Elizabeth F. Ahlstrand concentrates her practice on complex civil and commercial litigation in the state and federal courts in Connecticut and New York. She regularly represents insurers on a national basis in complex litigation involving first- and third-party coverage disputes with allegations of bad faith and unfair claim settlement practices. She has experience in all lines of insurance, including commercial general liability, personal lines, life and disability, professional liability, employers’ liability, umbrella, excess and surplus lines policies.

Elizabeth also has significant civil litigation / insurance defense experience, particularly in the areas of product liability, construction defect and life sciences, and she regularly defends sports and recreational facilities, such as ski areas, ice skating rinks and race car tracks, in suits alleging catastrophic losses.

Elizabeth also has extensive experience in the area of appellate advocacy. She has presented appeals to numerous state and federal courts and has argued successfully before the Connecticut Appellate Court and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining Seiger Gfeller Laurie LLP, she served as a law clerk for the Honorable Ellen Ash Peters, retired Chief Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Elizabeth is a member of the Connecticut, New York and Vermont Bar Associations as well as several other professional associations relevant to her practice. As Vice-Chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Insurance Law Section, Elizabeth regularly organizes continuing legal education programs on topics relating to insurance coverage and defense. She is also actively involved in her community through a variety of civic organizations, including the Junior League of Greater Hartford and Catholic Charities.

On September 21, 2016, Elizabeth was recognized for her professional and civic contributions by the Hartford Business Journal as one of its 40 Under Forty Award recipients. Elizabeth has also been recognized as a Rising Star in the Connecticut edition of Super Lawyers from 2010 through 2016.
Bernard P. Bell bio

Bernie Bell represents insureds in disputes with their insurers and is a nationally recognized leader in his field. He is a partner at Miller Friel, PLLC, a boutique law firm with the sole focus of helping corporate clients maximize their insurance coverage. He pursues insurance recovery across a full range of disputed claims, from property damage and business interruption losses to claims arising from directors and officers (D&O) liabilities, as well as employment, environmental, fiduciary (ERISA), intellectual property, management, product, professional, representations and warranties (R&W), tax position, and toxic tort liabilities. He regularly appears in courts, arbitration tribunals, and mediations throughout the United States and in London arbitration under the Bermuda Form. He is recognized in The Best Lawyers in America© in the practice of Insurance Law and is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel and past co-chair (policyholder side) of the College’s First-Party Insurance Committee. He wrote or co-wrote chapters in the Appleman insurance law treatise on Commercial Property Insurance and Time Element (Business Interruption) Insurance and is a frequent writer and speaker on insurance coverage issues.
Ted Carleton

Edward (Ted) Carleton is insurance coverage and litigation counsel for domestic and international insurers. He focuses on directors and officers, errors and omissions, representations and warranties, fiduciary, employment practices, technology, first-party property and commercial general liability matters. Additionally, Ted represents clients, both insurance companies and businesses, in professional liability litigation, commercial and bankruptcy matters.
Roy Cohen

Mr. Cohen is a senior trial lawyer with almost 40 years of experience litigating and trying a wide variety of product liability, toxic tort, construction, environmental and groundwater contamination, professional liability, premises liability, automotive and trucking, class action, and business litigation matters.

He leads trial teams in New Jersey and New York, often working collaboratively with other lawyers around the country as a virtual law firm. He often serves as national, regional and local counsel to foreign and domestic clients and their lawyers and is outside general counsel to a number of companies. He is known as an assertive and professional advocate, and clients regularly cite to his strategic thinking, integrity, professionalism, and management skills as the reason for retaining the firm. Recently, he was described by a client as "the best attorney I work with in this country. He is highly ethical and cutting edge in case analysis and early resolution. In a word: Outstanding."

Mr. Cohen serves as Chair of the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section from August 2018 to August 2019. He has been recognized by peers in numerous professional organizations in which he has served, including as Chair of the International Association of Defense Counsel’s Toxic and Hazardous Substances Committee, Chair of the ABA TIPS Commercial Transportation Litigation Committee, Self Insurers and Risk Managers Committee, and Products, General Liability & Consumer Law Committee, and the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Product Liability and Toxic Tort Section. He is a member of the Product Liability Advisory Council, the Litigation Counsel of America, and the Trucking Industry Defense Association. He has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America, Top Attorneys in New Jersey by New Jersey Monthly, and in New Jersey Super Lawyers in various categories. He has been certified and recertified multiple times since 1987 by the Supreme Court of New Jersey Board on Trial Certification as a Civil Trial Attorney and is a frequent author and lecturer on litigation and trial subjects.
Mary-Pat Cormier has been a civil litigator for over 20 years, at both the trial and appellate levels of state and federal courts. She currently is employed as Coverage Counsel at Liberty Mutual Insurance, where she has worked since September 2015. Prior to that, she was a partner at Bowditch & Dewey for 2 1/2 years, and a partner at Edwards Wildman Palmer, where she was employed from 1996 to 2013. Her primary areas of practice are financial services and securities litigation, and she works extensively with professional and management liability insurers on market analysis, product development, and policy drafting for risks. Mary-Pat is also actively involved in the representation of liability insurers in coverage and bad faith/extra contractual litigation throughout the country in state and federal courts, including bankruptcy courts. She is a frequent guest speaker and author on matters including data security and a wide variety of financial and insurance related topics. As she explains:

“My background is in financial services litigation, so I am a ‘trial geek’ at heart. I love the stories of securities litigation, because they are the chronicles that bring securities law and regulation to life. I love to teach and explore the historical and socio-political dynamics that are implicit in the laws and regulations that we learn about in this class, raising questions such as: what led to these laws? What are they trying to address? Where do they achieve those goals, and where do they fall short? And why? My hope is that this dynamic and interactive approach to this area of law will animate it and make it memorable in a way that the law and regulations, standing alone, cannot.”
Janet Davis

Janet Davis concentrates her practice in the areas of insurance coverage, professional liability, and construction litigation. She represents and counsels insurers on a wide range of issues and policies including errors and omissions, directors and officers coverage, employment practices liability, life sciences, and general liability. She represents architects, engineers, surveyors, lawyers, and accountants in litigated and arbitrated matters and also provides design professionals with general corporate counseling on issues including contract drafting, risk management, insurance, fee disputes, and employment. Janet successfully defended an architect in the second sick building syndrome case tried in the United States and has litigated claims involving Chicago landmarks such as the Amoco Building, 900 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago Skyway, and McCormick Place in addition to many roads, bridges, and other commercial structures.

