



MICHAEL C. O'NEILL

Partner

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Michael concentrates his practice in insurance defense, insurance coverage, and commercial litigation. He has had numerous jury verdicts in New York and Illinois, including in premises liability, motor vehicle liability, labor law, insurance coverage, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and defamation. Michael also has extensive experience in environmental long-tail insurance coverage defense and achieved a significant recovery for a client in a complex maritime arbitration proceeding. His bench trial experience includes trials involving the valuation of shares in a closely held corporation and successfully prosecuting a personal injury claim on behalf of a former prison inmate in the Court of Claims.

While he is prepared to take cases to trial when appropriate or necessary, Michael is a firm believer in alternative dispute resolution, whether court-sponsored or privately arranged. He has successfully resolved numerous matters on behalf of his clients through mediation and arbitration, thereby avoiding the higher costs of trial.

Over the years, Michael has learned that the person in the room who knows the most about both sides of a case usually controls the proceedings and directs the focus of the court/arbitrator/mediator to the issues most advantageous to the client's position. It is this realization, and his desire to be the most well-prepared and knowledgeable person in the room, that drives how he approaches each case.

Before joining Hodgson Russ, Michael worked as a trial and coverage attorney in Buffalo for seven years and practiced for nine years in Chicago.

Honors

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* (Insurance Law) 2016 - 2024

The Guaranty Building
140 Pearl Street
Suite 100
Buffalo, NY 14202

Practices & Industries

Product Liability & Complex Tort
Agriculture

Admissions

New York
U.S. District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
U.S. District Courts for the Western and Southern Districts of New York
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Western New York

Education

University of Notre Dame, B.A.
Marquette University Law School, J.D.

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In the News

Avoiding Slipups: Businesses Need to Prepare Strategies to Prevent Accidents and the Claims That May Result
Buffalo Business First, April 3, 2008

Steering Clear of Slips-and-Falls
Buffalo Law Journal, February 11, 2008

Michael C. O'Neill Joins the Insurance and Reinsurance Practice Group
October 22, 2007

Press Releases

83 Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys Ranked in 2024 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
August 17, 2023

71 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 19, 2022

55 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2022 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 19, 2021

55 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2021 *Best Lawyers in America*
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 20, 2020

52 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to Various *Best Lawyers* Listings
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 20, 2019

48 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to Various *Best Lawyers* Listings
Press Release, August 15, 2018

Fifty-two Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to 2018 *Best Lawyers* Listing, Five Included in "Lawyer of the Year" Categories
Press Release, August 15, 2017

2017 *Best Lawyers* Names Fifty-four Hodgson Russ Attorneys From Multiple Offices
Hodgson Russ Press Release, August 18, 2016

Fifty-Five Hodgson Russ Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers* 2016, Five Honored as Buffalo 'Lawyers of the Year'
Press Release, August 17, 2015

Publications

New York Court of Appeals Reverses Multimillion Dollar Verdict
Hodgson Russ Product Liability & Complex Tort Alert, May 10, 2022

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Trends in Product Liability Litigation & Legislation in New York - May 2022
Hodgson Russ Product Liability Litigation & Legislation Quarterly Update, May 2022

Trends in Product Liability Litigation & Legislation in New York - January 2022
Hodgson Russ Product Liability Litigation & Legislation Quarterly Update, January/February 2022

Supreme Court Rejects Ford's Proposed Causation-Only Standard for Conferring Personal Jurisdiction in Product Liability Suits
Hodgson Russ Torts, Insurance and Products Liability Alert, March 25, 2021

USDA Publishes Final Rule and Guidance for Domestic Hemp Production
Hodgson Russ Hemp & Medical Cannabis and Agriculture Alert, February 10, 2021

USDA's Final Rule on Domestic Hemp Production Subject to Biden Administration's "Regulatory Freeze Pending Review"
Hodgson Russ Hemp & Medical Cannabis and Agriculture Alert, January 22, 2021

Coronavirus Legislation and Programs - What Agricultural Producers Should Know
Hodgson Russ Agriculture Alert, April 20, 2020

The Coronavirus and Your Insurance Coverage Questions
Hodgson Russ Torts, Insurance & Products Liability Alert, April 17, 2020

Do I Have Insurance for My Coronavirus Losses?
Hodgson Russ Corporate Alert, March 19, 2020

FDA Issues Draft Guidance For Farmers And Food Processors Under The Food Safety Modernization Act
Agriculture Alert, November 6, 2018

Community & Pro Bono

Michael coached basketball, softball, and volleyball at the grammar school level, but retired when his youngest reached high school. He previously served on the board of directors of the Buffalo Ski Club. He spends the bulk of his free time driving his children from event to event.