



# **SPEAKER BIOS**

**Marion Adler**

Adler Law Practice, LLC

Marion B. Adler has been representing commercial policyholders in coverage disputes for more than 30 years. Her experience spans a wide variety of liability coverages, including General Liability, D&O, Errors & Omissions, Employment Practices Liability, Privacy/Cyber Coverage, Fidelity, and other types of business coverages. In addition to serving as litigation counsel, Marion advises businesses on coverage disputes as they arise and negotiates on their behalf with insurers when coverage is denied, both in one-to-one settlement talks and mediations.



Marion writes and speaks often on the subject of commercial liability insurance coverage from the perspective of policyholders. In addition to her membership in the ACCC, her expertise as an insurance recovery attorney has been recognized by her designation as a SuperLawyer and Leading Lawyer in the area of insurance coverage.

**Robert Allen**

The Allen Law Group

BOB ALLEN founded the Dallas Texas based The Allen Law Group on March 1, 2013 after spending nearly 30 years with top firms, including Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson, Baker & McKenzie and Vial, Hamilton, Koch & Knox.



Mr. Allen's practice is primarily focused in representing parties in trial court and appellate proceedings in insurance, commercial and tort litigation in Texas and other regions of the United States. This includes complex insurance coverage, bad faith, fraud, and reinsurance disputes. Mr. Allen also serves as a mediator, arbitrator, and neutral in insurance, reinsurance, commercial and tort disputes. His expert witness work includes attorney fees and insurance and bad faith issues.

Bob Allen is active in several Professional Associations, including the ABA and State Bar of Texas Insurance Law Section. He was a founder and a past Chair of the Dallas Bar Association's Tort & Insurance Practice Section. He is a Fellow in the American College of Coverage and Extra Contractual Counsel.

Bob is a graduate of Denison University and SMU Dedman School of Law.

**Dan A. Bailey**  
Bailey Cavalieri LLC

Mr. Bailey is a nationally recognized expert regarding directors' and officers' responsibilities, liabilities, indemnification and insurance. As Chair of Bailey Cavalieri LLC's "D&O" practice group, he represents directors and officers, corporations and insurance companies relating to corporate governance matters, and has been involved in most of the largest D&O lawsuits in the country for more than 35 years. In addition to publishing dozens of articles on the subject, he is co-author with William E. Knepper of Liability of Corporate Officers and Directors (8th Edition), which is cited as the standard treatise on the topic.



**William T. Barker**  
Dentons U.S. LLP (Retired)

William T. Barker is a Retired Partner in the Chicago office of Dentons U.S. LLP, whose nationwide practice representing insurers in complex litigation, included matters relating to coverage, claims handling, sales practices, risk classification and selection, agent relationships, and regulatory matters. He sometimes serves as an expert witness on matters of insurance, professional responsibility and standard of care. He is a co-author (with Ronald D. Kent) of NEW APPLEMAN INSURANCE BAD FAITH LITIGATION, SECOND EDITION and (with Charles Silver) of PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSURANCE DEFENSE COUNSEL. He was an Adviser to the American Law Institute project on the RESTATEMENT (THIRD) OF THE LAW OF LIABILITY INSURANCE. He has been described as the leading lawyer-commentator on the connections between procedure and insurance. See Charles Silver & Kent Syverud, *The Professional Responsibilities of Insurance Defense Lawyers*, 45 DUKE L.J. 255, 257 n.4 (1995).



Mr. Barker is a member of the American Law Institute and an Adviser to its project on the Restatement of the Law of Liability Insurance. He is a Special Advisor to the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics & Professional Responsibility. He is a past Director of the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers. He is Co-Chair of the Subcommittee on Ethics of the ABA Section of the Litigation Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee and a Vice Chair of the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section ("TIPS") Committee on Insurance Coverage Litigation. He is TIPS Liaison to the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability, a past Chair of the TIPS General Committee Board, the TIPS Ethics & Professionalism Committee, the TIPS Appellate Advocacy Committee, and the TIPS Robert B. McKay Law Professor Committee.

**Mary E. Borja**  
Wiley Rein LLP

Mary represents clients in complex litigation and arbitration involving professional liability, general liability, cyber, crime, and property insurance coverage. She provides advice and counsel on a wide range of insurance issues, including legal malpractice and other errors and omissions claims, director and officer liability, bankruptcy, crime, construction defect, environmental liability, blockchain and other technology, and bad faith.



Mary is a certified Legal Lean Sigma Institute (LLSI) White Belt, and uses the LLSI process and project management approach to deliver increased value to clients.

**Beth D. Bradley**

Tollefson Bradley Mitchell & Melendi, LLP

Beth concentrates her practice in insurance coverage and appellate matters, and is board certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Beth has represented primary and excess insurers, agents, policyholders and reinsurers in a variety of coverage-related litigation, including declaratory judgment actions, primary/excess disputes, bad faith cases and appeals. In addition, she regularly advises insurers on coverage issues under general and professional liability policies, commercial auto and trucking policies, commercial property policies and homeowners' policies. She has acted as a mediator and an arbitrator for coverage disputes.



## **Margo Brownell**

Maslon LLP

Margo Brownell leads Maslon's policyholder-only coverage practice, where she zealously represents top-tier corporate clients, as well as individuals, religious institutions, and nonprofit organizations. Her advocacy has resulted in high-stakes insurance recoveries through litigation, arbitration, and negotiation in the United States and abroad. Specializing in policyholder coverage work for more than 20 years, she has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of her clients.



Margo was recognized as a 2018 Attorney of the Year for her work in securing almost \$200M in insurance proceeds for the settlement of the clergy abuse claims brought against the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

Margo has expertise in a wide range of insurance products and coverage areas, including mass tort and product liability (in medical technology and life sciences, among other areas), directors' and officers' and professional liability, antitrust and securities liabilities, employment practices liability, asbestos and other toxic torts claims, environmental liability, cyber liability, intellectual property liability, and corporate-owned life insurance (COLI) used for funding executive benefit plans, as well as other life insurance products.



## **John G. Buchanan III**

Senior Counsel, Covington & Burling LLP

John Buchanan, Senior Counsel in the Washington office of Covington & Burling LLP, has represented insurance policyholders for nearly four decades. He contributed to one of the earliest treatises on cyber risk and insurance in 2001. Starting with the network intrusion discovered by TJX in 2006, he has represented multiple policyholders seeking coverage for historically major data breaches. John also advises policyholders in purchasing coverage for cyber- and Internet of Things (IoT)-related risks.



