

**MICHAEL J. MERRIAM**  
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**Experience**

- May 2004- Present      **PLYMOUTH ROCK ASSURANCE CORPORATION**      Boston, MA  
MANAGING ATTORNEY, NEW ENGLAND COMPANIES      June 2018-Present
- Promoted to Managing Director of Plymouth Rock's in-house counsel operation in New England.
  - Manage and oversee supervision and training of 23 attorneys and staff in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut Offices.
  - Implemented key performance indicators legal metrics program for Plymouth Rock's Independent Agent Group.
  - Transitioned house counsel offices from Prolaw to Time Matters legal case management system.
  - Piloted and implemented virtual settlement conference dispute resolution program for Plymouth Rock's Independent Agent Group.
  - Formulate annual budget for New England House Counsel operation and prepare mid-year and annual performance and compensation reviews.
  - Handle insurance coverage opinions nationwide for Plymouth Rock's Independent Agent, Direct, and Home Insurance Groups.
  - Advise senior management on litigation issues affecting the enterprise, including class actions, bad faith, and insurance coverage disputes.
  - Conducted diligence and assisted in purchase of MAPFRE Insurance Company of New York and the integration of their in-house counsel operation into the Plymouth Rock Group of Companies.
- LITIGATION AND COVERAGE COUNSEL      May 2004-May 2018
- Lead counsel in numerous jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations which were tried to a defense verdict.
  - Lead counsel in six successful appeals in the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the Appellate Division of the District Court.
  - Advised Plymouth Rock and its affiliates on insurance coverage, litigation, and bad faith issues. Provided counsel on proposed changes to policy forms and endorsements.
- April 2002- May 2004      **JAGER SMITH P.C.**      Boston, MA  
ASSOCIATE
- Litigated cases in the areas of general liability, premises liability, employment liability, and subrogation.
  - Advised corporations on employment and general litigation matters including contract disputes, severance agreements, and wage and hour law issues.
- October 1996- April 2002      **BURNS & FARREY**      Boston, MA/Worcester, MA  
ASSOCIATE
- Conducted numerous bench and jury trials and arbitration hearings throughout the Commonwealth.
  - Defended cases in the areas of general liability, products liability, municipal liability, auto claims, premises liability, liquor liability, and construction litigation.

## **Alternative Dispute Resolution Experience**

June 2015- Present      **NEW ENGLAND DISPUTE RESOLUTION**      Holliston, MA  
**HEARING OFFICER**

- Arbitrate and mediate disputes in the areas of general liability, premises liability, auto liability, bad faith, employment, and business disputes.
- Appointed as a Member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.
- Implement virtual settlement days for a major national insurance carrier.

## **Pro Bono Experience**

- Served as President, Essex County Bar Association and Greater Lynn Bar Association.
- Implemented Superior Court conciliation program in partnership with the Massachusetts Superior Court and American College of Trial Lawyers.
- Organized and moderated Supreme Judicial Court Practicing with Professionalism Course for Greater Lynn Bar Association, which was the only local or county bar association certified to teach the course.
- Develop and maintain the conciliation programs in the Lynn District Court (civil, small claims, and evictions), the Superior Court Statewide Conciliation Program in partnership with the American College of Trial Lawyers, the Essex County Superior Court Conciliation Program, the Lawyer for the Day Programs in Essex Probate and Housing Courts, and the conciliation program in Essex County Probate and Family Court.
- Serve as Court Certified Volunteer Conciliator and Conciliation Trainer.

## **Publications**

- Authored Damages for Bodily Injury (Chapter 7) chapter in MCLE publication [Damages, Interest, and Attorney Fees in Massachusetts Litigation](#).
- Authored Note on maritime search and seizure law, 19 Suffolk Transnat'l L. Rev. 441 (1996).

## **Education**

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL**      Boston, MA

**Juris Doctor, Cum Laude, 1996**

**Honors:** Editor-in-Chief, Suffolk Transnational Law Review, 1995-96  
Dean's List: 1993-94, Summer 1994, 1994-95, 1995-96

**STONEHILL COLLEGE**      North Easton, MA

**Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, 1993**

**Honors:** Major: English; Minor: Political Science  
Dean's List 1989-93