

Diana C. Manning

Born: Feb. 20, 1968

Position: Partner — Bressler, Amery & Ross, Florham Park

Practice Areas: Professional liability; appellate practice; product liability

College: Rutgers College, B.A., political science/economics (minor: French), 1990; National Merit Scholarship

Law School: Rutgers School of Law-Newark, J.D., 1993; Moot Court Board

Career History: Current firm since 1999 (partner since 2004); Zetlin & DeChiara, associate, 1999 (construction litigation); Cohn Lifland Pearlman Herrmann & Knopf, associate, 1993-98 (litigation)

Profile: For the past seven years, Manning has concentrated her practice on professional liability matters — primarily legal malpractice defense, involving representation of some of New Jersey's largest firms. Her insurance company clients include Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London; Hartford Financial Products; Travelers and CNA. In the last two years, she acted as counsel in three reported legal malpractice deci-



sions: *Jerista v. Murray*, 185 N.J. 175 (2005), in which the New Jersey Supreme Court declined to shift the burden of proof from the plaintiff to the attorney defendant; *Kranz v. Tiger*, 390 N.J. Super. 135 (App. Div. 2007), in which the appeals court ruled, among other things, that a bifurcated trial is appropriate

where the degree of collectibility of a judgment is at issue; and *Stoeckel v. Township of Knowlton*, 387 N.J. Super. 1 (App. Div. 2006), where the appeals court ruled that for all actions against municipal attorneys accruing after July 1, 1994, a notice of tort claim is required and a two-year statute of limitations applies. In a notable trial-level victory, *Timko v. Giordano Halleran & Ciesla*, Manning won summary judgment, after four years of litigation, in a suit by beneficiaries of an estate who claimed the decedent's attorney failed to stop a niece from asserting undue influence when the decedent executed testamentary documents. Manning carries important management responsibilities in her firm. She is one of two partners who lead the firm's Professional Liability Practice Group and supervise all errors-and-omissions litigation. The team has three associates, two paralegals, and three secretaries. She is partner in charge of marketing and sits on the Business Development Committee, formed in 2005 to assist the firm's attorneys in fostering new business and enhancing existing client relationships. In those capacities, she assists all attorneys with cross-marketing efforts, including responses to requests for proposals, and coordinates and conducts regular mentoring sessions with the firm's associates to assist them in business-getting efforts. She serves on the Case Intake Committee, which is responsible for reviewing and approving all new client matters, including the terms of retention, and for reviewing and proposing resolution plans for clients with unacceptable accounts receivable. She is also a member of the Diversity Committee.

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