Janet is AV rated by her peers and has been recognized as a Leading Lawyer and Super Lawyer in Illinois in the areas of insurance coverage and professional liability defense. She is a member of several professional organizations and has served in numerous leadership positions in the Tort, Trial & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association where she was honored in 2013 with the Kirsten Christophe Award for Excellence in Trial & Insurance Practice. Janet was elected as a fellow of the American College of Coverage and Extracontractual Counsel, an organization committed to the creative, ethical and efficient adjudication of coverage and extracontractual.
Jay Donovan represents policyholders in insurance coverage and bad faith disputes involving property, commercial general liability, directors and officers liability, employment practices liability and professional services liability insurance claims. He has practiced in the area of insurance coverage for more than 15 years. Jay chairs the Insurance Coverage practice at Foster Pepper PLLC, a Pacific Northwest-based law firm. He can be reached at j.donovan@foster.com.
Richard Dreitzer

Richard Dreitzer specializes in a range of labor and employment matters, including Title VII defense, ERISA claims, wage and hour disputes, OSHA proceedings and representation of employers before the National Labor Relations Board. Richard also concentrates on construction and insurance disputes and other types of general civil litigation as well as life, health, disability and ERISA matters. He maintains an administrative law practice, serving as privately retained Board Counsel to the Nevada State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners and the Nevada State Board of Podiatry. Richard is also actively involved in the Nevada legal community, currently serving as a Small Claims Court Referee and Justice of the Peace pro Tempore in the Las Vegas Township Justice Court. Most recently, Richard was elected to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada.

A formidable advocate and trusted adviser to a long list of loyal clients, Richard has more than two decades of experience and a well-earned reputation for client service. In fact, many if not most of his clients consider him as much colleague as counsel.
Lynnette Epsy-Williams

Lynnette serves as the firm's Chief Diversity Officer. Lynnette has experience in litigating a wide variety of civil and commercial matters, including matters pertaining to mass and complex torts, professional liability, premises liability, products liability, contract disputes, and extracontractual disputes, including defending bad faith claims.

Lynnette has extensive experience in defending many high-exposure products liability and premises liability matters. With respect to products liability cases, Lynnette routinely represents manufacturers, distributors, and retailers of allegedly defective products in negligence actions stemming from allegations, including, but not limited to, failure to warn, breach of implied and express warranties, and any other theory in tort or contract. Lynnette also frequently defends various entities in premises liability matters involving acts of negligent third parties, negligent or improper maintenance of premises, and inadequate security. Lynnette is thoroughly versed in tender and indemnification issues and routinely assists companies in determining where the risk of liability can be shared or absolved completely.

Lynnette handles cases in state and federal courts and she has been involved in every phase of litigation including, taking and defending fact and expert depositions, preparing and arguing key motions, negotiating with opposing counsel, drafting motions for summary judgment and motions in limine, and participating in pre-trial conferences.

Lynnette is the former president of the Gate City Bar Association, the oldest African-American bar association in the state of Georgia. She is also actively involved with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, American Bar Association, Atlanta Bar Association, and the Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers.

Named as a Georgia Rising Star (2012-2016), Lynnette was included in Atlanta Business Chronicle’s 40 Under 40 for 2018, Georgia Trend’s Legal Elite and also Georgia Trend’s 40 Under 40 for 2016. She is also a member of LEAD Atlanta (2013), Outstanding Atlanta (2012), was selected as one of Atlanta’s Power 30 Under 30 (2010) and, most recently, was recognized as one of Georgia's 40 Under 40 (2013), a list developed by The Daily Report that showcases the top Georgia lawyers under 40 who should be on readers' radar.
Amber S. Finch

Partner

Amber Finch is a Partner in Reed Smith’s Los Angeles office. A member of the firm’s Insurance Recovery Group, she has quickly become a go-to lawyer for creating effective risk management solutions. With her litigation background, Amber has helped her commercial policyholder clients recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds. Amber represents a litany of clients from start-up businesses to middle market and Fortune 500. She helps companies manage risk by negotiating broader insurance coverage on the front end, negotiating insurance and indemnity provisions in deal contracts, assisting with tender and collection on insurance and indemnity claims, and litigating insurance and indemnity disputes. Amber has significant experience in standard first party and third party insurance policies, as well as specialty policies, emerging industries and disruptive technologies.
James Fischer is a professor of law at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, California. Professor Fischer has written numerous articles on Insurance Law. He is a co-author of the Keeton, Widiss & Fischer hornbook on Insurance Law (2d ed. 2016). Professor Fischer is active in community and professional organizations, and has served as a special assistant to the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California, and as a member of the hearing board for the South Coast Air Quality Management District. For the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), he has chaired the Committee on Professional Responsibility.
Laura Foggan is a partner in Crowell & Moring's Washington, D.C. office, and chair of the firm’s Insurance/Reinsurance Group. She is described by LawDragon 500 Magazine as "one of the most successful advocates for the insurance industry to ever practice" and recently was recognized as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Insurance & Reinsurance by Who's Who Legal (2019). She is Chambers-ranked and included in the Best Lawyers in America directory, and consistently named one of Washington D.C.'s "Top 100 Lawyers" and "Top 50 Women Lawyers" and a "Super Lawyer" for Insurance Coverage by Super Lawyers Magazine. Laura represents clients in a variety of litigation and counseling matters, including:

- Counseling insurers and reinsurers on strategic opportunities, litigation trends, and emerging risks such as autonomous vehicles and drones, privacy and cyberliability, global warming (climate change), internet-of-things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and utilization of blockchain or distributed-ledger technology.
- Serving as lead counsel in a wide range of complex insurance matters, such as coverage disputes involving rescission, additional insureds, allocation, exhaustion, the duty to defend, settlement obligations, policy conditions and exclusions. Also represents insurers in bad faith and extra-contractual matters.
- Representing clients in both federal and state appellate courts. Has participated in more than 250 appellate cases including key national precedents on insurance issues. Argued before numerous federal circuits and state appellate courts.
- Representing insurance trade associations in a wide variety of matters affecting the business of insurance, including an extensive amicus curiae practice. Also provides technical analysis of insurance issues and analyzes and formulates regulatory and legislative proposals for trade associations and individual clients.
- Assisting in drafting insurance policy forms and endorsements, offering strategic suggestions and form language to meet product goals and regulatory requirements. Particular focus on cyber privacy and data security exposures, including stand-alone cyber, professional liability, and general liability policies. Drawing on the experience of the firm’s Privacy and Cybersecurity Group, monitor and analyze cyber-related claims and coverage issues.
- Contributing to pro bono and community service activities.
Gary Gassman

Gary Gassman focuses his practice in the areas of insurance coverage counseling and litigation and is co-chair of the firm’s Professional Liability Practice Group. For more than 20 years, his practice has been concentrated on management liability including directors and officers and entity liability, employment practices liability, fiduciary liability, and various types of professional liability and commercial general liability coverage. He also has significant reinsurance experience. Gary serves as national coverage counsel for a number of insurance companies in the management of directors and officers and professional liability claims and litigation. He has represented insurers and reinsurers in coverage litigation and domestic and international arbitration and in general business and compliance matters. He regularly engages in management liability and miscellaneous professional liability insurance policy, application and endorsement interpretation and drafting, and has conducted numerous claim, system and underwriting audits for insurers and reinsurers. He also defends various types of professionals in litigated matters. Gary is an active member of the Illinois, Wisconsin, and Arizona bars and a member of the Federal Trial Bar for the Northern District of Illinois.