John speaks and writes frequently on topics relating to insurance, litigation and alternative dispute resolution, including most recently on the insurance issues arising from artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, the IoT, blockchain, drones, and social engineering fraud. He has taught a graduate-level course on Insurance Litigation at U.Conn. Law School's Insurance Law Center, and he co-chaired the ACCC-U.Conn. Virtual Mini-Symposium on pandemic liability coverage in November 2020. John served as an Adviser to the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law of Liability Insurance and on the Members' Consultative Group for the ALI's Compliance, Enforcement, and Risk Management Principles project. Among other bar activities, he co-chairs the ACCC's Cyber & Computer Crime Committee and has co-chaired its Nomination Committee.

John is a graduate of Princeton, Oxford, and Harvard Law School; he clerked on the Third Circuit before joining Covington. *The National Law Journal* named him an Insurance Trailblazer in 2021. He has also been nationally ranked in *Chambers USA* for many years, named DC Lawyer of the Year for Insurance in *Best Lawyers*, and listed in *Best of the Best USA* and other peer reviewed lawyer registries.

**Robert D. Chelser**  
Anderson Kill, P.C.

Robert D. Chelser is a shareholder in Anderson Kill's Newark office. Bob represents policyholders in a broad variety of coverage claims against their insurers and advises companies with respect to their insurance programs. Bob is also a member of Anderson Kill's Cyber Insurance Recovery group.



A leading participant in the birth of modern insurance law in the early 1980s, Bob has earned the reputation as "*The Insurance Guru*" for exceptional insurance coverage knowledge, and has emerged as a leader in such new areas of insurance coverage as cyber-insurance, D&O, IP, and privacy insurance.

Bob has served as the attorney of record in more than 30 reported insurance decisions, representing clients including General Electric, Ingersoll-Rand, Westinghouse, Schering, Chrysler, and Unilever, as well as many small businesses including gas stations and dry cleaners. He has received numerous professional accolades, including a top-tier ranking for Insurance Litigation: New Jersey in *Chambers USA: American's Leading Lawyers for Business*, which dubs him a "*dominant force in coverage disputes*" and cites a client who calls him "*a dean of the insurance Bar; one of the brightest in writing about and analyzing insurance coverage.*"

He is also listed in *The Legal 500*, [\*The Best Lawyers in America\*](#), [\*Super Lawyers\*](#) and *Who's Who Legal* in the Insurance and Reinsurance section of the publication.

Bob is a relentless advocate for his clients in their efforts to obtain coverage from their insurance companies. He has strength in creatively analyzing complex insurance coverage disputes and rapidly driving towards resolution. He has spent his entire career obtaining settlements from insurance companies. He can speak "insurancese" as well as the insurers, and knows how to approach insurance companies, when to talk to them and when to litigate. His depth of experience enables him to distinguish a bad insurance claim from a good one, and understand and implement best strategies for obtaining money for his clients quickly and cost-effectively.

## **J. James Cooper**

ReedSmith

Jim Cooper is a partner in the Houston office of Reed Smith and has been practicing law in Texas for over 35 years. He is a past chair of the Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas and a current co-chair of the American Bar Association's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee. Jim has been selected by his peers for inclusion in the Texas Super Lawyers rankings in the area of insurance coverage since 2006, he is recognized in "Band 1" for Insurance in Texas by Chambers USA, and he was selected by Best Lawyers in America as its 2019 Houston "Lawyer of the Year" for his work in Insurance Law. He is also a recipient of the Bowmer Professionalism Award from the College of the State Bar of Texas (the highest professionalism award from the Texas State Bar).



**Edward J. “Ned” Currie, Jr.**  
Currie Johnson & Myers, PA

**EDWARD J. “Ned” CURRIE, JR.**, is a Senior Shareholder at Currie Johnson & Myers, PA, in Jackson, Mississippi. He graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1976 and has spent his career in the courtroom, having tried over 175 jury cases to verdict. Ned is a Founding Regent and Past President of the American College of Coverage Counsel and is a past President of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association, which awarded him the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award and 2021 Defense Lawyer of the Year. He also is a member of the American Law Institute, Mississippi Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Rules of Civil Procedure, Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (former Director), International Association of Defense Counsel, and is a Fellow of Litigation Counsel of America. Ned was recognized by Best Lawyers in America as Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law (Mississippi 2021 and 2012) and Personal Injury Litigation-Defense (Mississippi 2016). He also has written and lectured widely on an array of insurance coverage issues and trial practice.



**Edward J. “Ned” Currie Jr.**  
Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A.

Edward J. “Ned” Currie, Jr. is a Senior Shareholder at Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A., with offices in Jackson and Biloxi, Mississippi. He has forty-five years of experience in the courtroom and has tried over one hundred seventy-five cases to verdict. His practice covers the range of insurance defense matters including numerous significant cases in the fields of large loss and complex insurance coverage claims and bad faith.



Ned is a Founding Regent and Past President of the American College of Coverage Counsel. He is a member of the American Law Institute, Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel, IADC, and serves by appointment on the Mississippi Supreme Court Advisory Committee for the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure. Ned also is a Past President of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association - which named him Defense Lawyer of the Year for 2021, and awarded him its 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was named by Best Lawyers as Mississippi's 2021 Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law, 2016 Lawyer of the Year for Personal Injury – Defense, and 2012 Lawyer of the Year for Insurance Law.

In addition to eight years of teaching evidence and trial practice as an adjunct professor at the Mississippi College School of Law, Ned has served on the faculties of the International Association of Defense and Corporate Counsel Trial Academy, The National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and Trial Academies of the Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association. He is a frequent lecturer on insurance topics and has published articles on insurance coverage issues.

**Rikke Dierssen-Morice**  
Maslon LLP

Rikke Dierssen-Morice has collaborated with corporate policyholders in the U.S. and abroad on insurance claims and in recovery litigation for nearly 20 years. She serves as national insurance counsel to business policyholders, with particular depth in the food, agriculture, manufacturing, financial, and construction industries.



