

PARTNER

Gerard T. Donnelly

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WORCESTER

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PRACTICE AREAS

Business & Commercial Litigation
Class Actions
Construction Litigation
Employment Litigation
General Liability
Intellectual Property Litigation
Municipal Liability
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Professional Liability
Workers' Compensation

EDUCATION

Western New England College School of Law, J.D.
Worcester State College, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

Massachusetts
U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
U.S. District Court, District of Massachusetts

MEMBERSHIPS

Massachusetts Bar Association
Worcester County Bar Association
Federal Bar Association
Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
Defense Research Institute (DRI)
Massachusetts Defense Lawyers Association (MassDLA)
Risk and Insurance Management Society, Inc. (RIMS)

Overview

Prior to co-founding Hassett | Donnelly, Gerard worked in the insurance industry as an adjuster and investigator. He regularly handles high-exposure matters on behalf of insurers, TPAs, businesses and individuals. Gerard's practice areas include Civil Litigation, Municipal Liability, Civil Rights Defense, Construction Litigation, Product Liability and Workers' Compensation.

Gerard has extensive experience defending towns, cities, schools, police departments and other public entities in c. 258 actions, negligence matters, civil rights and employment disputes. He has a long record of defense verdicts and dismissals throughout Massachusetts state and federal courts, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA). Moreover, he has defended local and national businesses in asbestos and class action litigation.

In addition to successful jury trials, Gerard has an extensive record of favorable summary judgment motions and dismissals arising from the novel and evolving legal issues surrounding the defense of public employers such as presentment, discretionary function, public duty rule and various immunities and statutory caps. He has successfully defended a number of well-known non-profit, charitable and religious organizations in high-profile actions across the Commonwealth, often facilitating favorable resolutions over protracted and costly litigation.

Select Results

- Federal Court Rejects Civil Rights Claims in Real Estate Development Dispute
- MA Appeals Court Determines Town Not Original Cause of Recess Collision
- Appeals Court Affirms Summary Judgment for Police Department in Wrongful Death Claim
- Two Defense Verdicts in Separate Injury Actions Involving the Same Plaintiff
- Defense Verdict / Slip and Fall on Exterior Stairway
- Summary Judgment for General Contractor / Sewer Defects Alleged in Hotel Construction
- Defense Verdict in Slip and Fall / Plaintiff's Photos Prove Useful to Defense
- Defense Verdict in Bathtub Slip and Fall
- Defense Verdict in Social Host / Assault & Battery Case
- Dismissal of Civil Rights / Malicious Prosecution Action Filed Against Town, Police Officers
- Summary Judgment for Defendant Construction Contractor
- Motion to Dismiss Granted – Negligence / Misrepresentation / Improper Drainage
- Motion to Dismiss Granted – False Arrest
- Motion to Dismiss Granted – No Trespass Order
- Wrongful Termination Suit Settled
- Death of a Child
- Child Falls From Window

- [Mind the Gap](#)

Recognitions

- Gerard has been named to The Best Lawyers in America list for “Lawyer of the Year” for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants (2025)
- Gerard has been named to The Best Lawyers in America list for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants (2019-2026)
- Gerard has been included in the Massachusetts Super Lawyers list in the area of Civil Litigation: Defense (2015-2024)