Gary speaks at insurance coverage seminars throughout the county and is active in several lead organizations. He has taught legal writing as an adjunct professor of law and regularly publishes in the areas of corporate governance, securities laws, and international and domestic D&O, E&O, and EPL exposures and trends. Gary currently serves as Diversity Officer of the American Bar Association, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), co-chair of the TIPS Insurance Institute Task Force, and leader of the Cozen O'Connor LGBTQ Attorney Resource Group.

Gary earned a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1990 and a law degree from The John Marshall Law School in 1993.
Ms. Kokalas’s practice focuses on insurance coverage and commercial litigation. She represents insurance carriers at the trial and appellate level, as well as in arbitrations and mediations. In addition to handling all aspects of litigation, Ms. Kokalas is frequently called upon to prepare coverage opinions. She comes to LPG after having served with distinction as a trial prosecutor in the New York County District Attorney’s Office. Ms. Kokalas is a junior editor for IRMI’s CGL Reporter, focusing on decisions in the area of construction coverage and liability.

**Decisions of Note/Representative Experience**

- Analyze insurance policy provisions, comment on drafting, prepare coverage opinions and reservation/declination letters in connection with third-party construction liability and first-party business and homeowner claims, as well as employment-related claims and personal and advertising injury coverage.

- Litigated complex priority of coverage and contribution claim amongst insurance carriers before the Second Circuit.

- Represented major insurer in multiple disputes resulting from Superstorm Sandy, involving both homeowner and business claims. Member of Steering Committee for defendant insurance carriers in connection with the Eastern District of New York’s dedicated docket. Managed vast number of claims from inception to resolution, including multiple mediations.


- Procured summary judgment for insurer in coverage action involving multiple carriers and additional insured coverage for several insureds.

- Represented insurer in mediation of first-party property dispute involving complex causation issues and ensuing loss.

Conducted examinations under oath of policyholders at the behest of insurer to investigate suspected fraud.

**Speaking Engagements/ Publications/Course Materials**


- Moderated panel discussion “That’s Repugnant – Additional Insured Endorsements and Priority of Coverage,” 24th Annual Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Mid-Year Program, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, February 2016


- **Moderated Toolbox Discussion** “Excess Policy Drop-Down and Erosion (or Exhaustion) of Underlying Policy Limits,” 22nd Annual Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Mid-Year Program, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, February 2014

- Prepare case summaries and analyses of nationwide decisions in the area of construction coverage and liability for Insurance Risk Management Institute’s CGL Reporter, April 2014-December 2018

**Education**

The George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C.
Juris Doctor, 2000; With Honors
Member, Moot Court Board
Research Assistant, Legal Research and Writing Program; Co-Chairperson, Equal Justice Foundation; Law Clerk, Children’s Law Center, Washington, DC; Student Bar Association, Public Interest Committee

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
Bachelor of Science, 1997 (Human Development and Family Studies)
Dean’s List
Bar Admissions

State of New York;
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit;
U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern and Eastern of New York

Professional Activities

*Member*: American Bar Association (Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section - Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee); The New York State Bar Association (Torts, Insurance & Compensation Section); New York City Bar Association

Women in the Legal Profession Committee, New York City Bar Association (2014-2016)

Eric Hermanson

For more than twenty years, Eric has represented primary and excess insurers in high-level coverage litigation involving tort, environmental, construction defect, D&O, professional and general liability claims. He is Vice-Chair of the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, serves as co-chair of the Boston Bar Association’s Insurance Subcommittee, and is on the Board of Editors for the International Risk Management Institute’s CGL Reporter.

In addition to his coverage practice, Eric has a strong litigation background, representing sophisticated institutional clients – including manufacturers, healthcare providers, publishers and related entities – in commercial and life science disputes.

Eric graduated from Columbia Law School, where he was editor of the Columbia Law Review, and clerked for Judge Conrad K. Cyr on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Lead litigation counsel for primary and excess insurers in complex multi-party lawsuits involving tort, environmental, construction defect, asbestos, professional and general liability claims
- Co-counsel for major international reinsurer in federal trial and appellate proceedings arising from allocation of pollution, asbestos, and related long-tail liabilities
- Lead litigation counsel for Massachusetts engineering firm in professional liability proceedings alleging deficient product design
- National coordinating counsel for European medical device manufacturer in U.S. mass tort proceedings alleging injury from implantation of surgical mesh
- Co-counsel to defense contractor in qui tam action alleging improper procurement and billing practices under U.S. Government contract
Overview

Ronald (Ron) Kent currently manages the Firm’s Orange County Office. Ron previously headed the Litigation Department in Dentons’ Los Angeles office, served as co-chair of the Firm’s National Insurance Litigation and Coverage practice and, for 15 years, served a member of the Firmwide Policy and Planning (Management) Committee. He has practiced with the firm since it opened its Los Angeles office in January 1990.

Ron Kent is a preeminent California lead trial and appellate lawyer in insurance dispute resolution and litigation. Since 2005, he has been named each year as a leading trial lawyer nationally and in California, based on peer and client evaluations, by *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers*.

Ron’s highly sought after insurer representation experience spans regulatory litigation and investigations (both state and federal), defending underwriting and claims-related class actions, environmental, asbestos and toxic tort claims, general business disputes including trade secrets, antitrust and redlining. Ron also has acted as coordinating counsel for insurer clients’ coverage and litigation issues arising from natural disasters and mass torts. He has tried matters in state and federal courts throughout California and in other states, and has successfully handled many arbitrations to final decisions. In addition, Ron has briefed and argued numerous appellate matters in the California Supreme Court, nearly all California district courts of appeal and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Ron is a contributing authority to a number of insurance law publications, including *New Appleman on Insurance Law* (Practice Guide and Library Edition), and other ABA and Lexis Nexis publications.

Experience

Ron’s recent professional experience includes:

- Representing First America Title Company as lead trial counsel in a series of certified (*Sjobring v. First America; Kaufman v. First American*) and putative (*Wilmot v. First America; Muehling v. First American*) class actions involving excessive escrow fees and title premiums. After years of significant litigation, *Sjobring* and *Kaufman* were dismissed in October 2018, on motions for judgment on the pleadings, and *Wilmot* is currently on appeal from denial of plaintiff’s motion for class certification in February 2018 (*Muehling* was unilaterally dismissed by plaintiff). The plaintiffs’ combined demand in these class actions
exceeded $750 million.

- **Patrick Kirk v. First American Title Insurance Company**, Superior Court of Los Angeles County Case No. BC372797. Representing First American Title Company and related entities as lead trial counsel, Plaintiff sought $37 million. An eight week trial on the merits of this certified class action was successful. The judgment was subsequently affirmed in its entirety by the Second District Court of Appeal on plaintiffs’ appeal.