Rikke, who began her career drafting coverage opinions, position letters, and litigating as a part of a national coverage counsel team for a major insurer, has successfully handled high-stakes insurance claims in bench and jury trials throughout the U.S. Assisting 100+ clients each year to recover on small to multimillion-dollar insurance claims, Rikke also realizes that litigation is not always the best path, and leverages her early experiences as insurer counsel to help her policyholder clients work with claims representatives and coverage counsel to achieve maximum payment. She is skilled at fully and correctly documenting many different types of insurance claims—and is a fierce advocate on behalf of her clients.

Notably, Rikke was instrumental in obtaining over \$200 million in commercial property insurance recoveries for clients resulting from Hurricanes Harvey, Maria, Isaac, and Katrina.

**Marilyn Fagelson**  
Murtha Cullina LLP

Marilyn Fagelson is a partner at Murtha Cullina LLP in New Haven, Connecticut. She is Chair of Murtha Cullina's Insurance Recovery Practice Group and works principally on complex commercial litigation, insurance coverage on behalf of policyholders, and appellate practice. Marilyn has represented policyholders seeking coverage for claims involving a variety of subject areas including asbestos and environmental injuries, legal malpractice, sexual abuse, property damage and products liability. Marilyn has secured coverage of defense and indemnity under many types of policies, including commercial general liability, errors and omissions, malpractice, property, homeowners, title and crime policies.



Marilyn has numerous trial and appellate court wins to her credit, many of which concerned policyholder access to and construction of umbrella and excess policies. For instance, in *R.T. Vanderbilt Co., Inc. v. Hartford Accident & Indem. Co.*, 333 Conn. 343 (Conn. Oct. 8, 2019), the Connecticut Supreme Court affirmed wins in two phases of trial and an extensive Appellate Court decision concerning the allocation of defense and indemnity for asbestos-related personal injury claims across more than 30 years of coverage. The proper exhaustion of primary policies and construction of defense obligations in umbrella and excess policies were among the dozens of issues addressed in these decisions. Similarly, in *Hartford Roman Catholic Diocesan Corp. v. Interstate Fire & Cas. Co.*, 905 F.3d 84 (2d Cir. 2018), the Second Circuit affirmed judgment after a bench trial in which the trial court awarded coverage to a Roman Catholic diocese for settlements of sexual misconduct claims under excess policies.

In addition to being a fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, Marilyn is a member of the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association and has held the positions of Chair (2016-2018), Vice Chair and Treasurer of the Insurance Section of the Connecticut Bar Association.

**Laura Foggan**  
Crowell & Moring LLP

**Laura Foggan** is a partner in Crowell & Moring's Washington, D.C. office and chair of the firm's Insurance/Reinsurance Group. She has been described by *LawDragon 500 Magazine* as "one of the most successful advocates for the insurance industry to ever practice." Laura was recently recognized as a Global Elite Thought Leader for Insurance & Reinsurance by *Who's Who Legal* (2019 and 2021), who praised her as a "dynamic and creative thinker" who has "very high standards and delivers superior work." She is a *Chambers*-ranked Band 1 practitioner and included in the *Best Lawyers in America* directory, including being named a "Lawyer of the Year" for 2020-2021. She is also 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.



In addition to her litigation and counseling work described above, Laura represents insurers and reinsurers in arbitrations, as well as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation proceedings.

Laura served as the insurance industry liaison to the American Law Institute's Restatement of the Law on Liability Insurance Project. A former co-chair of the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association (ABA) Litigation Section, Laura is praised by *Chambers USA* as "outstanding and the complete package" who has "encyclopedic knowledge and brings incredible depth and diversity of experience" (2019). Laura is regularly rated by *Chambers USA* as one of Washington's "Leading Lawyers" for insurers in commercial insurance work, is included in the *Best Lawyers in America* directory for insurance law, and has been named one of Washington's "Top 100 Lawyers" (2012-2019), "Top 50 Women Lawyers" (2009, 2011-2019), "Top 10 Lawyers" (2015), and "Super Lawyers" for Insurance Coverage (2008-2019), among many other honors.



**Gary L. Gassman**  
Cozen O'Connor

Gary Gassman focuses his practice in the areas of insurance coverage counseling and litigation, and regularly speaks and publishes in the areas of domestic and international D&O, E&O and EPL exposures and trends, diversity, equity & inclusion and civility issues, and corporate governance and securities laws. Gary is co-chair of the firm's Professional Liability Practice Group, co-leader of the Cozen O'Connor LGBTQ+ Attorney Resource Group and Chair-Elect of the ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), one of the ABA's largest sections. He is the former TIPS Diversity Officer.



For 25 years, Gary's 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 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 earned a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1990 and a law degree from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1993.

**Garth A. Gersten**

Shapiro Biegling Barber Otteson

Garth A. Gersten is an attorney with Otteson Shapiro. He is currently the 2021 Vice-Chair of Insurance Committee of the Colorado Bar Association and a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel.



In his insurance coverage practice Mr. Gersten represents and advises policyholders in their disputes with insurers. He has litigated coverage and bad faith claims in the areas of construction defects, pollution, intellectual property claims, business interruption claims, underinsured and uninsured motorist coverage, fire and storm losses, and workers compensation insurance disputes.

Mr. Gersten is focused on proactively assisting clients by reviewing existing insurance programs for policyholders and advising on gaps and overlaps. He also reviews and revises contractual insurance and indemnity provisions to make sure his clients' interests are protected.

Mr. Gersten previously practiced in North Carolina, where he represented insurers and policyholders and was a frequent presenter at insurance coverage seminars. He was Chair of the Government Affairs Committee for the North Carolina Captive Insurance Association. Prior to that, Mr. Gersten practiced in California, where he represented major insurers, providing advice, and handling bad faith and declaratory judgment litigation, including several large pollution and construction defect cases.

Mr. Gersten has been active in Pro Bono matters, including representing guardians ad litem in appellate proceedings and in litigation with the State of North Carolina over access to dental care for children on Medicaid.

**Steven R. Gilford, Esq.**  
JAMS

Mr. **Steven R. Gilford, Esq.** is a mediator and arbitrator in commercial, insurance and a variety of other types of disputes. He joined JAMS following 40 years of experience in litigation, insurance and negotiation of complex settlements. Chambers has described Mr. Gilford as having “a remarkable ability to focus on the points that really matter” and “[the] ability to talk to both sides in a clear and down-to-earth manner.”



