

McElroy Deutsch

Fruqan Mouzon



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Overview

Curriculum Vitae

FRUQAN MOUZON is Of Counsel and Chair of the Firm's Cannabis Practice Group. He is the former General Counsel for the New Jersey State Senate Majority Office. In that capacity, he provided advice to New Jersey Senate Majority members on Constitutional, procedural, and other legal or ethical issues. He also assisted Senate Majority members in developing of strategic legislative plans and he aided in drafting legislation. He has also served as former Assistant Counsel to New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine. He has extensive public and private sector legal experience, with his past work in government greatly informing his current approach to addressing the needs of business clients in litigation within the context of particular regulations and the current economic environment. Mr. Mouzon is an avid and capable litigator, participating on all levels of trial practice, from discovery, depositions, and motion practice to presenting evidence and argument to a federal jury. In addition, he has significant state and federal appellate experience, having argued a case of first impression before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and a seminal case before the New Jersey Supreme Court addressing the constitutionality of a state statute. Both cases yielded oft-cited published opinions.

In October 2012, Mr. Mouzon was installed as the 50th President of the Garden State Bar Association (GSBA), the African-American Bar Association of New Jersey. The GSBA assists African-Americans and other minorities in becoming effective elements of the judicial system. The organization's mission is to improve the administration of justice, support initiatives to improve the economic condition of all individuals, and work to eliminate discrimination based on race and ethnicity. Mr. Mouzon hopes to take the organization to greater heights and build on the

tremendous legacy of his predecessors.

Mr. Mouzon graduated from Old Dominion University (B.A.) and Seton Hall University School of Law (J.D., *magna cum laude*). He was a law clerk to the Honorable Anne E. Thompson, Chief Judge, United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, Trenton from 1998-1999 and to the Honorable Theodore McKee, Third Circuit Court of Appeals, Philadelphia from 1999-2000. Mr. Mouzon is admitted to practice law in the states of New Jersey and New York, the District Court for the District of New Jersey, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Awards

- Listed in Insider NJ's [2021 Cannabis Power List](#) recognizing the Top 100 influential voices in the cannabis debate.
- Recognized as one of the [Top 20](#) people to watch in 2020 in the cannabis industry by NJ.com.
- Selected to the *New Jersey Super Lawyers* 2014 list, a Thomson Reuters business, in the area of Business Litigation. A description of the standard or methodology on which the accolade is based can be found [HERE](#).
- Named a "Professional Lawyer of the Year" by the New Jersey State Bar Association, 2013
- Listed in *Best Lawyers®*, 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](#).
- "Leadership Newark" Class of 2010
- Named one of the *New Jersey Law Journal's* "40 Under 40," 2009
- Recipient, "40 Under 40 Achievement Award" presented by The Network Journal, 2009
- Winner, Annual Morris County Bar Association Young Lawyer Mock Trial Competition - 2001

Cases

- ***State v. Crawley*, 187 N.J. 440 (2006)**: In this matter, Mr. Mouzon developed, briefed, and presented the New Jersey Supreme Court with an issue not previously conceived. *State v. Crawley* involved a constitutional challenge to a New Jersey statute, drawing much attention from the legal community; it has been cited nearly 70 times in subsequent cases and commentary. Mr. Mouzon questioned the constitutionality of New Jersey's obstruction of the administration of law statute, arguing that a statute may not make it illegal for an individual to run from police officers when the officers lacked the reasonable suspicion necessary to compel a stop under *Terry v. Ohio*. While the case ended in a 5-2 decision against Mr. Crawley, it received much attention and is oft-cited and discussed in criminal procedure and fourth amendment presentations. In developing and presenting this argument, Mr. Mouzon has taken part in the development and understanding of the New Jersey State Constitution, which is of great interest to legal scholars and has a great impact on all New Jersey citizens.
- ***United States v. Rowlands*, 451 F. 3d 173 (3d Cir. 2006)**: Mr. Mouzon briefed and argued this case of first impression before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, later filing a related petition with the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Mouzon converted the issue to a law review article, titled *Forgive Us Our Trespasses: The Need for Federal Expungement Legislation*. As with *State v. Crawley* described above, this case yielded an oft-cited published opinion.

Industries

Government (Federal, State & Local)

Practices

Cannabis

Government Relations

Litigation

White Collar Criminal Defense

Education

Old Dominion University (B.A. 1995)

Seton Hall Law School (J.D. 1998)

Admissions

State of New Jersey

U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

U.S. District Court, EDMI

U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit

Supreme Court of the United States

State of New York

Memberships

All Stars Project, Inc., Development School for Youth: Volunteer who assisted high school students with resume writing, conducted mock interviews, and organized seminar for participating high school students introducing students to the practice of law as a career.

Garden State Bar Association

New Jersey State Bar Association