



Michael D. O'Mara

Managing Partner

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As managing partner of Stradley Ronon, Michael O'Mara drives the strategic direction, growth and innovation of the firm, including more than 200 lawyers across nine offices. Through a dedicated effort to fostering a culture of excellence, Mike pursues the provision of exceptional client service and an authentic working environment that is built on deep and loyal relationships within the firm and with the firm's clients. Alongside his managing partner duties, Mike maintains an active practice as a trial lawyer focusing on complex commercial disputes.

Mike previously served for more than a decade as chair of the firm's litigation practice. His advocacy encompasses a broad array of complex, high-exposure commercial litigation, including financial services cases, merger and acquisition disputes, restrictive covenants, False Claims Act cases, class actions, ERISA claims, trust and estate disputes, insurance and commercial real estate matters.

In professional liability cases, Mike frequently represents professional services firms, including law firms and insurance intermediaries. He also counsels sophisticated nonprofit organizations — including religious, educational and healthcare entities — on litigation-related matters.

Widely respected throughout the legal community, Mike is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, a highly selective, invitation-only organization dedicated to elevating the standards of trial and appellate practice. A similar mission informs his work teaching trial advocacy to students at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law.

Featured Representative Matters

- Engaged as national coordinating counsel to oversee multijurisdictional litigation portfolio for a publicly traded company.
- Defeated a petition for injunctive relief following a four-day evidentiary hearing in which neighboring commercial property owners sought to halt a \$350 million construction project.
- Tried a \$26 million commercial real estate dispute, securing a dismissal of all claims against a real estate developer by way of a motion for nonsuit following a four-day trial and testimony from six witnesses.
- Secured a seven-figure settlement in an actuarial malpractice case on behalf of a

Services

- Complex Commercial & Class Action Litigation
- Litigation
- Religious, Educational & Nonprofit Organizations
- Real Estate
- Insurance & Reinsurance
- Investment Management Litigation
- Trial Practice

Education

- Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)
- James Madison University (B.S., *magna cum laude*)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- New York
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for

local, preeminent preparatory school.

- Tried an \$80 million dispute between a marine terminal operator and its landlord port authority before a panel of three arbitrators, securing a unanimous award in the client's favor.
- Tried a \$40 million condemnation case on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, securing a favorable settlement several days into a jury trial.
- Tried a Fair Labor Standards Act and retaliation case, securing a complete defense verdict for a multistate employer following a week-long federal court jury trial.
- Defeated a preliminary injunction petition filed by a publicly traded company seeking to preclude a former high-level executive from embarking on a new business venture.
- Defended a Swiss electronics company against patent infringement claims relating to transistor design in high-speed logic circuits.
- Secured dismissal of a multimillion-dollar lawsuit alleging civil conspiracy and tortious interference against a global distributor of industrial and specialty chemicals.
- Secured dismissal of alleged violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act against a global manufacturer of industrial heating and ventilation equipment.
- Represented investors in South Carolina federal court in a securities fraud case against a Wall Street short seller, securing a liability finding.
- Secured the dismissal of more than 50 cases against the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and other religious institutions.

Community Impact

Mike serves on the board of directors for the Committee of Seventy, a nonpartisan civic leadership organization advancing representative, ethical and effective government in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania through citizen engagement and public policy advocacy.

He is also a board member of the Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS), which bridges the business community and Catholic schools to establish financial assistance to families in need, bolster school infrastructures, and expand educational opportunities for families; and The Center for Autism, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

Memberships

- Member, Board of Directors, Greater Philadelphia YMCA
- Adjunct Faculty, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law
- Member, American Bar Association, Litigation Section
- Member, Board of Directors, Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools (BLOCS)
- Member, Board of Directors, The Center for Autism
- Member, Board of Directors, Committee of Seventy
- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Member, National Diocesan Attorneys Association

the Third Circuit

- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

- Member, The Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Recognitions

- *The Legal 500* US Elite (Philadelphia: Commercial Disputes) (2025-26)
- *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* (General Litigation) (2025-26)
- Champion of the Community, The Center for Autism (2025)
- Managing Partner of the Year, *The Legal Intelligencer* (2025)
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America
- *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Litigators in America (2025-26)
- *Chambers USA* (Pennsylvania: General Commercial Litigation)

Featured Speaking Engagements

- Presenter, "Sponsorship in Jeopardy," Resource Center for Religious Institutes, Annual Conference 2022
- Presenter, "Legal Issues Updates: Maintaining Identity and Fidelity in a Changing Environment," Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities 2022 Annual Meeting
- Presenter, "The Implications of 2020 Court Rulings on Catholic Institutions," Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Presenter, "Economic Experts: What They Can Add to Your Employment Case, How to Work with Them and When You Don't Need Them," PBI 20th Annual Employment Law Institute
- Presenter, "Tort Reform in 2012. What's New? What's Next?" Risk and Insurance Management Society 2012 Annual Conference
- Guest Speaker, Naturalization Ceremony, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 2008

Experience

Phoenix French Creek Manor Wins Compulsory Nonsuit

Stradley Ronon's trial team won a nonsuit for client Phoenix French Creek Manor in litigation involving the termination of purchase and option agreements for commercial real estate in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The plaintiff initially filed a \$26 million claim against PFCM; however, prior to trial, Stradley's litigation team secured a partial summary judgment dismissing the claims related to the option agreement, significantly reducing the amount in controversy. Two claims related to the purchase agreement proceeded to trial. Following the testimony of the plaintiff's first witness, the Stradley team moved for dismissal based on the witnesses' judicial admissions, but Judge William Mahon reserved his decision until after the close of plaintiff's case-in-chief. After four days of testimony from six witnesses, the judge granted a nonsuit and brought the matter to a successful end for PFCM.