



Courtney M. Wentzel

Member

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Services and sector groups

- Litigation
- Fiduciary Litigation
- Residential Landlord-Tenant
- Estate Planning
- Financial Services
- Healthcare and Life Sciences

Courtney is a litigator who focuses on fiduciary matters in Orphans' Courts throughout Pennsylvania, including guardianships, powers of attorney, will contests, elder law, trusts, and sophisticated fiduciary litigation.

She provides an effective, collaborative approach to the practice of law, leveraging her depth of experience to achieve practical outcomes that work for you, your business, or your family. Courtney advocates for her clients at every step of the litigation and always presents in a friendly, professional manner.

While Courtney fearlessly presents in a courtroom, she appreciates that client goals and objectives may sometimes be better reached outside of one. She represents corporate fiduciaries, banks, and professional guardianship agencies in complex trusts, estates, and guardianship matters, regularly advising her clients in the management of fiduciary risk, document interpretation, and the application of legal standards, statutes, and various regulations in the fiduciary setting.

Courtney also has extensive experience representing and advising individuals involved in litigation regarding decision-making for a loved one, challenges to estate planning documents, or asset transfers before or after death. She helps individuals understand and navigate their fiduciary roles and represents them in accounting for estate assets or in responding to challenges arising from actions taken in a fiduciary capacity.

Guardianship

Courtney handles a range of guardianship proceedings, representing petitioners, professional guardianship agencies, healthcare providers, and individuals serving as guardians. Her work in this area includes:

- Representing clients seeking guardianship or the modification of guardianship orders and guiding them through the legal process.
- Defending clients who are undergoing challenges to their guardianship role or actions taken as guardians.
- Advising clients on their guardianship powers and duties under existing and developing laws

throughout the Commonwealth and interpreting court orders.

- Assisting with preparing and filing required guardianship reports.
- Representing professional guardianship agencies, corporate fiduciaries, banks, and individuals seeking court approval for additional actions in advance of their guardianship powers.
- Identifying less restrictive alternatives to guardianships where appropriate and making recommendations to clients.

Trusts, estates, and Orphans' Court litigation

With a focus on resolving disputes related to trusts, estates, guardianships, and powers of attorney, Courtney represents both corporate and individual fiduciaries, including banks and trust companies. These matters include claims regarding the distribution of estate funds and property, as well as the settlement of accounts filed by executors or trustees.

Courtney has extensive experience in bringing and defending Will contests or disputes arising over beneficiary designations or the modification of other estate planning documents. She also assists her fiduciary clients with interpreting trust and estate planning documents, complying with directives and applicable laws, preparing detailed accountings, and litigating.

Landlord-tenant

Courtney represents property management companies and commercial property owners in landlord/tenant matters, including breach of lease, rent escrow, tenant holding over, and recovery of rental arrears and reimbursement for damages. Her counsel includes empowering her clients to make decisions that work for their businesses and resolving complicated matters before they turn into litigation.

Pro bono

As a member of McNees' Pro Bono Committee, Courtney oversees the Pro Bono Project at The Vista School, providing legal services to parents of disabled adult children to obtain guardianships. The Vista School, located in Hershey, Pa., is dedicated to providing the tools and resources needed for every person with autism to reach their full potential and to live as independently as possible.

Education

- The Dickinson School of Law, The Pennsylvania State University, J.D.
 - Woolsack Honor Society
 - Penn State Law Review, Articles Editor
 - National Trial Team
- Shippensburg University, B.S., criminal justice, *summa cum laude*

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- West Virginia
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Recognition

- Rising Stars for Pennsylvania, Super Lawyers, 2025, 2026
- The Woolsack Honor Society
- The Order of Barristers
- CALI Excellence for the Future Award (Remedies and Death Penalty Seminar)

Professional and community involvement

- Pennsylvania Bar Association

Speaking engagements

- November 4, 2026 – PBI's 2026 Estate Law Institute (upcoming)
- May 15, 2025 – CLE Guardianship Practicalities for Trial Lawyers, PA Association for Justice – 2025 Spring Member Meeting