Mr. Gilford has handled trial and appellate litigation, domestic and international arbitrations, mediations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. His work has encompassed a wide range of industries and subject areas, including major contract, private equity and commercial disputes, consumer and other class actions, securities cases, technology outsourcing, defamation, trademarks, trade secrets and restrictive covenants. Mr. Gilford has also served as national and regional counsel for defense and coordination of major product liability matters.

In addition to his extensive litigation experience, Mr. Gilford is nationally recognized in the areas of insurance and reinsurance. Since joining JAMS, he has acted as an arbitrator and mediator in a broad variety of insurance and reinsurance disputes. In private practice, he represented clients in all segments of the insurance industry, including policyholders, insurers, reinsurers, captives and brokers. His experience includes virtually every area of insurance coverage, including CGL, D&O, cyber, E&O, product recall, employment practices, political risk/transactional and first-party property and business interruption. He is also experienced with litigation and proceedings relating to insurance insolvencies and in matters involving the U.S., London and Bermuda markets.

**Michael A. Hamilton**  
Goldberg Segalla

Michael A. Hamilton handles sophisticated and high-exposure insurance coverage claims and commercial litigation. As a leader of the firm's Global Insurance Services Pennsylvania and Ohio teams, Mike focuses his practice on environmental, professional liability, construction defect, transportation, and business torts/advertising injury claims. He has been lead defense counsel in class action litigation, representing insurance companies, self-insurers, and transportation entities. He also has extensive appellate experience, arguing numerous appeals in state and federal courts across the country.



**Rick Hammond**

Insurance Claims and Litigation Consultants, LLC

Rick Hammond is the Principal of Insurance Claims and Litigation Consulting, LLC where he serves as an expert witness on matters involving insurance industry customs and practices and allegations of bad faith. Previously and for more than 30 years he served as coverage and bad faith counsel for a number of national insurers. He is an adjunct Professor on Insurance Law at Loyola University Chicago Law School, formerly served as head of the Illinois Department of



Insurance's Chicago office, and as a property insurance claim examiner and full-lines insurance producer for two major insurance carriers. Mr. Hammond is Past-President of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, former Illinois State Representative of DRI, member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, a Fellow of both the American College of Coverage Counsel and Litigation Counsel of America. At the onset of the global pandemic, Mr. Hammond was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court to serve on the Court Operations During COVID-19 Task Force, and he was also one of two attorneys in the country selected by the Lexis Nexis Insurance Law Center to receive its "Insurance Lawyer of the Year Award."

**Christine Haskett**  
Covington & Burling LLP

Christine Haskett is a trial lawyer who represents insurance policyholders in litigation, arbitration, and claims disputes with commercial insurance carriers. Christine's practice encompasses almost every type of insurance coverage dispute, and she frequently litigates nine-figure claims on behalf of corporate policyholders. She has a chemical engineering background, which gives her special expertise in insurance cases involving the chemical, oil, and manufacturing industries.



**Patrick Kenny**  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP

Patrick Kenny is a trial attorney at Armstrong Teasdale with significant bad faith and insurance coverage experience. In his 30+ years of practice he has tried jury cases to verdict in Missouri and Illinois, handled and supervised numerous appeals, is sought after as an expert with respect to insurance coverage, and has served as a neutral in scores of cases.



Patrick was named the Best Lawyers® 2016 Insurance Law “Lawyer of the Year” in St. Louis and has received numerous other recognitions in connection with his insurance and commercial litigation practices. Among those are long term listings in Best Lawyers® for Insurance Law, as a Missouri/Kansas “Super Lawyer,” Martindale-Hubbell and American Lawyer Media (ALM), as now Chambers USA’s recent addition of Missouri insurance lawyers to its listing of America’s Leading Lawyers for Business.

Patrick also has been serving for years in leadership roles in various other professional insurance organizations, presenting at conferences in the U.S. and in Europe, publishing extensively, presenting on coverage issues, and conducted private trainings for clients.

When not practicing law, Patrick enjoys running, duplicate bridge, chess and travel.

For more on Patrick’s background visit: <https://www.armstrongteasdale.com/patrick-kenny/>. You can reach Patrick at [pkenny@atlpl.com](mailto:pkenny@atlpl.com) or 314-780-2362.

**Paul Koepff**  
Clyde & Co

Paul Koepff is highly regarded for his work in insurance coverage litigation known. His extensive portfolio includes handling numerous insurance coverage litigations, as well as trials and arbitrations, and serving as a lead counsel for many substantial insurance coverage disputes and appellate rulings throughout his 45-year legal career. Paul was a senior partner with O'Melveny & Myers LLP until 2012, where he served as a partner of litigation and as the chairperson of O'Melveny's Insurance Department, which was awarded the Best Insurance Department by Chambers.



Paul has had success in numerous bench and jury trials over the years, as well as many US, London, and Bermuda arbitrations of complex coverage cases on key coverage issues. Paul has prevailed in lengthy and highly protracted jury trials and arbitrations which involved high profile issues and significant dollar amounts. His successful appeals include major favorable decisions from the New Jersey Supreme Court, the New Jersey Appellate Division, New York Appellate Courts, the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Southern District of New York.

Paul has an AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale-Hubbell and received the 2020 "Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award" by *Marquis Who's Who* for being a leader in the legal field. He is listed in *Chambers USA* for his work in insurance dispute resolution, where commentators applaud his "superior industry knowledge" and his skill in litigation and arbitration. Paul is also recognized by *The Legal 500 USA* as one of the nation's leading insurance lawyers, and clients describe him as, "a great team player, an excellent lawyer who provides a supremely good service."



**Linda Kornfeld**  
Blank Rome LLP

Linda Kornfeld is one of the nation's most prominent insurance recovery attorneys, representing corporate policyholders in high-stakes litigation for more than 25 years. Using strategic, creative approaches in her trial and appellate practice, Linda assists her clients in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance assets. She is a strategic adviser to senior executives and in-house counsel on mitigating risk and maximizing insurance recoveries.



*Chambers USA - California* reports, “Linda Kornfeld is ‘encyclopedic when it comes to coverage law, has remarkable expertise and knowledge of her field and is very strategic,’ say interviewees. She impresses market sources with her adroit handling of complex coverage matters, including those in emerging areas such as cybersecurity and data breaches.”

