

**"Confident but humble, prepared but opportunistic, independent but collaborative."**



Edward Casmere, 36, is known for keeping the interests of his clients ahead of his own.

The Schiff Hardin partner focuses his litigation and trial practice on mass tort and product liability defense. Casmere also has handled other commercial and general litigation matters including premises liability, personal injury, construction actions, legal malpractice, medical malpractice, contracts, civil conspiracy, and reinsurance and insurance coverage.

Timothy Whiting of Whiting Law Group says the fact that Casmere is entrusted with such a wide array of legal matters in such different fields "shows how well regarded he is among his peers for his dedication to learn new law and to do what it takes to obtain the best result in each case."

Whiting faced Casmere as an opponent in a very big case and found the attorney to be extremely competent, professional and congenial. "In my 15-plus years of practicing, I have yet to witness a more balanced, prepared and impressive defense attorney, especially at such a young age," he says.

Joseph J. O'Hara Jr., vice president and associate general counsel of Owens-Illinois, has worked with Casmere almost daily for nine years since recruiting him as a Schiff summer associate. "Ed is the best young lawyer I have ever worked with," O'Hara says. Casmere is absolutely committed to serving the client's interests despite the forces that can tug on highly accomplished professionals, he says.

Casmere is "confident but humble, prepared but opportunistic, independent but collaborative," he says.

O'Hara remembers the day he secured a new, small client and brought Casmere on board to do most of the work. "I challenged Ed to come to work every single day," he says, "and be prepared to answer, every night, the question 'What did you do for this client today?'" Casmere took the challenge to heart and won the client's trust and confidence so well that the client is now really "his," O'Hara says.

Nominators describe Casmere as a formidable opponent who has a responsive and selfless approach to his work. One attorney said he was "surprised [Casmere] has not been nominated in previous years," given his legal acumen, ethical compass, even-keeled temperament and general reputation. Another nominator called Casmere "one of the smartest and most articulate attorneys against whom I have practiced."

William R. Fahey of Cooney & Conway says Casmere makes cogent, concise and well-reasoned arguments. Casmere's likeability makes him a very dangerous opponent, he adds.

"Ed always places the interests of his clients above his own interests and is always careful to ensure that any conflicts are resolved in favor of those parties he represents," Fahey says.

Casmere's practice reaches from coast to coast. He speaks regularly about asbestos litigation at seminars nationwide. For example, he made a presentation in New Orleans in April 2009 with Cook County Circuit Court Judge William Maddux and James Hopkinson of Cooney & Conway on the ethics of handling depositions in asbestos litigation. He was also, this past June, a presenter at a conference of national trial lawyers performing a mock trial of a mesothelioma case at the Peninsula Hotel here in Chicago.

Casmere is a member of the American Bar Association and the state bar associations of Illinois and New York.

His pro bono practice has included representing clients successfully in civil rights matters, child visitation disputes and marriage dissolutions. He has also volunteered at a North Side legal clinic where he and other Schiff colleagues take on a variety of cases for those who could otherwise not afforded legal representation.

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