

William J. Ronalter

Partner

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Hartford

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Bill Ronalter is chair of Shipman's Catastrophic Injury Practice Group. Bill represents individuals who have sustained substantial personal injuries and wrongful death cases. In the legal world, everyone wants results, and Bill's results speak for themselves, but what sets him apart is that, at Shipman, he focuses on the quality of his representation of clients in catastrophic injury cases, rather than the quantity of injury cases he is involved in at any given time. This focus allows him the flexibility to be responsive and to listen mindfully to his clients and their needs. Bill prides himself on communicating regularly and proactively with his clients as developments warrant.

Bill has more than 30 years of experience handling personal injury cases in various roles, including plaintiff's lawyer, defense lawyer, and as a consultant for an insurance company. He managed cases throughout the country involving catastrophic injuries including death, paralysis, traumatic brain injuries, amputations, Legionnaires' disease, and burns. Bill has experience in the following types of cases: airplane crashes, accidents involving motor vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, and pedestrians (including DUI cases), uninsured and underinsured motorist claims, products liability (including defective lithium ion batteries in laptops, I-Phones, and E-cigarettes that caused burn injuries), premises liability, construction accidents, drowning, dental and medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, and sexual abuse. He represented 8 of the 10 passengers that were injured or killed in the B-17 crash at Bradley International Airport in 2019 where he reached a confidential settlement. He has served as an expert witness and testified regarding proper claim handling practices. Bill has also served as a guest lecturer (2009-2012) and an adjunct professor (2013-2023) at the University of Connecticut School of Law, Trial Practice Class. Bill Ronalter and Jim Bergenn often use videos to assist with case resolutions. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Shipman is ranked Tier 1 by *U.S. News and World Report* and *Best Lawyers* as a Best Law Firm in both Personal Injury Litigation and Products Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs, and Bill is Board Certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy, a distinction that less than 4% of trial lawyers can claim.

Distinctions

- Named Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year": *Product Liability Litigation – Plaintiffs* (2022, 2026)
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America®: *Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs, Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs* (2018-2026)
- Listed as a Connecticut Super Lawyer®: *Personal Injury General: Plaintiff* (2011-2024)
- Listed as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in Connecticut by Super Lawyers® (2022, 2024)
- Shipman Ranked Among *U.S. News & World Report's* and *Best Lawyers* Best Law Firms for 2023 in Tier 1 for both Personal Injury Litigation–Plaintiffs and Product Liability Litigation–Plaintiffs
- #2 verdict in State of Connecticut in 2015, as listed in the Connecticut Law Tribune's Top Verdicts & Settlements Supplement
- Benchmark Litigation, Local Litigation Star: Personal Injury and Product Liability (Plaintiff) (2012-2015)
- Chosen as a member of The Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a voluntary membership organization that admits only attorneys who have won multi-million dollar verdicts or settlements, and of which fewer than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members
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- Member, The National Trial Lawyers, an invitation-only membership organization of civil plaintiff and criminal defense attorneys, limited to no more than 100 lawyers in each state

Teaching Positions

- University of Connecticut School of Law, Trial Practice Class: Guest Lecturer (2009-2012); Adjunct Professor (2013-2023)
- Quinnipiac University School of Law: Guest Lecturer in January term (2019-present)

Memberships and Affiliations

- Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association: Board of Governors for over a decade
- American Bar Association
- American Association for Justice

Community Involvement

- Former volunteer licensed EMT for the Town of Burlington
- Town of Farmington - Former Youth Football Coach
- Former semi-professional adventure racer (biking, running and paddling) sponsored by Timex

Credentials

Education

- Skidmore College, B.A., 1988, phi beta kappa
- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1991, *cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Connecticut

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of CT