*Chambers - Nationwide* states, “Linda Kornfeld is an experienced insurance practitioner noted for her skills in assisting clients in major coverage disputes. She frequently represents universities, telecommunication companies and nonprofit organizations. Sources say: ‘She is very thorough, thoughtful and has a great background in complex insurance matters.’”

*Legal 500 US* calls her an “exceptionally talented insurance litigation expert.”

**Seth Lamden**  
Blank Rome LLP

Seth D. Lamden is a partner in Blank Rome LLP's Insurance Recovery Practice Group, resident in the firm's Chicago office. He concentrates his legal practice on assisting policyholders understand and enforce their rights to insurance coverage. He has helped policyholders from a broad array of industries, including construction, utilities, manufacturing, professional services, financial services, and managed care, recover hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance proceeds.



Seth is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel. He also serves as an Executive Editor of the International Risk Management Institute, Inc.'s Insurance Law Essentials. He is a past chair of the American Bar Association's Self-Insurance and Risk Management Committee of the Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) and is the chair-elect of TIPS' Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee. He has written more than 70 articles and nine book chapters on topics relating to insurance coverage, including: Duty to Defend, 3 New Appleman on Insurance Law Library Edition § 17; Product Liability Insurance, 3 New Appleman Law of Liability Insurance § 16; and Discovery, 12 New Appleman on Insurance Law Library Edition § 152. He maintains a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent™ rating and is listed in the area of insurance coverage in Chambers USA, The Best Lawyers in America, Illinois Super Lawyers, and Leading Lawyers Network.

**Anthony B. Leuin**  
Shartsis Friese LLP

Tony Leuin is the founder of the Insurance Recovery Practice at Shartsis Friese LLP in San Francisco, California. Although Tony has a broad background in civil disputes of all types, he has for over two decades focused on representing policyholders against their insurers. Tony evaluates and litigates coverage under the widest range of policies, including CGL, D&O, E&O, Environmental, Employment, Crime, Cyber, and Reps and Warranties insurance. Tony has also represented numerous insureds, including prominent Northern California wineries, on property losses, most often from fire.



Tony has co-chaired the Construction Sub-Committee of the ABA Litigation Section's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee; has been a Contributing Editor to California Practice Guide: Insurance Litigation (The Rutter Group); has repeatedly been named a "Super Lawyer" in Insurance Coverage; and frequently writes and speaks on coverage matters. Tony currently chairs a Risk Purchasing Group through which over 2,000 lawyers at over 40 mid-size law firms around the country acquire professional liability coverage.

**Leo P. Martinez**

University of California Hastings College of Law

Leo Martinez is Dean Emeritus and Albert Abramson Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He served as UC Hastings' Academic Dean for twelve years and he served as the Acting Chancellor and Dean of the College in the 2009-2010 academic year. At Hastings, his primary teaching included insurance law, contracts, and tax. He is currently a Managing Director of Andersen, the tax and financial services firm.



Professor Martinez is a co-author of a leading insurance law casebook now in its ninth edition and a coeditor of four-volume insurance treatise, New Appleman Insurance Practice Guide. As a member of the American Law Institute, he served as an Adviser on the new Restatement of the Law of Liability Insurance. He is the author of many articles on tax, insurance law, and legal education that have appeared in journals including the *Stanford Law Review*, *Tulane Law Review*, *Rutgers Law Review*, *Yale Law and Policy Review*, *China EU Law Journal*, *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Journal*, and *Global Jurist*.

## **Lorelie S. Masters**

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

**Lorelie (Lorie) Masters** is a partner in Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP's Washington, DC office. A nationally recognized insurance coverage litigator, Lorie handles all aspects of complex commercial litigation and arbitration. Lorie has been deeply involved in representing clients on coverage for COVID-19 losses since March 6, 2020, advising clients on business-interruption, event-cancellations, directors and officers ("D&O"), and other coverages. She also continues to advise clients on a wide range of liability coverages, including insurance for environmental, employment, directors and officers, fiduciary, property damage, cyber, and other liabilities. She also handles various types of first-party property insurance claims, including claims under boiler and machinery, business-interruption, contingent business-interruption, extra expense, disability and other related coverages. She is the author of two well-known treatises, *Insurance Coverage Litigation* and *Liability Insurance in International Arbitration: The Bermuda Form*. The *Bermuda Form* treatise won the British Insurance Law Association's 2012 Book Prize and has been called the "standard work on the topic" by the English Court of Appeal. Among other accomplishments, she helped found the American College of Coverage Counsel and served as its second President. Lorie also served for eight years as an Adviser to the *Restatement of the Law, Liability Insurance*, the first Restatement on insurance (published in September 2019).



Lorie served on the American Bar Association's Board of Governors from 2016 to 2019, and as Treasurer for the DC Bar Foundation. In addition to her commercial insurance practice, she maintains an active pro bono practice, focusing on representing victims of human trafficking, in conjunction with her role as Chair of the Board of the Human Trafficking Legal Center.

**Jennifer Mathis**  
Troutman Pepper

Jennifer Mathis has distinguished herself as a go-to adviser for her clients on complex professional liability insurance coverage disputes in California and nationwide. She has achieved numerous victories at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts in high stakes coverage and bad faith litigation. She also assists her insurance clients with resolving and managing complex professional liability claims arising under public and private directors and officers and corporate liability policies, employment practices liability policies, healthcare and human services liability policies, lawyers liability policies, and a wide spectrum of other miscellaneous professional liability policies, including advising clients on the unique issues faced when insureds are in bankruptcy. She also strategizes on policy drafting issues and assessing ongoing risks. In addition to her insurance coverage practice, Jennifer maintains a general civil and commercial litigation practice. Her clients have included large corporations, not-for-profit entities, wholesale and retail insurance brokers, small business owners, and individuals.



Jennifer has collaborated on pro bono matters with the Orange County Public Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, Human Options (an Orange County shelter for victims of domestic abuse), KIND (Kids in Need of Defense) and the Washington, DC-based Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. These pro bono matters include cases involving free speech and free exercise of religion, preparing attorneys' fee petitions for prevailing parties in civil rights litigation, assisting unaccompanied minors in navigating their way through the U.S. immigration system, and obtaining protective orders for victims of domestic violence. She also has represented clients in step-parent adoption cases.

