



Tom Duffy

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**“If you think about the Mount Rushmore
of American trial lawyers,
Tom Duffy’s face
is right up on that mountain.”**

— Justice Dan McCaffery, Pennsylvania Supreme Court

In the world of catastrophic injury litigation, Tom Duffy is a trial lawyer possessing a level of success that Justice Dan McCaffery called “unparalleled.” This reputation was not built overnight. It began in 1988 when Tom walked away from a promising partnership track at a large Philadelphia firm to establish his own practice. He stepped out on his own with a singular, unrelenting focus: helping individuals and families whose lives have been shattered by catastrophic injury. Over the decades, that vision has evolved into a powerhouse law firm supported by attorneys, staff and experts who share his dedication to improving the victims of life-altering accidents.

A Legacy of Record-Breaking Results

Tom doesn’t just win cases; he sets the benchmarks by which other results are measured. He has secured numerous eight-figure settlements and verdicts on behalf of his clients, including the largest medical malpractice settlement in Pennsylvania history. Most recently, in 2024, Tom obtained a \$43.5 million verdict against Temple University Hospital—the highest medical malpractice verdict in the commonwealth that year and one of the top ten in the entire nation. His expertise covers the full spectrum of complex litigation, ranging from medical malpractice and birth injuries to misdiagnosis, emergency room injuries, auto and trucking accidents, and virtually any area of personal injury where someone has been hurt by another’s negligence.

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Peer Recognition and Distinction

The legal community has consistently recognized Tom's work with its highest honors. He has been named Philadelphia's "Lawyer of the Year" for Plaintiffs Personal Injury Litigation by *Best Lawyers in America* and is a perennial selection to the Super Lawyers "Top Ten in Pennsylvania" list, and being one of the very first attorneys recognized on the "Top Five Personal Injury Attorneys in Pennsylvania" when it was established in 2026. He is also a past recipient of the Justice Michael A. Musmanno Award, the highest honor bestowed by his peers in the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association. Tom holds an "AV" Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell—the highest possible rating for legal ability and ethical standards—and is a member of the invitation-only National Trial Lawyers Association.

Leadership, Academia, and Influence

A veteran advocate who has successfully argued before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Tom is as much a scholar as he is a litigator. He is the author of the closing chapter of the book, *Medical-Legal Aspects of Pain and Suffering*. He is frequent lecturer for continuing legal education programs, sharing valuable information on trial practice and strategies. He is committed to the next generation of legal advocates, as evidenced by his invitations to Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law for the annual advanced advocacy course "Masters of Litigation," and the esteemed "Kolsby Lecture." Beyond the classroom, Tom has been a pivotal voice in the legislative arena, appearing before the Pennsylvania House Insurance Subcommittee to discuss medical malpractice legislation and serving with distinction as the President of the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association.

The "Duffy Avenue" Impact

For Tom, a "win" in the courtroom is only part of the story; his true legacy is found in his commitment to the long-term recovery of the injured and the health of the Philadelphia community. His deep ties to the Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation—where he serves as a member of the board of trustees — led to the hospital naming a portion of its rooftop Healing Gardens "Duffy Avenue" in his honor. In 2023, he was named the recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Moss-Magee Humanitarian Award, joining a distinguished group of past honorees including Charlie Manuel and Dick Vermeil who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities.

"We are all in this together."

Perhaps his most enduring contribution to the Philadelphia legal landscape is the Duffy Fellowship, which he established in 2012. This program provides critical funding to underwrite the salaries of full-time staff attorneys at The Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Community Legal Services, and the Homeless Advocacy Project.

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Additionally, the program funds ten law students from Temple University to spend their summers working in public interest roles throughout the region. Through the Duffy Fellowship, the region's most vulnerable people have access to top-tier legal representation. "No one should be alone in their fight for justice," Tom has said. "If, through the Duffy Fellowship, I can extend the reach of each of these organizations to help others, then I have done my job. Legal support is not a luxury. It's a lifeline."

Education

- Marist College (B.A., *cum laude*)
- Temple University (J.D.)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Awards and Honors

- National Trial Lawyers Association Top 100 (2011-present)
- National Top 25 Medical Malpractice List (2024-present)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers (2004-Present), Top Five Personal Injury Attorneys in Pennsylvania (Named to inaugural list in 2026). Top Ten in Pennsylvania (2016-Present), Top 100 in Pennsylvania (2007-Present), Top 100 in Philadelphia (2007-Present)
- The Best Lawyers in America (2003-Present), 2016 "Lawyer of the Year" for Plaintiffs Personal Injury Litigation in Philadelphia
- Honoree, Adam Taliaferro Foundation 25th Anniversary Gala (March, 2025)
- "Boutique Injury Law Firm of the Year," Corporate INTL Magazine (2024)
- PaLaw Largest Awards and Settlements of 2023
- Jefferson Moss-Magee 2023 Humanitarian Award recipient
- Event honoree, Homeless Advocacy Project 2023 Annual Benefit
- Named to Top 25 Medical Malpractice Trial Lawyers Association, 2023
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2019
- Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association Justice Michael A. Musmanno Award (2018)
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2018
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled "Special Recognition Award" (2018)
- "Catastrophic Injury Law Firm of the Year," Corporate INTL Magazine (2017)
- "AAA Business Award," Adam Taliaferro Foundation (2017)
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2015 (noted as the single largest Premises Liability settlement in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in all of 2015)