- Lead counsel for Travelers in **Travelers v. Actavis**, a California state court declaratory relief action concerning general liability coverage for opioid litigation against a group of pharmaceutical companies. Travelers prevailed at trial, and the judgment was affirmed in its entirety by the Fourth District Court of Appeal in 2017. The California Supreme Court thereafter conditionally granted Actavis’ petition for review, but then withdrew the grant in September 2018. Thus, the published Court of Appeal “no coverage” opinion is now final.


- **SPS Technologies, LLC; Textron Inc. v. Travelers Casualty and Surety Company**, Los Angeles County Case No. BC475622. Ron is lead trial counsel in this coverage litigation involving asbestos-related personal injuries. Travelers obtained judgment for $2.7 million on its cross-complaint. The case currently is pending before the Second District Court of Appeal on plaintiff Textron’s appeal.

- Representing Genworth Life Ins. Co. in an ongoing series of declaratory relief/fraud/bad faith/breach of contract cases involving questionable long term care claims.

- Retained recently by Berkshire Hathaway affiliates to coordinate coverage issues and litigation nationwide for sexual abuse claims against the U.S. Olympic Committee, USA Gymnastics and USA Taekwondo. Also retained to coordinate sexual harassment coverage issues involving USC and former student health center doctor George Tyndall.

Over the years, Ron has additional, extensive experience as national and regional coordinating counsel on significant insurance coverage issues, including:

- Coordinating counsel for Allstate Insurance Company for claims and regulatory issues related to California wildfires for the past 20 years, as well as the 1994 Northridge earthquake.


- Trial counsel in **General Motors Corp. v. Royal Insurance Co.**, a lawsuit filed in Oakland County, MI, concerning insurance coverage for GM’s historic asbestos and environmental liabilities.

**Recognition**

- Since 2006, Ron has been ranked each year for Insurance Law by The Best Lawyers in America. Since 2005, Ron has been named each year as a leading trial lawyer nationally and in California, based on peer and client evaluations, by *Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers*, the highly respected independent attorney rating organization.

Clients have commented:

- “Ron Kent is widely admired as one of the state’s best insurance litigators. He is highly skilled in matters involving allegations of bad faith, toxic tort defense and class action litigation”

- “Ronald Kent is ‘everything you want in a lawyer’ thanks to ‘his calm demeanor and good sense of humor which add to the effectiveness of his thoughtful but aggressive approach to litigation.’”

- “West Coast partner Ronald Kent is described as ‘a very smart and thorough lawyer who thinks things
“Firm wide insurance litigation practice head Ronald Kent is a favorite among clients: ‘The advice he gives is very thoughtful and timely. He responds well to things requiring immediate attention.’ He has been particularly active in insurance bad faith cases, as well as mass torts, class actions and catastrophe losses.”

“On the West Coast, Ronald Kent is an experienced, skilful lawyer who thinks outside the box. He’s great to work with, and is a lawyer who can genuinely try a case.”

“Straight shooter Ronald Kent is described as a major league player...”

**Areas of focus**

**Practices**
- Appellate Advocacy
- Class Action Defense
- Commercial Litigation
- Defamation and Reputation Management
- Health and Welfare Benefits

**Industry sectors**
- Accident and Health Insurance
- Health Care
- Insurance
- Insurance Litigation and Arbitration
- Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation and other Dispute Resolution
- Property, Casualty and Liability Insurance

**Education**
- University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, 1981, JD, Order of the Coif, Member, *California Law Review*
- University of California at Los Angeles, 1978, BA, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

**Admissions and qualifications**
- California
- US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- US District Court for the Central District of California
- US District Court for the Eastern District of California
- US District Court for the Northern District of California
- US District Court for the Southern District of California
Steven Knott

As lead counsel for over forty jury and bench trials, Steven Knott focuses his practice on insurance recovery, commercial disputes and construction litigation.

With 28 years of experience, Steven has advised clients in a diverse array of disputes including fraud, breach of contract, construction claims, unfair competition, class action and third party and first party insurance recovery, groundwater contamination, computer network disputes, insurance program advice, petroleum franchise disputes and asbestos bodily injury defense.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Obtained a clean defense verdict with no appeal after a five-week federal jury trial where a manufacturer sought $125 million in damages against a national corporate client that supplied component parts to plaintiff.

Lead counsel on environmental property damage and bodily injury lawsuits for three national manufacturers for national and international liabilities; recovered over $1 billion from liability insurers.

Lead counsel for national energy company and state public agency in construction and commercial contract lawsuits in state and federal court and in contractual arbitration.
Michelle Lafferty

Director of Risk Control Services, Claims Advocacy Insurance & Risk Management

North America
Contact Michelle

Michelle brings expertise in privacy and security compliance. She oversees all claims and loss control operations and client services for Gallagher clients. Her broad background of professional experience includes many years of practice as a litigation attorney, in-house insurance claim and litigation manager for a professional liability insurance company, claims department practice leader and in-house corporate counsel for a large private insurance broker.
Seth Lamden

For nearly two decades, Seth has focused his practice on representing policyholders in disputes with their insurers. Through litigation and negotiation, Seth has helped policyholders recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds in connection with a broad array of claims and losses, including consumer class actions, professional liability claims, environmental claims, course-of-construction property damage, construction defect claims, toxic tort claims, product liability claims, directors and officers liability claims, employment practices claims, property damage, and business interruption losses, among others. In addition to his litigation practice, Seth also offers strategic advice to his clients on managing risk and maximizing insurance recovery.

Seth is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, an honorary organization of the country's top insurance coverage lawyers, and in 2013, he was profiled as one of the "40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch" by the Law Bulletin Publishing Company. Seth also has been recognized as a leading insurance recovery lawyer by a variety of publications, including The Best Lawyers in America, Illinois Super Lawyers, and Leading Lawyers Network, and he maintains an Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rating.

Seth is a frequent speaker on insurance coverage issues, and he has written dozens of articles and nine book chapters on topics relating to insurance recovery, including:

- “Duty to Defend,” 3 New Appleman on Insurance Law Library Edition § 17
- “Product Liability Insurance,” 3 New Appleman Law of Liability Insurance § 16
- “Duty to Defend,” Illinois Insurance Law, Ch. 5 (IICLE®, 2015) (Co-author)
Chad Layton

Chad Layton, a trial attorney and Shareholder in the Chicago office of Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd., serves as Chairman of the firm's Technology and Cyber Risk Practice Group. Mr. Layton’s more than 20 years of experience as a commercial litigator includes extensive experience in litigating technology E&O claims, and he also provides cyber-risk consulting to corporate clients. Mr. Layton routinely works with technology companies to resolve pre-suit claims and, if necessary, Mr. Layton defends technology companies in complex litigation matters through arbitration or trial. Mr. Layton also has extensive experience handling products liability, employment and other litigation matters.
Harry Lee is the Global Insurance/Reinsurance Practice Group Leader at Steptoe & Johnson, LLP in Washington, D.C, where he has practiced for 33 years. Harry represents clients in their most challenging insurance and reinsurance disputes. He also assists clients in a variety of commercial disputes, including mass tort bankruptcies, insurance broker malfeasance, and legal malpractice defense. With more than three decades of litigation experience, Harry is recognized as a tireless advocate for his clients, and particularly for his ability to handle the most contentious cases and stand up to the most aggressive and difficult opposing counsel across the country at both the trial and appellate levels. He is ranked in “Band 1” by Chambers USA, and is co-head of Steptoe’s top-tier Insurance/Reinsurance Group.