Jennifer is the managing partner of the San Francisco office.

**Douglas McIntosh**

Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd.

Douglas McIntosh is a shareholder in the firm's Ft. Lauderdale office and serves as co-chair of the firm's Insurance Coverage & Bad Faith practice group. He brings nearly four decades of experience to his insurance defense practice.



While he concentrates on representing clients facing catastrophic damages, suits and insurance coverage matters, his extensive experience includes commercial and professional negligence litigation and product liability.

He handles a broad range of admiralty and maritime matters. Starting his career trying COGSA cases in federal court, he later represented some of the largest cruise lines in the world, specializing in defense of passenger and crew sexual assault claims and complex Jones Act claims involving medical care and treatment afforded by ship's hospitals and contracted physicians and other medical professionals. Mr. McIntosh has handled mass infection claims with food poisoning and other infectious disease cases brought against cruise ship owners and operators, on multiple occasions. He has prevailed in many cases at the trial and appellate levels, in state and federal courts.

Mr. McIntosh also counsels insurance companies on bad faith, professional errors and omissions, general liability and all-risk policies of insurance issues. He also provides expert testimony in state and federal courts in bad faith, primary, excess and reinsurance law cases.

He is a qualified arbitrator in Florida and has served as selected mediator, panel and sole arbitrator in a variety of complex cases. Well respected throughout the state, he also authored numerous articles, published chapters on defense techniques for major publishers and has lectured frequently on a variety of topics, including trial techniques, bad faith and insurance coverage in Florida and law firm economics and business practices.

**Suzanne C. Midlidge**  
Coughlin Midlidge & Garland LLP

Suzanne Cocco Midlidge is the Managing Partner and a founding member of Coughlin Midlidge & Garland LLP. She is also a member of the Firm's Insurance and Reinsurance Services Group.



Prior to election to managing partner, Suzanne served as the practice group leader for the Insurance and Reinsurance Services Group from 2004 to 2012.

Suzanne's practice focuses on the representation of domestic and international insurers and reinsurers in litigated and non-litigated matters. She has extensive experience representing multi-national companies involved in transnational disputes. Suzanne has years of experience representing the interests of insurers and reinsurers in disputes relating to financial institutions, director and officer disputes, asbestos, pollution, health hazards, and the recent opioid litigation. Suzanne has acted for multinational reinsurers in a series of corporate malfeasance claims and failed tax strategy claims, as well as coordinating counsel for a multinational reinsurer in relation to subprime and credit exposures. She has significant experience with asbestos coverage disputes, including the area of asbestos bankruptcy litigation. Significant cases include acting as counsel to 50 multinational insurers in a complex insurance and antitrust dispute involving US and Australian asbestos claims, as well as counsel to European insurers in asbestos coverage litigation filed in the US and London. Suzanne works closely with insurers in relation to the development and implementation of models to allocate losses across complex insurance programmes, and in evaluating future loss projections and developing burn rate analyses.

Suzanne served as a judicial clerk to Hon. William G Bassler, Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.



**Meghan C. Moore**  
Flaster Greenberg

**Meghan C. Moore** is a member of Flaster Greenberg's Insurance Recovery and Litigation Practice Groups, and serves on the firm's Board of Directors. She represents both businesses and individuals in complex coverage and bad faith disputes with their insurance companies. Her civil trial practice includes all aspects of civil litigation, including trial, mediation, arbitration and appellate practice in state and federal courts. She concentrates on helping companies secure coverage for defense and indemnity when facing high stakes litigation and assists them in recovering property and business interruption benefits when they suffer catastrophic losses from natural disasters. Her practice includes representing policyholders in disputes under commercial general liability, commercial property, fidelity, directors and officers, errors and omissions, and securities liability insurance policies.



For 17 years, Ms. Moore has been helping Florida property owners impacted by hurricanes. She recovered more than \$40 million on behalf of Florida condominiums and hotels after the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons, and to date she has recovered more than \$20,000,000 on behalf of businesses and individuals impacted by Hurricane Irma. She has also represented companies in commercial general liability disputes arising out of construction defect litigation both in and outside Florida, including obtaining a \$12.5 million punitive damage verdict in Columbia, South Carolina.

While she is prepared to go to trial, she approaches each case with the goal of making her clients whole at the least cost to them and has negotiated multi-million dollar settlements in class action and multi-district litigation.

Outside the firm, Ms. Moore dedicates her time to charitable causes in the community. She served as a volunteer director and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center for several years, and recently joined Pilots N Paws, where she plans to use her private pilot license to rescue and re-home animals in need.

**Vincent E. Morgan**  
Bracewell, LLP

Vince Morgan has helped clients obtain billions of dollars in insurance proceeds and other recoveries. He represents corporate policyholders in complex coverage matters related to all types of policies, including commercial property and business interruption, reps and warranties, CGL, cyber, professional and fiduciary liabilities, D&O, E&O, environmental, trade credit and intellectual property. Many of these have involved some of the most pressing issues of recent times, ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic, the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster, virtually every hurricane and other major weather disaster in the last 20 years, major wildfires, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami and the opioid crisis. Aside from representing corporate clients, Vince has also obtained millions of dollars on behalf of *pro bono* clients.



He is an author of the only legal treatise specifically focused on insurance coverage for catastrophe losses, having written the chapters on the Claim Process and Business Interruption, and he is currently writing a new chapter for that treatise on COVID-19 losses. Vince is perennially listed in major peer-based rankings and market commentators have praised him as "a fantastic tactical lawyer." Vince has handled matters all across the US involving events spanning the globe and has served as an expert witness on insurance law in cases in the US and Europe. From time to time, he also serves as a mediator and arbitrator in coverage disputes.

**Christopher R. Mosley**  
Sherman & Howard LLC

During Chris' career, he has helped businesses recover more than \$150 million from insurance companies. His expertise extends to all types of commercial insurance policies in virtually all industries.



Chris regularly speaks on insurance coverage issues and has been the author of several articles and advisories addressing insurance-related issues, including multiple presentations and publications addressing insurance coverage for pandemic-related losses. He has also been involved in some of the most significant and ground breaking legislation benefiting corporate policyholders in Colorado.

