

JOHN E. KEEFE, SR.
OF COUNSEL

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER
125 Half Mile Road
Red Bank, New Jersey 07701
telephone: 732-855-6009
facsimile: 732-726-4809
judgekeefe@wilentz.com

EDUCATION:

1962 B.S., Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
1965 L.L.B., Rutgers University School of Law, Newark, New Jersey

PROFESSIONAL:

- 1965-70 Associate, Cohen, Hoagland & Cohen, New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 1970-77 Partner, Cohen, Hoagland, Keefe & Oropollo, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Civil trial experience in State and U.S. District Court involving various areas of substantive law including medical malpractice, product liability and insurance.
- 1977-79 Judge of the Middlesex County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court.
- 1979-84 Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Division. Responsible for the management of all asbestos litigation on a state-wide basis.
- 1984-88 Presiding Judge - Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, a court of Statewide equitable jurisdiction.
- 1988 to
Aug 2001 Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division. Author of 140-150 opinions per year. See "Publications and Papers." Retired as Presiding Judge of Part F.

1992 Temporarily assigned by the New Jersey Supreme Court to participate in Perini Corp. v. Great Bay Hotel & Casino, Inc., 129 N.J. 479 (1992), and Rudbart v. North Jersey Dist. Water Supply Com'n, 127 N.J. 344 (1992).

1994 -
present American Law Institute
Member of Consultive Group with respect to the adoption of the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability.
Member of Consultive Group on Formation of Restatement of Principles of Law of Liability Insurance.

2001-
2021 Of Counsel to Keefe Law Firm - Devote practice to mediation, arbitration, Discovery Master services, Appellate counseling. Experience in areas involving construction defect, products liability, insurance coverage, commercial litigation, minority shareholder disputes, class actions, personal injury.

2021 -
present Of Counsel to Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer - Devote practice to mediation, arbitration, Discovery Master services, Appellate counseling. Experience in areas involving construction defect, products liability, insurance coverage, commercial litigation, minority shareholder disputes, class actions, personal injury.

TEACHING & LECTURES:

1984 Lecture, "Complex Case Management in Asbestos Litigation: a National Perspective," presented to Wisconsin State Civil Judiciary.

1986 -
2002 Adjunct Professor, Seton Hall University School of Law, Products Liability.

1991 -
2006 New Jersey Judicial College. Annual lecturer to trial court judges on Products Liability.

1998 -
1999 New Jersey Judicial College. Lecture on Civil Case Law Update.

June
2001 Institute for Continuing Legal Education Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Legal Education.

Lectures for the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and Trial Lawyers of New Jersey from 1981 to present concerning the following topics:

Videotape Depositions of Expert Witnesses
Asbestos: Handling New Jersey Cases
Use and Abuse of Expert Witnesses
Dispute Resolution
New Jersey Product Liability Act
Lead Poisoning Litigation in New Jersey
Back to Basics: Evidence -
Presumptions & Authentication of Writings
Civil Case Law Update - 1996 to 1999

AWARDS & PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION:

September
2003: Recipient of James J. McLaughlin Award - An award sponsored by the Civil Trial Bar Section of the New Jersey Bar Association for Civility, Professional and Legal Excellence in the Practice of Law.

October
2005: Recipient of Daniel L. Golden Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey.

2003 -
present New Jersey Super Lawyers

- 2011 -
PRESENT Martindale- Hubbell - AV® Preeminent™
- 2013 Recipient of Silver Best Individual Mediator Award
New Jersey Law Journal
- 2016 Recipient of the Breitkopf Award presented by Middlesex County
Trial Lawyers Association
- 2019 Recipient of the NJ Legal Professional Excellence Lifetime
Achievement Award by the New Jersey Law Journal
- 2020 Recipient of New Jersey State Bar Foundation
2020 Medal of Honor

PUBLICATIONS & PAPERS:

New Jersey Products Liability & Toxic Torts Law, Gann Law
Books. (Co-author with William A. Dreier and Eric Katz).

Proving Product Defect After The Restatement (Third) of Torts:
Product Liability. 30 Seton Hall L. Rev. 1(1999).

Presumed Knowledge: A Legal Fiction Gone Awry?, 19 Seton Hall
L. Rev. 174 (1989). (Co-author with Richard C. Henke).

Author of approximately 160 signed opinions published in the
New Jersey Superior Court Reports.

Legal and Psychiatric Issues on the Hospitalization of Children:
The New Jersey Experience. paper was authored in conjunction
with Dr. Martin Weinapple and Dr. Peter Manto, Jr., and
delivered to the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law,
Montreal, Canada.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS:

- 1974-77 Member of the Supreme Court Committee on Unauthorized
Practice of Law.

- 1977-81 Member of the Supreme Court Committee on Municipal Courts.
- 1980 Special Assignment by Chief Justice Wilentz to supervise and administer a pilot project involving 1123 asbestos claims pending in Middlesex County. Responsible for the creation of the first full-time Special Master in New Jersey.
- 1981 Member of the New Jersey State Committee to Review and Revise Civil Practice Rules and Procedures (Schreiber Committee). Chairman of Working Group assigned to study Toxic Torts, Defamation and suits against Public Entities.
- 1981-83 Member of the Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions
- 1983-88 Chairman of the Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions
- 1983 Chairman of the Supreme Court Committee on Asbestos Litigation
- 1983 New Jersey judicial representative to the National Working Group on Asbestos Litigation
- 1986 Chairman, Supreme Court Committee on Complex Case Management and instructor at 1986 New Jersey Judicial College on management of complex cases.
- 1988-90 Member, Supreme Court Committee on Civil Practice.
- 1990 Member, Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution.
- 1988 -
Aug 2001 Member, Appellate Division Rules Committee
Member, Appellate Division/Assignment Judges Liaison Committee.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

The American Law Institute
Fellow of the American Bar Association
New Jersey State Bar Association
Middlesex County Bar Association
Middlesex County Trial Lawyers Association
Trial Attorneys of New Jersey-Trustee
National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals-NJ Chapter