

Steven J. McCool

Partner



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Education

Washington College of Law,
American University
Dickinson College

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Virginia
Maryland
Pennsylvania

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of
Virginia
U.S. District Court, Western District of
Virginia
U.S. District Court, District of Maryland

Prior Experience

Assistant United States Attorney
for the District of Columbia
Criminal, Superior Court and
Civil Divisions
1990-1998

Law Clerk to Hon. Robert M. Scott
Superior Court of the
District of Columbia
1989-1990

Steven McCool, a former Federal prosecutor, has served as lead counsel in more than 75 criminal and civil jury and bench trials. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. The National Law Journal has named him as one of 50 lawyers in the United States who has made his mark in white-collar litigation. In Chambers & Partners, in 2018, his peers described him as an “incredibly talented trial lawyer.” In 2017, his peers described him as “one of the best trial lawyers in the city.” Another peer added: “He wins the unwinnable cases. I’ve never seen anyone more committed to the interests of his clients.” In 2016, his peers described him as an “exceptionally gifted” trial lawyer and a “tenacious” advocate for his clients, “including SEC enforcement, internal and grand jury investigations, in addition to FCA litigation.” Mr. McCool is identified as one of the Best Lawyers in America® by U.S. News & World Report (Tier 1 – Criminal Defense: White-Collar Litigation). He is routinely recognized as one of “Washington’s Top Lawyers” by Washingtonian Magazine, and in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, Mr. McCool was named as one of the “Top 100 Lawyers in Washington, DC” by Super Lawyers®. *Main Justice* honored Mr. McCool with its Distinguished Service Award in the Zealous Advocates category and as one of five nominees for Trial Firm of the Year in its first annual Best FCPA Lawyers Client Services Awards.

Mr. McCool represents officers, directors, executives and other individuals in complex civil matters involving Title VII, civil rights, employment, constitutional questions, tort issues, asset forfeiture, and enforcement actions.

SELECTED REPRESENTATIONS

Lead counsel for a Federal Judge before a Judicial Special Committee relating to a charge of judicial misconduct.

Lead counsel for Patton Boggs in a discrimination lawsuit brought by a former employee. Following extensive discovery, Plaintiff dismissed her case with prejudice just prior to her scheduled deposition. She received no remuneration. *Colombo v. Patton Boggs, LLP, et al.*, 2012 CA 00321B (D.C. Super. Ct.).

Lead counsel in a survival and wrongful death action for the estate of a woman who died after being struck by a Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority bus. Mr. McCool convinced a Federal judge in Maryland that the Maryland Tort Claims Act is not incorporated into the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority’s blanket waiver of sovereign immunity for harm caused by its employees’ negligence. The parties subsequently reached a settlement. *Gregory Lyons v. WMATA*, Civil No. 03-1066 (D. Md.).

Lead counsel for officer and executive of a national healthcare provider at depositions pursuant to civil investigative demands issued by the U.S. Department of Justice in a multi-state False Claims Act investigation.

Co-Lead counsel for a relator in a False Claim Act litigation against FedEx Corporation for misuse of delivery codes to withhold reimbursements to government customers. As part of the settlement agreement reached in the case, FedEx agreed to pay the United States \$8 million, \$1.44 million of which was awarded to Mr. McCool’s client. *U.S. ex rel Garofolo v. Federal Express, et al.*, Civ. No. 06-815 (D.D.C.).

Lead counsel defending a security training firm in a negligence lawsuit brought by a Federal agent who claimed he suffered injuries during a training exercise at the U.S. State Department, Diplomatic Training Facility at Fort A.P. Hill. Case was dismissed on All Native Inc.’s motion. *Special Agent Ryan Foreman, et al., v. All Native Inc., et al.*, 16-CV-272 (E.D. Va.).

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Lead counsel for an owner of a well-known nightclub, who was arrested for murder in the District of Columbia. Prosecutors dismissed all charges, after the Metropolitan Police Chief announced on television that Mr. McCool's client would be convicted. *United States v. William Spieler*, 2010 CF2 019482 (D.C. Super. Ct.). Mr. McCool was also lead counsel for the owner in a civil suit brought by the decedent's estate. *Estate of Ali Ahmed Mohammed, et al. v. William Spieler, et al.*, 2011 CA 0008167B (D.C. Super. Ct.).

Lead counsel in a federal civil rights suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for a Catholic University student whose skull was fractured by a member of the Metropolitan Police Department. Following extensive discovery and settlement negotiations, the District of Columbia agreed to pay Mr. McCool's client an undisclosed amount. *Gregory Hernandez v. District of Columbia, et al.*, Civil No. 06-442 (D.D.C.).

Co-Lead counsel for an employee in a suit against his employer for violations of wage payment and collection law, breach of contract, and civil fraud, in which Mr. McCool's client was awarded a settlement of an undisclosed amount. *John Burke, et al. v. AMBEC, Inc.*, Case No. 03-C-04-005110CN (Circuit Court for Baltimore County).

Lead counsel for an America Online officer at a deposition in connection with a civil suit brought against AOL LLC in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. *Kasadore Ramkissoo, et al. v. AOL LLC*, Case No. C 06-5866 SBA (N.D. Ca.).

Co-Lead counsel for a bank teller in a defamation suit against her former employer. As a result of Mr. McCool's representation, his client was awarded a settlement in an undisclosed amount. *Joyce Lancaster v. Harbor Federal Savings Bank, et al.*, Case No. 24-C-00-002658 (Circuit Court for Baltimore County).

Co-Lead counsel for a plaintiff in two capacities: (1) in a suit for legal malpractice against her former attorney for failure to provide competent representation, and (2) in a suit for violations of negligent misrepresentation, intentional misrepresentation, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Mr. McCool secured an undisclosed settlement for his client in her suit for legal malpractice. After successfully appealing the Circuit Court for Carroll County Maryland's dismissal of plaintiff's complaint, Mr. McCool secured a favorable settlement for his client's suit against her former employer. *Barbara Mehrling v. Noel Danto*, Case No. 24-C-01-1776 (Circuit Court for Baltimore County); *Barbara E. Mehrling v. Nationwide Ins. Co., et al.*, Civil Action No. 00-2384 (D. Md.).

Lead counsel for a physician who was sued by a previous employee for unpaid wages and overtime. Through his representation, Mr. McCool brought a counterclaim for breach of contract against the former employee, was able to settle the matter for a favorable amount, and secured a dismissal of all claims against his client. *Swithen David v. Harry Wachs*, Case No. 03-015482 (D.C. Super Ct.).

Lead counsel for an individual alleged to have been involved in a civil conspiracy stemming from a fatal automobile accident. The Court granted Mr. McCool's Motion to Dismiss, which proved the plaintiff failed to make out a case for civil conspiracy. *Christopher Burr, et al. v. Shelly Wentworth, et al.*, Civil Action No. 05-0300 (D.C. Super. Ct.).

Lead counsel in a survival and wrongful death action for the estate of a decedent who was killed in an automobile accident. Following negotiations, Mr. McCool secured an undisclosed settlement for his client.

Lead counsel in civil action against the District of Columbia for minor student injured at a District of Columbia Public School. Following extensive discovery and settlement negotiations, the District of Columbia agreed to pay Mr. McCool's client an undisclosed amount.

Co-Lead Counsel for a secretary who had been discharged from her employment due to reverse discrimination under Title VII. Following a jury trial, the jury found in favor of Mr. McCool's client and awarded damages for back pay and emotional distress. *Barbara Gardner v. Jaco, Inc., et al.*, Civil No. 99-3351 (D. Md.).