Harry has litigated more than 100 insurance coverage cases, and has advised his clients on hundreds of others matters. A significant portion of Harry’s practice involves representation of major direct-side insurers with respect to third-party and first-party coverage issues arising from commercial and personal lines policies, particularly environmental and toxic tort/product liability claims, including bad faith claims. He also has handled a number of novel insurance coverage and business issues, including insurance-related disputes over workers compensation programs and mortgage-backed loans. For reinsurers, Harry handles disputes concerning treaty and facultative coverage, including billing and allocation issues arising from underlying liability and property damage disputes. All of Harry’s matters present the need for an experienced legal tactician and capable trial attorney.

Harry is a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland Bars, and has been admitted to the Bars of the Supreme Court of the United States and the US Courts of Appeal for the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Seventh and D.C. Circuits. He is a cum laude graduate of Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law. He received his undergraduate degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a life-long Washingtonian and is married to Carley Denlinger Lee. Harry and Carley have three grown sons, Michael, Danny and Billy.
Ari R. Magedoff, Esq.
Assistant Vice President – Claims Manager - D&O and Fi Claims, AXIS Insurance

Ari is an assistant vice president in the Professional Lines Claims Group at AXIS Insurance, specializing in Directors’ and Officers’ Liability, Financial Institutions Errors & Omissions Liability and Private Equity Liability. Prior to joining AXIS in 2010, Ari practiced in the securities litigation group of White & Case LLP and the insurance coverage group of Skarzynski Black LLC. Ari is an active member of PLUS and the American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section, where he is the currently a member of TIPS Council, Chair Elect of the Outreach to Young Lawyers Committee, former Chair of the Professional Liability Insurance Committee, former Chair of the Technology Committee and Vice-Chair for the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee. Ari also sits on the Membership, Finance and Corporate Counsel committees, as well as the ABA Standing Committee on Technology and Information Systems. Ari is a cum laude graduate of the University of Miami and received his law degree from Seattle University School of Law.
Kate Maguire is a partner of Ken Maguire & Associates, PLLC, specializing in commercial insurance litigation. Ms. Maguire has appeared in Courts throughout the New York City area, and has experience in all aspects of litigation. Ms. Maguire has achieved numerous successful decisions for her clients, and is adept at motion practice and mediation. Specializing in insurance coverage disputes, her cases included multi-million dollar claims, and has successfully combated bad faith claims, throughout the United States, including matters in New York, Indiana, Nevada and Utah.
Christina Marinakis

Dr. Marinakis has 13 years of jury research, study, and applied practice in law and psychology. Christina has assisted trial counsel during jury selection and with daily trial monitoring in venues across the country, helping clients obtain favorable outcomes in notoriously difficult jurisdictions such as Baltimore, Miami, St. Louis, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Christina draws from her backgrounds in law, psychology, and jury research to draft juror questionnaires, *voir dire* questions, jury instructions, and verdict forms. Through her experience conducting focus groups, mock trials, and shadow juries, she has analyzed hundreds of mock jurors, in addition to interviewing actual jurors post-verdict. Christina regularly assists counsel in developing and implementing trial themes throughout *voir dire*, opening statements, and witness testimony, and she is particularly skilled at translating legal concepts to juror vernacular. Her case experience includes product liability, antitrust litigation, class action, legal and medical malpractice, contract disputes, patents, securities, fraud, trade secrets, employment discrimination, wage and hour, toxic tort and criminal work for both prosecutors and defendants.

Litigation Insights is a national, woman-owned company with more than 20 years of experience conducting jury research, developing trial graphics and assisting counsel with jury selection and case presentation during trial proceedings. As a full-service firm, the company provides everything from witness preparation and jury selection to trial graphics and courtroom technology.
Aon Biography

Darin McMullen
National E&O/Cyber Product Leader
Professional Risk Solutions
Aon

Darin joined Aon in 2016 after serving as policyholder coverage counsel in the private practice of law since 1998. Prior to joining Aon, Darin was a shareholder with Anderson Kill, providing advice, counsel and representation to commercial clients on insurance coverage-related issues for both privately held and publicly traded. Darin also served as Co-Chair of the firm’s Cyber Insurance Recovery Group and was a frequent speaker on issues related to cyber insurance coverage. Darin also served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable William J. Nealon of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

Darin’s expertise includes cyber insurance, errors & missions insurance, as well as analysis of the connectivity between cyber insurance and other lines including property insurance.

Darin earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Honors from The University of Pittsburgh and earned his Juris Doctorate Summa Cum Laude from Widener University School of Law, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.

Aon plc (NYSE:AON) is a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions. Our 50,000 colleagues in 120 countries empower results for clients by using proprietary data and analytics to deliver insights that reduce volatility and improve performance.
Helen K. Michael, a partner in Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton’s Washington, D.C. office, specializes in complex commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on insurance coverage disputes. Over nearly 30 years of representing policyholders at trial, in ADR proceedings and on appeal, she has helped a who’s who of companies maximize their insurance recoveries in high stakes disputes involving directors & officers liability insurance, as well as every other major type of property and casualty coverage. Ms. Michael has been repeatedly recognized by her peers and prestigious ranking organizations as one of the nation’s top insurance recovery attorneys. She is an active leader in national bar associations and other professional organizations focusing on the insurance industry and insurance litigation, and speaks and writes on a wide variety of insurance issues.
Christopher R. Mosley

Areas of Emphasis
• Insurance Recovery

Overview
Chris Mosley is a Member of Sherman & Howard’s Trial Group and Chair and founder of the Firm’s Insurance Recovery Group. Mr. Mosley specializes in representing corporate policyholders in disputes against their insurers. During his career, Mr. Mosley has helped businesses recover more than $150 million from insurance companies. Mr. Mosley’s expertise extends to all types of commercial insurance policies in virtually all industries.

Mr. Mosley regularly speaks on insurance coverage issues and has been the author of several articles and advisories addressing insurance related issues and has been involved in some of the most significant and groundbreaking legislation benefitting corporate policyholders in Colorado.

Mr. Mosley is listed in The Best Lawyers in America and Colorado Super Lawyers in the area of Insurance Law, and is rated “AV” by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Mosley has also been selected as a fellow in The American College of Coverage Counsel, and has served as the national Chair of the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee for the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section. In 2014, Mr. Mosley was selected as “Barrister’s Best” policyholder coverage lawyer by Law Week Colorado.