Chris is the former national Chair for the Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section. Chris has also been selected as a Fellow in the American College of Coverage Counsel, where he serves as a board member. He is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and *Colorado Super Lawyers* for Insurance Law, and is rated "AV Preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell. He has also been honored as Colorado's policyholder lawyer of the year.

**Sherilyn Pastor**  
McCarter & English LLP

SHERILYN PASTOR is the Practice Leader of McCarter & English's Insurance Recovery Group. Sheri is a trial attorney, and she has secured, by judgment and settlement, hundreds of millions of dollars for corporate policyholders. She also assists clients in assessing their potential risks and in analyzing their insurance programs. Sheri is the President of the American College of Coverage Counsel. She is the past Chair of the ABA's Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee (policyholder side). She named to The National Law Journal's inaugural 2021 list of Insurance Trailblazers, and is a recipient of the YMCA's Tribute to Women in Industry award. Ms. Pastor also was named one of New Jersey's "Best 50 Women in Business" by NJBIZ.



**Neil B. Posner**  
Much Shelist, P.C.

Neil successfully counsels his clients on the complexities of buying and maintaining insurance, and using insurance as part of an overall risk-management program. Chair of the firm's Policyholders' Insurance Coverage group, Neil focuses on insurance recovery and dispute resolution, risk management, loss prevention and cost containment. His clients include public and private companies, organizations, boards of directors, individual officers and other policyholders.



Neil is an elected Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, the preeminent association of approximately 300 U.S. and Canadian lawyers who practice in the area of insurance coverage. Neil is one of approximately 150 Fellows who represent the interests of policyholders. He also currently serves as co-chair of the organization's Professionalism and Ethics Committee. Neil assists clients in analyzing, negotiating and enhancing a wide range of insurance policies and plans.

**Daniel Schwarcz**  
University of Minnesota Law School

**Professor Daniel Schwarcz** is an award-winning teacher and scholar. His research focuses on a broad range of issues in insurance law and regulation, spanning systemic risk, regulatory federalism, consumer protection, employer-sponsored health insurance, and insurance coverage litigation. In 2017, the American Law Institute awarded Schwarcz its highly selective Young Scholars Medal, which recognizes the scholarship of one or two outstanding early-career law professors whose work has the potential to influence improvements in the law. He has also been awarded the Liberty Mutual Prize, which is given annually for the most outstanding article on property and casualty insurance law.



Schwarcz's scholarship has been published in a wide range of leading law reviews and journals, such as the *University of Chicago Law Review*, *Virginia Law Review*, and the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. He is also a co-author of the leading insurance law casebook in the country, *Insurance Law and Regulation* (6th edition), which has been used as the principal text in courses on insurance law in more than 100 American law schools. Media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and National Public Radio have covered Schwarcz's scholarship. He regularly testifies to U.S. Congressional committees on insurance matters, and he has served as an expert witness in a wide range of insurance disputes. From 2007 to 2014, he served as a consumer representative at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Schwarcz teaches courses on contract law, insurance law, the regulation of financial institutions, commercial law, health care regulation and finance, and judicial opinion writing. He has twice received teaching awards at the Law School, in 2008 and 2012.

Schwarcz earned his A.B., magna cum laude, from Amherst College and his J.D., magna cum laude, from Harvard Law School. While in law school, he was an articles editor for the *Harvard Law Review* and a John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics. After law school, he clerked for Judge Sandra Lynch of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and practiced at the law firm Ropes & Gray, where he worked mainly on insurance law matters. He subsequently spent two years as a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School.

**John D. Shugrue**  
ReedSmith

John is a partner in the Insurance Recovery Group and affiliate member of the Energy and Natural Resources Group in Reed Smith's Chicago office. His practice focuses on representing policyholders in complex litigation and insurance coverage matters involving General and Excess Liability, OEE/Energy Package, D&O, Product Recall, First Party Property/Business Interruption, Pollution Liability, E&O, Cargo/Inland Transit and Crime/Fidelity coverage. In addition to wide experience with all major U.S. insurers, he has handled litigation, mediation and arbitration with Lloyd's and other London, European and Bermuda market insurers. His significant representations have encompassed major U.S. policyholders such as Anadarko Petroleum, Castleton Commodities International, Nicor Gas, International Game Technology, Tribune Company, Kraft Foods, and Republic Services and have involved claims throughout the U.S. and in Canada, the U.K., Italy, China, Brazil, Nicaragua, Japan, and West Africa. He has pursued coverage for his clients relating to some of the largest catastrophic events in recent history, including Deepwater Horizon, Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Katrina, and a massive dam collapse in Brazil.



After graduating with honors from the University of North Carolina School of Law in 1987, John began his legal career at Jenner & Block in Chicago, focusing on insurance coverage matters for policyholders. He was one of the principal attorneys involved in developing Jenner & Block's insurance recovery practice on behalf of policyholders, and became a partner at Jenner & Block in 1995. In 2000, he joined Zevnik Horton, a national policyholder firm, as a partner in its Chicago office and chair of its insurance recovery practice. In 2003, when Zevnik merged with Morgan Lewis & Bockius, he opened and became the Managing Partner of Morgan's Chicago office. In 2007, he was made co-chair of Morgan's Insurance Recovery Group. He joined Reed Smith as a partner in 2008.

**Jeffrey W. Stempel**

University of Nevada Las Vegas  
William S. Boyd School of Law

**JEFFREY W. STEMPEL** is the Doris S. & Theodore B. Lee Professor of Law at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada Las Vegas where he teaches Insurance Law, Civil Procedure, Contracts, Professional Responsibility, and Evidence. Before joining the UNLV faculty in 1999, Prof. Stempel was the Fonvielle & Hinkle Professor of Litigation at Florida State University College of Law and Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School. Prior to becoming a law teacher, he was a civil litigator.



In addition to being co-author (with Randy Maniloff) of *General Liability Insurance Coverage: Key Issues in Every State* (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2018), Prof. Stempel is the author of *Stempel and Knutsen on Insurance Coverage* (4<sup>th</sup> ed. 2016)(with Prof. Erik Knutsen) as well as co-author of *Principles of Insurance Law* (5<sup>th</sup> ed. 2020) and three books on civil procedure: *Learning Civil Procedure* (3<sup>d</sup> ed. 2018); *Fundamentals of Pretrial Litigation* (11<sup>th</sup> ed. 2020) and *Motion Practice* (8<sup>th</sup> ed. 2020), as well as authoring many articles on issues of insurance, civil procedure, contract interpretation, arbitration, and the adversary system.

