



James L. McCrystal, Jr.

Of Counsel

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Jim McCrystal has spent four decades handling cases product liability cases and now has a national practice in that field. He has represented the manufacturers of tires, automobiles, trucks, farm equipment, industrial products, and power systems as well as handling construction litigation and commercial disputes.

As a Program Director for the National Institute of Trial Attorneys, he is committed to sharing his considerable expertise when training lawyers both in the USA and internationally.

Education

John Carroll University, A.B., 1970

University of Notre Dame, J.D., 1973

Involvement

Program Director, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Deposition Skills; Trial Advocacy; Mediation Skills; and e-Discovery.

Member, Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Rules of Practice and Procedure (2009 – 2014)

Awards & Recognition

Super Lawyers, 2007-2020

Rated AV/Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell

NITA's Judge Prentice Marshall Faculty Award for the

Development of Innovative Teaching Methods, 2014

OACTA'S Frank Seth Hurd Member of the Year, 1997 and

2011

Associations

Product Liability Advisory Council (former Member Board of Directors)

International Association of Defense Counsel (former Chairman of CLE Board)

Defense Research Institute (former Member Board of

Directors and former Ohio State Representative)

Life Member, Judicial Conference of Eighth Judicial District of Ohio

National Institute for Trial Advocacy (Program Director)

Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (former President)

Cleveland Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (former

President)

Ohio State Bar Association (member of Judicial

Administration & Legal Reform Committee (1976 -present)

Ohio State Bar Foundation

Cleveland Bar Association (former Chair of Litigation Section)

Erie County Ohio Bar Association

American Bar Association

John Carroll University Alumni Association (former President)

Friends of the Western Reserve Historical Society Library (former President)

Practice Areas

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Products Liability

Construction Litigation

Medical Malpractice

Professional Liability

Commercial Litigation

Corporate Litigation

Insurance Coverage

Toxic Tort Defense

Admissions

Ohio

United States District Courts

Northern District of Ohio

Southern District of Ohio

Eastern District of Michigan

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

United States Supreme Court

Presentations

- "Do the Rules Compute & Do Computers Rule: Controlling Electronic Data in Discovery,"
Products Liability Advisory Council (PLAC)
- "Jury Trial Innovations," Federal Bar Association National Convention; PLAC
- "Electronic Discovery: What Types of Information Should Be Routinely Retained and How to Produce It,"
Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- "Challenges to Computer Generated Evidence," International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)
- "Combating Spoliation of Evidence," IADC
- "Dealing with the Gorilla at Depositions," Ohio Legal Center Institute
- "Uses of Video in the Courtroom," American College of Trial Lawyers; Kentucky State Bar Association;
Wyoming State Bar Association; Canadian Bar Association; Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation
Engineers; Maryland State Bar Association
- "The Liability Insurer's Duties to Defend and Settle," CWRU School of Law
- "Litigating Bad Faith Insurance Claims," CWRU School of Law
- "The Insurer's Duty to Defend," CWRU School of Law
- "Evidentiary Standards in Toxic Tort Litigation: Challenging the Plaintiff's Expert," DRI "Gender Equity Issues
and the Code of Professional Responsibility," Cleveland-Marshall College of Law
- "Attorney Client Relations with Corporate Clients: An Overview of Ethical Issues in Business Litigation,"
IADC
- "Electrons Meet the Civil Rules," Defense Trial Counsel of West Virginia
- "Punitive Damages," Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys (OACTA)
- "The Changing Landscape of Punitive Damages," Lorman Education Services
- "Writing Opinion Letters," OACTA
- "Hartman: When is interest due on a settlement?" OACTA
- "Discovery and Electronic Data: Electrons meet the Civil Rules," OACTA
- "Qui Tam and Whistle Blower Litigation," Cleveland Bar Association
- "Voiur Dire in Civil Litigation," Ohio Legal Center Institute
- "Impact of Fidelholtz on Multi-Party Tort Litigation," OACTA and Ohio Legal Center Institute
- "Representing Co-defendants in a Motor Vehicle Products Liability Suit," DRI
- "What's new with Peremptory Challenges in Civil Litigation," IADC
- "Avoiding Problems in Commercial Arbitration," Cleveland Bar Association
- "Calculating Law Firm Costs for Budget Planning," IADC
- "Avoiding Environmental Liability," National Business Institute
- "A Commentary on the Cases Every Defense Trial Counsel Should Know," OACTA
- "Motions in Limine to Exclude Plaintiff's Expert Witnesses," IADC
- "Legal Malpractice and Bad Faith - You and the Insurer on Trial," IADC