Education
• Juris Doctor, University of California-Los Angeles School of Law, 1991
• Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Claremont McKenna College, 1998
ANDREW S. NADOLNA
Mediator

Andrew is originally from Chicago, Illinois and then Los Angeles, California. Following graduation from Reseda High School, he received his Bachelor of Arts in History from U.C.L.A. and his law degree from Syracuse University.

Following graduation from law school, Andrew practiced law in the areas of insurance defense and insurance coverage with the Chicago-based law firms of Querrey & Harrow and then Bollinger, Ruberry & Garvey before joining AIG as a Complex Coverage Director. Andrew’s subsequent career at AIG spanned 17 years and culminated in his position as Global Head of Casualty Claims, from 2011-2015. During this time, he oversaw an organization of 2,000 claims professionals worldwide with an annual claims spend of roughly $9 billion.

Following AIG, Andrew became a mediator and joined JAMS. His mediation practice is an insurance-focused practice based at JAMS in New York City but he regularly travels for his cases both domestically and internationally. He has mediated disputes involving cyber, pollution, property, D&O, E&O, CGL and Excess Casualty, reinsurance, captives and transactional insurance. He has also mediated many catastrophic injury claims including medical malpractice, products liability, premises liability and general liability. He also mediates professional liability disputes such as lawyers and accountants malpractice and insurance broker errors and omissions.

Andrew has spoken at numerous events for organizations such as ABA, ARIAS, CLM, DRI and Advisen. He is on the faculty of the Global Cyber Institute. He also teaches a free CLE course on mediation process to law firms, claims departments and in house legal groups.
Mitchell A. Orpett

For more than 30 years, Mitch Orpett has been a recognized leader in the legal community and a strong and effective advocate for his clients. With an unwavering focus on identifying solutions and achieving excellent results, Mr. Orpett is an accomplished veteran of the courtroom, the arbitration hearing, the mediation table and the executive boardroom. With values based on safeguarding clients’ interests and building lasting relationships, Mr. Orpett combines commitment, vision and inspiration to help his clients meet and exceed their goals. A recognized and published authority in reinsurance, insurance coverage and professional liability issues, Mr. Orpett has also developed an active practice in product and premises liability and in employment and other commercial litigation. A strong voice for the profession, Mr. Orpett has held leadership positions in a number of organizations, serving as a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, Chair of its Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section and its Standing Committee on Continuing Education of the Bar and as a member of its Presidential Commission on the Unintended Consequences of the Billable Hour. He has been recognized for his legal work as an Illinois Super Lawyer™ and by the Leading Lawyers Network in Illinois.

An original founding member of the firm, Mr. Orpett has dedicated his career to the uncompromising service of his clients with the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. Believing, in the words of an anonymous author, that “It is our dreams and not ourselves that we should take seriously,” Mr. Orpett also draws inspiration from the words of another Chicagoan, Daniel Burnham, who counseled us to “Make no little plans – they have no magic to stir men’s blood. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work.”
Micalann C. Pepe primarily practices in the areas of insurance coverage and bad-faith litigation. Her diverse practice includes commercial litigation, civil litigation, and transaction matters. Ms. Pepe also assists businesses with their wide-ranging needs, including contract review and litigation. She has a wide-range of experience, including: medical marijuana, DUI, foreclosures, and workers’ compensation litigation. Before joining Jaburg Wilk, Ms. Pepe successfully first-chaired multiple bench and jury trials with the City of Phoenix Prosecutor’s Office through a law student Rule 38(d) program.

Ms. Pepe grew up in small-town South Dakota where she enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing with her Grandpa, and learning the long-standing work ethic that the Mid-West is known for. She moved to Arizona to pursue dual degrees at Arizona State University, ultimately graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies and a B.S. in Finance from the W.P. Carey School of Business at ASU. Forever a Sun Devil, Ms. Pepe continued her education at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, graduating cum laude and gaining admission to the Arizona State Bar in 2011.

Southwest Super Lawyers has been consistently recognized Ms. Pepe as a Rising Star since 2015. The Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society recognizing effectiveness and accomplishment in litigation and trial work, along with ethical reputation, named Ms. Pepe an Associate Fellow in 2017. Ms. Pepe has co-authored and contributed to publications for the ABA TIPS Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, Defense Research Institute, and the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance on various topics, mainly focusing on developments in insurance law. Ms. Pepe was appointed Vice Chair of the ABA TIPS Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee in 2017. Ms. Pepe is proud to have been chosen as a participant in the 2013 inaugural class of the AADC’s “Ladder Down” program focused on honing leadership, business development, and mentoring skills for women lawyers. She also began participating as a board member of the Arizona Association of Defense Counsel, Young Lawyers’ Division in 2011 and served as the Board’s President from 2016-2017. Ms. Pepe was then appointed to serve on the AADC Board in 2017, and she currently serves on the Judicial Selection Committee.
Hillary Raimondi

Hillary Raimondi is a partner in the firm's professional liability and employment practices liability areas. She represents attorneys, insurance and real estate brokers and agents, accountants and other professionals in the defense of claims arising from alleged malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract and other statutory bases for professional liability. Her experience includes defending attorneys in complex litigation who practice in a wide variety of areas, including but not limited to commercial, matrimonial, civil rights, employment, real estate, personal injury and estate and tax. Ms. Raimondi also defends employment discrimination lawsuits as well as claims before the New York State Division of Human Rights and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and handles civil rights claims brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 on behalf of municipalities. Prior to joining the firm in 2010, Ms. Raimondi served as an Associate County Attorney in the Litigation Bureau of the Westchester County Attorney’s Office, where she worked for over fourteen years. In that capacity, she defended the County and its officers and employees in a broad range of matters in both federal and state courts and before administrative agencies, focusing largely on employment matters and federal civil rights claims. In addition to litigation, Ms. Raimondi’s experience includes advising employers regarding compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family Medical Leave Act, as well as policy development in these areas.

Ms. Raimondi co-chairs the employment law committee of the Westchester Women’s Bar Association and is also a member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society, the New York State Bar Association, the American Bar Association and DRI. Ms. Raimondi is a cum laude graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she served as a Managing Editor of the Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal.
Kristine Rickard

Kristine's focus at Fuzion is on corporate governance, human resources, regulatory compliance, market conduct, and litigation issues. She comes to Fuzion from a Midwest-based specialty insurance carrier where she served as the company's claims vice president and underwriting counsel. Prior to that, she held roles as vice president of general liability claim management at Travelers and vice president and claims counsel at XL Insurance.

