



Timothy Jay Houseal

PARTNER

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Complex and Specialty Litigation is a practice area that covers a wide range of disputed matters. It is also an apt description of Tim Houseal's practice. While the majority of his time is spent litigating environmental and insurance coverage cases — two fields quite different from each other — the rest is divided among an even more diverse array of matters, involving admiralty issues, non-profit entities, and various complex business disputes.

As Tim's clients tend to be experienced and sophisticated users of legal services, they count on him to accurately assess their litigation risk, help them weigh their various options, and bring their matters to an optimal resolution as efficiently — and as cost-effectively — as possible. This frequently involves working on the same side as other defendants — sometimes several dozen at once — which calls on his notable skills as coordinator of multiple viewpoints and goals. He has, on numerous occasions, been named liaison counsel to the court, either by nomination of his fellow lawyers or by appointment from the bench.

Known as a quick study with an appetite for new knowledge, Tim has a special affinity for disputes that involve two or more jurisdictions. When, as often happens in Delaware courts, the laws of different states — or indeed different countries — come into play, he is attracted to the myriad complexities that attend these disputes. As such cases also tend to attract out-of-state legal talent of the highest caliber, Tim frequently enjoys the chance to argue both with and against some of the best lawyers in the world.

FOCUS:

- General litigation
- Environmental litigation and counseling
- Insurance coverage litigation
- Non-profit entity representation

APPOINTMENTS:

- Delaware State Bar Association Environmental Section — former Chair
- Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Legal seminars in the areas of environmental law, insurance coverage, and litigation for:

- Delaware State Bar Association
- Mealey's
- Marsh
- National Business Institute
- Harris Martin
- Sterling Education Services
- University of Delaware

Practices

- Complex and Specialty Litigation
- Commercial Litigation

Education

- Penn State The Dickinson School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)
- Messiah College (B.A., *cum laude*)

Bar Admissions

- Delaware

Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Environmental Law and Insurance Law, 2007 - Present

Memberships and Affiliations

- Delaware State Bar Association, Member, Environmental Law Section, former Chair
- American Bar Association, Member, Environmental, Mass Torts and Product Liability, Litigation and Insurance Committees
- Delaware Contractors Association, Associate Member
- *Dickinson Law Review*, former Articles Editor

Experience

Curay-Cramer v. The Ursuline Academy of Wilmington, Delaware, Inc., et al.

On November 16, 2004, the Employment Law Department received word that a federal court dismissed all of the Plaintiffs claims in *Curay-Cramer v. The Ursuline Academy and the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, et al.*

Chair of the Employment Department, Barry M. Willoughby, Partner, Tim Houseal, and Associate, Mike Stafford successfully defended Ursuline against claims that the school discriminated against a teacher in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act when it terminated her for signing a "Pro-Choice" advertisement.

The case raised fundamental issues concerning the constitutional rights of religious institutions to be free from government interference in the teaching of religious principles. Willoughby said that, "The opinion is an important victory for religious freedom because it preserves the rights of religious schools and religious institutions to instill students with their religious values."

Among other things, the opinion states: "The Plaintiff's proposed construction of Title VII as preventing a Catholic school from disciplining a religion teacher who publicly repudiates a central tenet of the Catholic faith raises constitutional concerns in the starkest terms. With only slight disguise, it calls for court-imposed value judgments about religious doctrine and court supervision of church discipline Short of a declaration that the Pope should pass draft encyclicals through the courts for approval, it is hard to conceive of a more obvious violation of the free exercise rights of the Catholic Church or a clearer case of inappropriate entanglement of church and state."

Publications

May 11, 2016

Delaware: Open For Business

Delaware Business, May/June 2016

Events

October 5, 2011

"Reaching Out To Provide Access to Justice," Delaware State Bar Association Pro Bono CLE

May 7, 2009

Current Issues in Air Regulation, Environmental Law Seminar 2009, Delaware State Bar Association

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Wilmington, Delaware

News

November 1, 2018

Delaware Today Magazine Recognizes 17 Young Conaway "Top Lawyers"

August 15, 2018

42 Young Conaway Lawyers Recognized by Best Lawyers in America, with 4 Attorneys Further Recognized as Lawyers of the Year (Wilmington, DE)

August 15, 2017

41 Young Conaway Attorneys Named in The Best Lawyers In America and Three Attorneys Receive Additional Specialty Recognition as Lawyer of the Year (Wilmington, DE)

November 1, 2016

Fifteen Young Conaway Lawyers Named "Top Lawyers" by Delaware Today Magazine; Six Attorneys Received Top Votes in Practice Area

August 22, 2016

Four Young Conaway Attorneys Named 2017 "Lawyer of the Year" for Wilmington, Delaware by Best Lawyers

November 2, 2015

Delaware Today Announces 2015 Top Lawyers

August 17, 2015

36 Young Conaway Attorneys Named In 2016 Best Lawyers in America

October 28, 2013

Nine Young Conaway Lawyers Chosen As "Top Lawyers" By Delaware Today Magazine

August 16, 2013

36 Young Conaway Attorneys Named Best Lawyers in America 2014

October 31, 2012

Delaware Today Names 14 YCST as "Top Lawyers" – The Most of Any Firm!

September 16, 2011

Young Conaway Attorneys Honored in The Best Lawyers in America® 2012