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- Community Legal Services “Champion of Justice” (2015)
- *The Legal Intelligencer* PaLaw Largest Awards and Settlements of 2014
- Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania La Justicia Award (2014)
- *The Legal Intelligencer* PaLaw Largest Awards and Settlements of 2013
- *Philadelphia Business Journal* Largest Legal Judgments of 2013
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2013
- Legal Clinic for the Disabled “Special Recognition Award” (2012)
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2012
- Irish Legal 100 (2011)
- *National Law Journal* Top 100 Verdicts in the Nation of 2011
- *The Legal Intelligencer* PaLaw Largest Awards and Settlements of 2011
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2011
- National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF): Community Hero Award (2010)
- *The Legal Intelligencer* “Top Cases, 2011”
- *VerdictSearch* Top Pennsylvania Verdicts of 2010
- *Philadelphia Business Journal* Largest Legal Judgments of 2010
- Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Champion in the Community Award (2009)
- *The Legal Intelligencer* PaLaw Largest Awards and Settlements of 2008

Memberships

- International Academy of Trial Lawyers (Fellow)
- American Association for Justice
- American Bar Association
- American College of Trial Lawyers (Fellow)
- Lawyer Pilots Association
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee (Chairman)
- Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Committee on Rules of Evidence
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Judicial Selection Commission
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Association For Justice (Champion of Justice)
- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Philadelphia Bar Foundation (Advocates of Justice)
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance (Board of Directors)
- Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association (Secretary, Board of Directors, 2012-2013 President)
- Temple University Academy of Trial Advocacy (Faculty)
- Community Legal Services (Board of Directors)
- Committee for a Better Tomorrow
- Homeless Advocacy Project (Board of Directors)
- Magee Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation (Board of Directors)

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- Millville Army Air Field Museum (Board of Directors)
- New Jersey State Bar Association
- New Jersey Association for Justice
- Philadelphia Legal Assistance (Board of Directors)

Speaking Engagements

- "The Art of Closing Arguments," Philadelphia Bar Association Young Lawyers Trial Academy (August, 2025)
- "Win at Trial: Expect the Unexpected," Pennsylvania Bar Institute Continuing Legal Education seminar (June, 2025)
- Justice Daniel D. McCaffery swearing in ceremony, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania (January, 2024)
- "Masters of Litigation," seminar, Temple University School of Law (November, 2022)
- "Masters of Litigation," seminar, Temple University School of Law (December, 2021)
- "Investigating, Pleading and Proving Damages in a Catastrophic Injury Case," CLE and Networking Event (July, 2021)
- "What Juries Need to See and Hear to Win a Big Verdict," Pennsylvania Association for Justice Annual Summer Retreat (July, 2021)
- "Pointers on Closing Arguments." Philadelphia Association for Defense Counsel (May 2021)
- "Establishing Liability, Damages and Deep Pockets in Med/Mal, Construction & Products Cases." CLE and Networking Event (December, 2019)
- "Masters of Litigation" CLE training program, Temple University (November 2019)
- "Ethical Considerations in Discovery & Pretrial Prep." CLE and Networking Event (May, 2019)
- "The Making of a Grand Slam \$160,000,000 Settlement." Duffy Firm CLE and Networking Event (September, 2018)
- "Decision 2017 Chancellor's Forum." Philadelphia Bar Association/Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts (April 2017)
- "Medical Malpractice: Critical Issues in Current Practice," Philadelphia Association for Justice (November, 2016)
- "High Profile Cases, High Profile Attorneys," Philadelphia Association for Justice (October, 2016)
- "The Subtle and Not-So-Subtle Approaches to Damages," Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association (October, 2014)
- "The Simple Keys to Favorable Verdicts," Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association (May, 2014)
- "Stars of the Bar," Pennsylvania Association for Justice (April, 2014)
- "Medical Malpractice Update," Philadelphia Bar Association Medical Legal Committee (July , 2012)

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Articles and Publications

- “A Plaintiffs’ Attorney’s Perspective,” *Medical-Legal Aspects of Pain and Suffering*, Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, Inc., (2003)