

Personal Injury Law Firm of the Year in Pennsylvania, US



McDonald At Law

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Founder, Principal Attorney &
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McDONALD AT LAW
THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRIAL ADVOCACY
SPECIALIST
PROFESSIONAL RATING

McDonald At Law is a highly focused and results-driven personal injury litigation firm headquartered in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, distinguished by a singular commitment to representing injured individuals and their families in complex, high-stakes claims. The firm's identity is inseparable from that of its Founder and Principal, Michael P McDonald, whose decades-long career as a trial lawyer has shaped both the strategic direction and the reputation of the practice. Through a combination of courtroom advocacy, client-centred service and a track record of substantial verdicts and settlements, the firm has cultivated a position within Pennsylvania's competitive personal injury landscape that is both specialist and deeply respected.

At its core, McDonald At Law limits its practice to serious personal injury litigation, a deliberate strategic decision that reflects both expertise and philosophy. Rather than diversifying across multiple legal disciplines, the firm concentrates exclusively on plaintiff-side injury cases, including motor vehicle accidents, trucking incidents and other negligence-based claims. This focused approach allows for a depth of legal knowledge and trial preparation that is evident in the outcomes achieved for clients. The firm emphasises that every case, regardless of size, is treated with equal diligence and commitment – underscoring a principle that full and fair compensation is not reserved solely for the most catastrophic claims but is a right inherent to every injured client.

Michael's leadership is central to understanding the firm's success. With more than three decades' experience as a plaintiffs' trial attorney, he has built a career defined by both consistency and distinction. His early professional years in Philadelphia were followed by a long-standing practice in Lancaster, where he established the firm and refined his litigation strategy. Over time, he has gained recognition from both peers and professional organisations, including being named among Pennsylvania Super Lawyers – an honour awarded to only a small percentage of attorneys in the state – and receiving the AV Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell, reflecting the highest standards of legal ability and ethical conduct.

One of the defining characteristics of Michael's professional offering is his certification as a civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, a distinction held by a small minority of lawyers nationwide. This certification signals not only extensive trial experience but also a demonstrated mastery of courtroom advocacy. In Lancaster County specifically, he is noted as the only attorney exclusively representing accident victims to hold such certification.

The firm's reputation is further underpinned by a consistent record of high-value outcomes. McDonald At Law has secured multimillion-dollar verdicts, settlements and arbitration awards, reflecting both the complexity of the cases undertaken and the firm's willingness to pursue litigation through to trial when necessary. Notable results include total settlements exceeding \$5.1 million in cases involving negligence and strict liability, as well as jury verdicts of \$2.6 million and \$2.5 million arising from motor vehicle accidents. In addition, the firm has achieved a \$1.6 million settlement in a trucking accident case, demonstrating its capability in handling commercial vehicle litigation, an area often characterised by intricate liability issues and aggressive defence strategies.

Beyond these headline figures, the firm's case history includes inclusion in such prominent legal rankings as the Legal Intelligencer's lists of top verdicts. For example, Michael's trial record has earned placement among the "Top 50 US Verdicts" in Pennsylvania and within the "Top 10 Motor Vehicle Trial Verdicts" in the Commonwealth, highlighting not only the scale of recoveries but also their significance within the broader legal community.

Some of the firm's most consequential work has extended beyond financial recovery to impact legal precedent. Michael is credited with obtaining one of the largest non-death personal injury trial verdicts in the history of Lancaster County – a result that contributed to the development of precedent-setting litigation concerning third-party excess and bad faith liability. Such cases illustrate the firm's capacity to operate at the intersection of trial advocacy and legal development, where individual claims can shape broader jurisprudential outcomes.

While the firm's technical expertise and litigation success are critical components of its profile, McDonald At Law places equal emphasis on the client experience. Testimonials and client feedback consistently highlight a personalised and empathetic approach, with the firm positioning itself as both advocate and support system during what are often life-altering circumstances. This client-centric ethos is complemented by a broader commitment to professional engagement and thought leadership. Michael has served as an arbitrator in civil proceedings within both Philadelphia and Lancaster County courts, demonstrating trust in his judgement and legal acumen. He is also an author and lecturer on automobile insurance law, contributing to the education of other attorneys and the ongoing development of the field.

Lastly, recognition from industry bodies reinforces the firm's stature. McDonald At Law has been acknowledged by Best Lawyers, with Michael receiving peer-reviewed recognition in personal injury litigation for plaintiffs. This form of recognition, based on evaluations by other leading attorneys, highlights the respect the firm commands within its professional peer group.