Throughout her career, she has developed and implemented claims best practices for the start-up claims divisions, overseen third-party claims administrators, and ensured compliance by national coverage counsel. In addition, Kristine has served as underwriting counsel to business units for interpretation and application of policy provisions. Kristine earned her undergraduate degree in Communications from the University of Pennsylvania and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.
Keith Schraad was appointed by Governor Ducey the Director of the Arizona Department of Insurance in February of 2018. Keith is responsible for overseeing ADOI’s protection of Arizona consumers and support for a competitive and healthy insurance market in the state. Insurance is an integral part of the Arizona economy and generates over $500 million in premium taxes annually.

As Director, Keith is an active member of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) where he serves as vice chairman of the Innovation and Technology Task Force as well as a member of the Life Insurance and Annuities (A) Committee.

Keith has over 25 years of both private and public-sector experience in the areas of insurance, healthcare, technology and government. During his term as President and CEO of Online Insurance Corporation, Keith helped develop solutions for insurance companies and health care professionals that streamlined their customer service operations and improved their interfaces with government.

Formerly from Kansas, Keith served in the Kansas Senate from 1996 to 1998, where he was Vice Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prior to serving in the Senate he was Vice President of NIC, a government technology company, where he worked with states to improve the delivery of government services. Keith has a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law.
Francine L. Semaya is currently a legal consultant in insurance regulation, reinsurance, insurance insolvency and transactional matters. She was previously the chair of the insurance regulatory and transactional group of two international law firms, where she handled corporate and regulatory filings, and counseled clients with respect to compliance with insurance regulatory requirements, as well as reinsurance and insolvency matters. She concentrates her practice in reinsurance, insolvency and national and global insurance regulatory matters in the areas of property, casualty, life, annuity, surety and financial guaranty. In addition to handling insurance regulatory, insolvency and transactional matters, she performs legal and compliance audits and serves as an expert witness. Ms. Semaya was named a “2009 Woman to Watch” by Business Insurance magazine.

Active in several professional organizations, Ms. Semaya is a past President of the International Association of Insurance Receivers, having previously served as a member of its Board of Directors. She is a longtime member of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), where she has assumed various leadership roles including six years as the section's Delegate to the House of Delegates and three years on TIPS Council. She served as the founding Chair and then Chaired the TIPS Task Force on Federal Involvement in Insurance Regulation Modernization and Health Care Reform from its inception in 2004 through August 2014; past Chair of the Task Force on Implementation of TIPS Insurance Insolvency Report; a member of the Excess Surplus Lines and Reinsurance Committee and a member and past Chair of TIPS Insurance Regulation Committee. Ms. Semaya is on the Board of Directors of Insurance Federation of New York. She is also a member of the New York City Bar's Insurance Law Committee; past member of the Practising Law Institute's Insurance Law Advisory Board and AIDA. As a member of Federation of Regulatory Counsel, she served for several years on its Admissions Committee.

Ms. Semaya is a frequent lecturer and has authored numerous articles in both legal and insurance trade publications, including National Underwriter Property & Casualty, Best's Review, American Bar Association, Practising Law Institute and others on topics pertaining to insurance regulatory, reinsurance and insolvency law. She is often called upon to organize and chair seminars and programs of significance to the insurance industry. Ms. Semaya is Co-Author of Insurance Law for Common Interest Communities: Condominiums, Cooperatives and Homeowner Associations, published by Sunshine Gardens Legal Publishers, LLC, 2018 and The Law of Flood Insurance – North Carolina Edition, Sunshine Gardens Legal Publishers, LLC, 2018.
Tamara is a civil litigator and insurance coverage lawyer. Over the past 22 years, she has developed a particular expertise in handling complex insurance matters and insurance coverage litigation, advising clients on insurance coverage and best claims handling practices, and defending professional liability and various business and contract claims. She represents clients in the courts of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including the state business courts and federal courts, and in private arbitration. She has extensive experience representing insurers in declaratory judgment actions involving interpretation of policy language and determinations of coverage. Tamara has successfully appealed matters before the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Tamara counsels clients daily on insurance coverage issues, avoidance of bad faith claims, and other issues of insurance contract interpretation that often implicate the laws of various states across the nation.

Tamara is presently working on various projects relating to the intersection of Insurance and the Gig Economy, and will be speaking on these issues before the New Hampshire Bar Association in November 2018 and at the American Bar Association’s 27th Annual Midyear Meeting of the Tort and Insurance Practice’s Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee in Phoenix, Arizona in February 2019.

Tamara is a frequent speaker on insurance coverage issues for the benefit of her clients and fellow practitioners. She is also the Chair of the Insurance Law Section (2013 – present) of the New Hampshire Bar Association, a position that she has continually held since she petitioned the NHBA to establish the Insurance Law Section in 2012.
Ms. Stalker is originally from Los Angeles, California and now splits her time between Philadelphia, PA and Scottsdale, AZ. Deborah received her B.A. in Political Science, magna cum laude, from California State University, Northridge and law school degree from University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

Following graduation from law school, Deborah began work in private practice in Chicago, IL at what was then known as Lord Bissell and Brook (now, Locke Lord), in the field of corporate insurance. While Deborah’s private practice law career remained in the same corporate insurance area of specialty, she worked for a number of different law firms between Chicago and her native Los Angeles, before ending her private practice career with Katten Muchin and Rosenman (then, Katten Muchin and Zavis) in 2000 and going in-house.

In 2000, Deborah went in-house with Liberty Mutual in Boston, MA. In 2001, she became general counsel of Liberty’s Regional Agency Markets, a $4B segment within Liberty Mutual. In this role, Deborah was a member of the executive management team and oversaw a nationwide team of regional general counsels and legal analysts. In 2005, Deborah relocated to Pennsylvania and began the next (and current) phase of her career with ACE Group, now known as Chubb Group, following ACE’s acquisition of The Chubb Corporation in 2016.

Currently, Deborah is Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Director of Global Business Support, for Chubb. In this role, Ms. Stalker is responsible for the global legal operations of Chubb’s Digital (innovation) initiatives/business, Global Reinsurance transactions, and Multinational Programs. In this role, Deborah overseas an international team of lawyers and legal analysts. Deborah also serves as General Counsel for several Bermuda-based insurance entities, including Chubb’s protected cell captive operations. She is a current Board member of several of Chubb’s Bermuda companies and an officer of CHUBB’s US operating companies.

In 2014, Deborah was chosen as a Business Insurance “Women to Watch” honoree. She is also a founding member, and Past-President, of the ACE Women’s Forum (now known as IMPACT).
Michael J. Steinlage

Michael serves as a resource to clients at every stage of the business decision life-cycle, from contract formation/product development, to business practice execution and risk management and, if it comes to it, defending your actions to counter-parties, regulators and juries. Michael draws on his experience and relationships across a range of industries to tailor creative, cost-effective, and sound approaches to your most important legal disputes and business decisions.

Michael has deep roots in the insurance and reinsurance industry, representing insurers, policyholders and reinsurers in disputes throughout the country involving significant product liability and class action exposures, professional and environmental liability, commercial property/business interruption losses, and life, health, and disability claims, and advising clients regarding coverage for emerging risks.

