



## Michael S. Bechtold

Partner

**Office:** Lebanon, PA

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### OVERVIEW:

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Mike is a member of the firm's [Business](#), [Litigation](#) and [Trusts & Estates](#) practice groups. He prides himself on providing practical, understandable, yet creative legal representation to his clients. Mike is experienced in a wide range of legal fields, having served as a general practitioner for almost two decades, while also becoming an experienced litigator.

#### Litigation and Personal Injury

Mike regularly handles a broad range of civil litigation matters, from simple to complex cases throughout the mid-state and beyond. He has significant experience in business litigation, including breach of contract matters, tort claims and other commercial conflicts. Mike is particularly well-versed in handling personal injury matters, including car, motorcycle and truck accidents, slip and falls, wrongful death, dog bite, products liability, and other serious injury claims. In addition, he handles liability-related claims while litigating for both plaintiff and defense positions.

Mike is a member of The Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, which is recognized as one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the United States. Membership is limited to attorneys who have won million and multi-million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements. Fewer than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members.

Known for his compassionate approach and relentless advocacy, having personally experienced loss of a family member from similar circumstances, Mike is dedicated to helping individuals navigate some of the most difficult times in their lives. He provides guidance and support while fighting to hold responsible parties accountable.

#### Business

In his business practice, Mike counsels entities of all shapes and sizes. From business formation, shareholder advising, contract preparation or review, licensing, buy/sell agreements or dissolution, Mike assists both family-owned and corporate-operated businesses with all their corporate legal needs.

#### Estate Planning & Administration

Mike drafts wills, trusts, powers of attorney and medical directives, in addition to handling estate administration following the passing of a loved one. With a team approach, he frequently prepares and processes all forms of estate documents based on each individual client's needs and circumstances.

## **In the Community**

Mike currently serves as the solicitor for Lebanon School District, providing counsel for a wide range of matters and needs, including employment, construction, contract preparation and review, student discipline, and general guidance and input on collective bargaining agreements.

While earning his undergraduate degree at Princeton University, Mike showcased his talent on the court as an NCAA Division I basketball player. He earned All-Ivy League honors and served as captain of the Men's Basketball Team. His leadership helped propel the team to two Ivy League titles, while also securing opportunities to compete in both the NCAA and NIT post-season tournaments. The Lebanon County native continues to play and coach basketball along with other youth sports and give back to the local community.

## **EDUCATION:**

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- Widener University School of Law, J.D., cum laude
- Princeton University, B.A. Political Science

## **ADMISSIONS:**

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- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Supreme Court

## **PRACTICE AREAS:**

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- Business
- Litigation
- Trusts & Estates
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:**

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**Falcon Youth Basketball League**

Board Member and Travel Team Coach

**Princeton Alumni Schools Committee Mentor**

Mentor

**Lebanon Valley Educational Partnership**

Member

**WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation**

Board of Directors (2016-2023)

**WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital**

Board of Directors (2017-2022)

**Widener Law School**

Board of Advisors (2018-2020)

**Lebanon County Bar Association**

President (2018-2019) and Vice President (2016-2017)

**Salvation Army Advisory Board**

Vice Chair (2007-2014)

**American Heart Association Heart Ball**

Chair (2013)

**MEMBERSHIPS:**

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- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Lebanon County Bar Association

## RECOGNITIONS:

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- The Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum
- William H.G. Warner Pro Bono Award Winner (2020)
- Central PA Chapter Sports Hall of Fame Inductee (2009)

## RELATED NEWS:

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- Barley Snyder Expands Presence in Lebanon with Addition of Partner Michael Bechtold and Team  
March 5, 2025