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel
- National Association of Chemical Distributors
- Allegheny County Bar Association
- West Virginia Bar Association

PRESENTATIONS

- “OSHA’S New Tracking of Injuries & Illness Final Rule: What You Need to Know” ChemEdge, August 2016

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, “The Light at the End of the Tunnel? A Discussion of the Legal and Practical Effects of Requiring Employees to be Vaccinated Against COVID-19,” *ASLRRRA Views and News*, January 2021
- “Can You Keep A Secret? Trade Secret Challenges Under Act 13” *PIOGA Press*, April 2018
- “Where Do We Stand 22 Months After the Enactment of the FSMA?” *Chemical Distributor*, December 2012
- “Dealing with Uninvited Company: A Brief Guide to Preparing for and Surviving a Government Inspection” *PIOGA Press*, March 2012
- “What Do They See When They Knock On Your Door? Ensuring Your Facility is Safe and Secure” *Chemical Distributor*, May 2011
- “Genuine Science or Unscientific Speculation Offered by a Genuine Scientist?” *Burns White Insights*, January 2008
- “Could the Natural Gas Industry Drown in Lawsuits if Access to Wastewater Treatment is Denied?” *Burns White Insights*
- “Catch-22: The Erosion of OSHA’s Privilege” *Burns White Insights*

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REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Obtained a summary judgment for a Class I railroad in a case brought by multiple plaintiffs seeking certification of a class action on behalf of residents of Hyndman, Pennsylvania who were evacuated following a 2017 derailment.
- Obtained defense verdict on behalf of a Fortune 100 railroad client after a two-week long jury trial in Erie County, Ohio. Plaintiff was a 51-year old machinist claiming that exposure to noise from retarders in a large classification yard led to his development of hearing loss and unbearable tinnitus, or ringing in his ears.
- Following a jury trial in the Court of Common Pleas for Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, a defense verdict was obtained in favor of two railroad clients. Plaintiff had filed suit under the Federal Employers' Liability Act ("FELA") against his former railroad employers alleging that he developed non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as a result of occupational exposures to diesel exhaust, asbestos, benzene, and creosote. After a one week trial, the Jury returned a defense verdict for both railroad employer clients, finding that the railroads were not negligent, and that they had provided the plaintiff with a reasonably safe place to work.

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