Prof. Stempel is a member of the American Law Institute, the European Law Institute, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the American Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation, the American Judicature Society, the Law & Society Association, and the Project Group for Principles of Reinsurance Contract Law. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Minnesota and his J.D. degree from Yale Law School and is admitted in Nevada and Minnesota.



**Monica T. Sullivan**

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP

As one of the firm's founding partners, Monica focuses her practice on insurance coverage litigation and arbitration, maintaining an international client base that seeks her counsel on matters including pharmaceutical claims, environmental claims, construction claims, and product liability issues.



Her diversified experience includes counseling clients in claims administration and policy analysis matters, as well as representing clients in complex disputes involving commercial general liability, managed care and healthcare, and professional liability policies. In addition, Monica is regularly called upon to conduct lectures and training seminars for claims and underwriting staff on emerging coverage issues, jurisdictional concerns, and general claims handling practices.

Monica brings extensive experience to the Bermuda market, where she has served as U.S. claims counsel to Bermuda insurers for over 25 years. In this capacity, she has managed arbitrations domestically and abroad.

**Spence Taylor**

Barze Taylor Noles Lowther LLC

Spence Taylor is a founding partner of Barze Taylor Noles Lowther LLC, based in Birmingham, Alabama. Spence is a litigator, coverage lawyer, and trial attorney.

For almost 20 years, Spence's practice has centered on commercial insurance coverage and extra-contractual litigation, representing insurers and insureds throughout the country with respect to a wide variety of insurance products, including CGL, commercial property, D&O liability, EPL, aviation, fidelity, floor plan insurance, builder's risk, and pollution legal liability policies, among others. He has tried cases to judges and juries on subjects ranging from contingent business interruption losses to personal injury and wrongful death disputes. He is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Alabama School of Law.



## **Sara M. Thorpe**

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP

Sara M. Thorpe is a founding partner of Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan LLP. The firm solely focuses on representing insurers in coverage disputes. From offices in California (San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego), Chicago, and Dallas, Sara and her colleagues assist insurers with a wide-range of insurance policies and insurance-related issues. Sara's experience includes over 30 years litigating complex coverage issues involving asbestos, environmental contamination, general liability, professional liability, first party property, and defending against "bad faith" and unfair business practice claims.



Sara is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Chambers reports that clients and peers describe Sara as a *"bright and tough lawyer"* who is a *"vigorous advocate for her clients," "very thorough"* and *"very passionate."*

Sara received her JD, *cum laude*, from the University of San Francisco, and her BA in Communications Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

**Ellen Van Meir**

Nicolaides Fink Thorpe Michaelides Sullivan, LLP

Ellen has more than two decades of experience providing sophisticated counsel to primary and excess insurers on issues with respect to coverage and claims handling. Focused primarily on significant losses, Ellen's practice spans a wide range of industries including construction, finance, manufacturing, oil and gas, and trucking.



Ellen represents her clients in complex disputes arising out of catastrophic bodily injury, cyber, environmental, intellectual property, professional malpractice, and property damage claims. She is adept at providing counsel on matters related to policy contract rights and obligations, good faith duties to insureds, as well as settlement and allocation issues involving bad faith, errors and omissions, liability, pollution, Stowers demands, and umbrella and excess coverage.

Ellen has also handled appellate matters in various Texas appellate courts and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Circuits.

**Gregory P. Varga**  
Robinson + Cole LLP

For 25 years, Greg Varga has focused his practice on representing insurance companies nationally in complex insurance coverage litigation, in lawsuits seeking punitive damages and other extracontractual remedies, and in other corporate litigation. As Chair of Robinson+Cole's Insurance + Reinsurance Group, Greg is proud to lead a team of 45 lawyers practicing across seven of the firm's offices.



In addition to chairing the firm's Insurance + Reinsurance Group, Greg has chaired the Technology Committee and the firm's Litigation Academy, an litigation and trial skills program. He also contributes to the firm's **Property Insurance Coverage Insights** blog.

Greg has received a number of honors during his years of practice. They include an "AV-Preeminent" ranking with Martindale Hubbell, and selection to the Connecticut **Super Lawyers** list from 2011 to 2020 and by ***The Best Lawyers in America***® in the area of Insurance Law since 2012.

**Debra Varner**

Varner Van Volkenburg P.L.L.C.

Debra handles cases in both state and federal courts, in the areas of Insurance Coverage, Insurance Bad Faith, Insurance Defense and has tried cases in counties throughout the State of West Virginia. In addition to an active trial practice, Debra has an active appellate practice and has argued cases before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, as well as the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Debra is admitted in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals as well as in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Debra is a Fellow in the American College of Coverage Counsel and serves as a member of its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. A member of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC), Debra formerly served as a Senior Director of the organization. Debra previously served as the Chair of the FDCC Leadership Institute and was a faculty member of the FDCC's Litigation Management College for a number of years. Debra was a presenter at FDCC's Insurance Coverage Academy. Recently, Debra has been selected into the Litigation Counsel of America. Debra is a member of the Claims and Management Alliance, Defense Research Institute, the West Virginia State Bar and the Harrison County Bar Associations. Debra is also licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Debra has been repeatedly recognized as a Super Lawyer in the area of Insurance Coverage as well as in Best Lawyers in America. In 2016, she was named Lawyer of the Year in Insurance Coverage in northern West Virginia.

As a part of her practice, Debra routinely presents seminars and training sessions to insurance companies and corporate executives on claim handling and discovery throughout the country.

A graduate of University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law, Debra also earned a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from William Paterson College. She is married to James A. Varner, Sr. In her spare time, Debra enjoys golfing, cooking and traveling.

**Rebecca Weinreich**

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith

Rebecca Weinreich is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, chairs the firm's national bad faith practice. Ms. Weinreich devotes her practice to coverage and bad faith litigation arising from first and third party policies, in both commercial and personal lines. She has represented insurers in a wide variety of complex, large exposure lawsuits brought by policy holders, has tried cases in both state and federal court and has lectured extensively on numerous topics within her field of expertise.