Michael also works closely with clients in the banking, mortgage and servicing industries, defending against every type of dispute and exposure imaginable arising out of mortgage origination, servicing, and foreclosure practices, and consumer and commercial lending relationships.

Michael represents broker-dealers, investment professionals, and fiduciaries in disputes relating to the promotion, sale and handling of investments, insurance and annuity products, and qualified funds.

Michael handles corporate trust litigation, obtaining judicial relief for institutional trustees and other parties to trust agreements, indentures, and other financial agreements involving trusts.

Michael also practices in the areas of privacy, data security, and automation risk management, and is a frequent speaker on these topics. His knowledge includes strategic consumer protection and business continuity risk management counseling, breach response and related litigation, and insurance coverage for such risks.
Craig Stewart is an attorney in the Boston office of White and Williams LLP where he is co-chair of the Bad Faith and Extra Contractual Obligations group of the firm’s Commercial Litigation Department. He has over thirty years of jury and jury-waived trial experience in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation as well as in a wide variety of products liability and complex commercial matters. He serves as National Bad Faith Counsel of a multi-line global insurance company and has successfully defended commercial liability carriers against claims of bad faith claims handling, denial of coverage and failure to settle brought by third-party claimants and policy holders claiming millions of dollars in compensatory and punitive damages. Mr. Stewart is a Vice-Chair of the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee of the Tort Trial and Insurance Section of the ABA, an active member of The Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, and a member of the Defense Research Institute. Mr. Stewart has written and presented extensively on insurance coverage and bad faith topics. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Law School. For contact information and further details about his experience, please visit www.whiteandwilliams.com.
Scott B. Tenenbaum, Esq.
Senior Claims Specialist - D&O and FI Claims, AXIS Insurance

Scott is a Senior Claim Specialist in the Professional Lines Claims Group at AXIS Insurance, specializing in Directors’ and Officers’ Liability, Financial Institutions Errors & Omissions Liability and Private Equity Liability. Prior to joining AXIS, Scott was a litigator practicing in the professional liability/insurance group at a nationally recognized law firm. Scott is a CLM fellow and also a member of PLUS and the American Bar Association. He is a graduate of the business school at the University of Maryland and received his law degree from Pace University School of Law. Scott is an avid sports fan (Jets, Mets and Knicks!) and enjoys spending time with his wife and two young children.
Ms. Thiem is a Partner in the Firm’s Charleston office. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and insurance and risk management counseling.

In her commercial litigation practice, Ms. Thiem has represented a diverse group of clients as plaintiffs and defendants in both state and federal courts. Ms. Thiem has represented clients with a variety of cases, including claims for fraud, negligent misrepresentation, trademark infringement, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference with contract, deceptive trade practices and trade secret misappropriation. She also regularly represents consumer financial services institutions in litigation matters in state and federal courts in South Carolina.

Ms. Thiem also provides insurance and risk management counseling for commercial policyholders. Ms. Thiem has counseled clients with respect to coverage or potential claims under a variety of insurance policies, including general liability, directors and officers liability, professional liability, employers liability, representations and warranties and commercial property. With respect to representations and warranties insurance, Ms. Thiem works collaboratively with deal counsel to represent publicly and privately-held companies in the placement and negotiation of representations and warranties insurance policies. Ms. Thiem also works with real estate counsel in drafting and reviewing insurance and indemnification provisions.
Timothy M. Thornton, Jr.

Partner

Timothy M. Thornton, Jr. is a partner in the Encino office of Gray•Duffy, LLP. With more than 25 years’ experience, Mr. Thornton provides legal counsel on insurance-related matters, such as construction defects, employment matters, mass torts, toxic torts and exposures, and environmental contamination. He also handles matters in insurance coverage of intellectual property, entertainment claims, cyber liability, and sexual abuse claims against religious and other entities.

He has been named on the list of Southern California Super Lawyers since 2012; list of Best Lawyers in America© since 2012; as well as “AV” rated by his peers by Martindale-Hubbell.

Mr. Thornton is admitted to practice in California. He is a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, American Bar Association, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel.

Mr. Thornton obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1982 from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, as well as his Bachelor’s Degree from Stanford University in 1976.
Cheryl’s practice concentrates on all aspects of insurance coverage and defense. Her areas of expertise include complex insurance disputes, reinsurance, bad faith litigation, international arbitration, products liability, general liability, premises and hotel liability, cyber risk, technology and data security, property damage and first-party coverage and toxic torts (including pharmaceutical and herbal/homeopathic products, chemical exposure, latent injuries, environmental, lead and mold). Cheryl has acted as coverage counsel, defense counsel to U.S. and foreign insurers in U.S. litigation nationwide and international arbitration, and has supervised defense counsel on a nationwide basis on diverse books of business. She also has extensive experience drafting insurance policies.

Cheryl, a frequent lecturer on insurance coverage-related issues, punitive damages, e-discovery, toxic torts, pharmaceutical products liability, cyber law and other topics, was admitted to the bar in 1989 and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York and the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Hofstra University School of Law in 1988 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics from Brandeis University in 1985. Cheryl proudly joined Traub Lieberman after many years as a partner at a prominent, large insurance defense firm.
Christopher Yetka

Christopher has experience in enforcing policyholder rights in many areas. He been involved in high-stakes insurance bond and professional liability claims for financial services and medical device companies. He has helped clients resolve insurance disputes involving MCS-90 endorsement claims under commercial auto policies for transportation companies. Christopher has opposed the application of the pollution exclusion stemming from environmental cleanups and, on behalf of construction company clients, avoided business risk exclusions. He has also handled insurance disputes stemming from employment practices claims and resolved coverage claims for directors and officers.

In addition, Christopher represents businesses and individual clients in other aspects of commercial litigation and counseling. He has served as lead counsel in claims involving railroad defense, employment practices, product liability, personal injury, minority shareholder disputes, contract and warranty disputes, antitrust, and psychological negligence. Chris also litigates conservatorship, guardianship and trust claims, and recently tried a trust case that lasted seven days before the Hennepin County District Court on behalf of a beneficiary.

Christopher does not believe in needless arguing or prolonged acrimony, nor is he daunted by the prospect of trial. He clearly communicates his analysis of a client’s chance for success upfront and is dedicated to making even the most complicated issues as simple and easy to understand as possible. Because many of the litigation claims in which he is involved are complex by nature, Christopher’s skill in understanding the details of a case without getting bogged down in the minutia is valuable. This approach is particularly important when he takes a case to trial, where he focuses on the broader issues and arguments in order to present persuasive, definitive arguments that make sense to decision-makers.

Originally from the Midwest, Christopher’s sincere and direct communication style frequently make him persuasive in and out of court. In recent years, Christopher has tried a number of cases both to the trial court and juries, where he presented the facts and arguments based on careful initial case evaluation and the practical application of the law.

Prior to joining the national practice at Barnes & Thornburg, Christopher was a partner at one of the largest Minneapolis-based law firms.