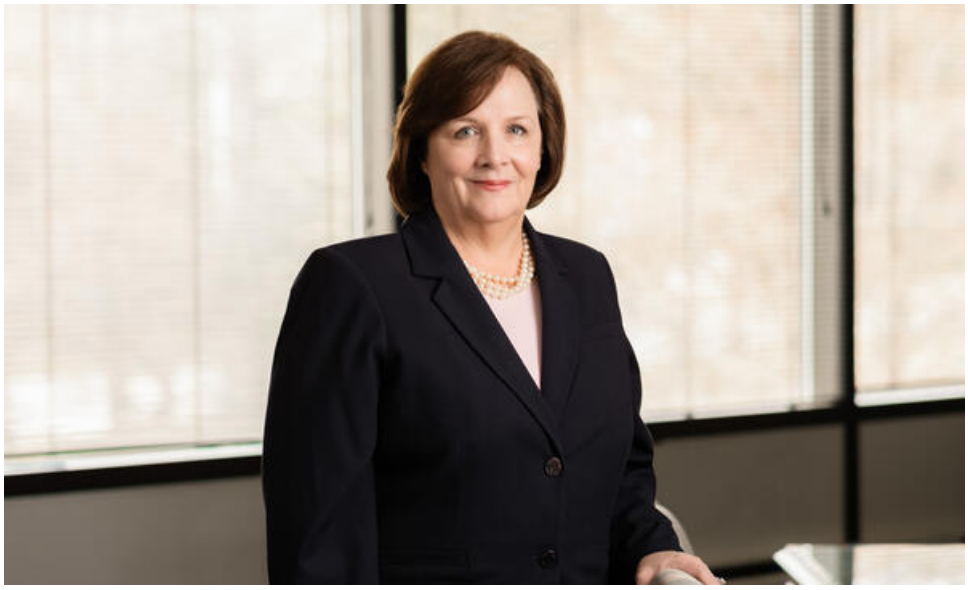
McElroy Deutsch

Kathleen N. Fennelly



Partner

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Curriculum Vitae

KATHLEEN N. FENNELLY is a Practice Group Manager of the Firm's Commercial Litigation Practice Group. She focuses her practice in the areas of general commercial litigation, including consumer fraud/class action defense litigation, estate litigation and guardianship matters.

Ms. Fennelly appears regularly in federal and state courts in New Jersey, and has been involved with several noteworthy, published opinions, including *H.M. Holdings v. Aetna Cas. & Sur.*, 154 N.J. 208 (1998); *Pfizer v. Employers Inc.*, 154 N.J. 187 (1998); and *Thiedemann v. Mercedes-Benz U.S.A., L.L.C.*, 183 N.J. 234 (2005) (*Results may vary depending on your particular facts and legal circumstances).*

Ms. Fennelly is the President of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, and she is a former trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association. She was the President of the Morris County Bar Association in 1997, and she is a founding member of the Morris County Bar Association Professionalism Committee, and the Morris County Bar Foundation. She also served as the Chairperson of the District X Fee Arbitration Committee.

Ms. Fennelly is admitted to practice in the State of New Jersey, the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Fennelly received her Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, from Fairfield University. She received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from Seton Hall Law School. She is a former Law Clerk to the Honorable Daniel R. Coburn, J.S.C.

Awards

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Rated (2026) - Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer rating standard. This is given to attorneys who are ranked at the highest level of professional excellence for their legal expertise, communication skills, and ethical standards by their peers. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Listed in Best Lawyers® (2026-2027), a Woodward/White, Inc. business and partners with U.S. News & World Report, in the area of Commercial Litigation. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Listed in Super Lawyers® (2011, 2020-2026), a Thomson Reuters business, in the areas of Business Litigation, Estate & Trust Litigation, General Litigation, and Class Action/Mass Torts: Defense. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Recipient of the 2024-2025 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law on behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association's Board of Trustees. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- In 2024 and 2025, Ms. Fennelly was named to "ROI Influencers: Women in Business" by ROI-NJ. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE.
- Recipient of the 2020 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award by the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law on behalf of the Morris County Bar Association. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found HERE (No aspect of the advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court).
- Recognized in 2019 as part of the Morris County Bar Association Law Day Celebration as a "Woman Pioneer in the Law" for her work in expanding the role of women in the law in Morris County
- Boy Scouts of America 2013 Tribute to Women Award

Industries

Government (Federal, State & Local)

Practices

Class Actions
Litigation
Private Client Services / Trusts and Estates

Education

Seton Hall Law School (J.D., cum laude 1986)
Fairfield University (B.A. magna cum laude 1982)

Admissions

State of New Jersey
U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

Morris County Bar Association
New Jersey State Bar Association
Morris County Bar Foundation
American Bar Association
Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey
Fellow, American Bar Foundation
New Jersey State Bar Foundation