

Robert F. Walsh

Partner

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Clients value Bob's responsiveness and ability to provide successful and cost-effective representation that focuses on both the case at hand and the client's broader strategic concerns.

OVERVIEW

In over 35 years of practice, Robert Walsh has developed a national practice representing insurance companies in coverage litigation and providing claim advice and claim monitoring. He is the Chair of the firm's Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Practice Group. Clients value Bob's responsiveness and ability to provide successful and cost-effective representation that focuses on both the case at hand and the client's broader strategic concerns. While he is based in the firm's Philadelphia office, he is also admitted in New York and New Jersey and maintains an active practice in those states. Overall, Bob has handled insurance coverage litigation in more than 20 states ranging from Maine to California and Florida to Washington.

Bob has developed a particular focus in the area of complex claims involving environmental damage, asbestos, toxic tort liabilities and employer's liability claims. He also has extensive experience litigating coverage disputes and providing coverage advice for other diverse matters, such as construction defect claims, claims under professional liability and other "claims made" policies, and cutting-edge product liability claims involving pharmaceuticals and food additives. In addition, Bob has represented policyholders in the direct defense of a variety of claims.

Bob is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel. He is a regular presenter at White and Williams' Coverage College. He has also spoken at Perrin Conferences and other conferences on insurance litigation topics and he provides regular training to the firm's insurance company clients.

PRACTICES

Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith
Catastrophic/Excess Liability
Product Liability

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
New Jersey
New York
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

Seton Hall University Law School, JD, *cum laude*, 1984
Rutgers College, BA, 1981

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association

RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT

Bob has been AV® rated by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system. He was also recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2025 and 2026 for his work in Insurance Law.

Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

NY Federal Court Reaffirms White and Williams Win in Former Gas Plant Pollution Coverage Dispute
5.17.18

White and Williams Defeats Claims Brought by Insured's Alleged Successor in Environmental Coverage Dispute
3.23.16

White and Williams Obtains Favorable Ruling for Insurer in New Jersey District Court
4.20.15

Handled coverage litigation nationwide and provided claim advice for primary and excess insurers involving hundreds of contaminated waste sites and thousands of asbestos and silica claims

Handled coverage litigation and provided claim advice involving a wide cross-section of underlying claims, including employer's liability, professional liability, construction defect, and product liability

Obtained summary judgment in in large environmental coverage action involving manufactured gas plant sites in New York involving multi-million dollars of potential liability

Successfully arbitrated several disputes involving the scope and application of prior settlement agreements involving the release of future claims

Prosecuted successful action to rescind professional liability policy based on fraud in the application process

Handled the direct defense of policyholders in numerous premises liability, products liability and negligent hiring/negligent supervision claims

Monitored and provided claim advice for underlying product liability claims, including claims involving pharmaceuticals and food additives, and professional liability/errors and omissions claims, including claims against attorneys, physicians, insurance adjusters and environmental contractors

Assisted clients in developing strategies and procedures for handling litigation in particular jurisdictions and developing consistent approaches to discovery and settlement in complex litigation

Co-authored successful amicus brief in *Carter-Wallace, Inc. v. Admiral Ins. Co.*, 712 A.2d 1116 (N.J. 1998), one of the leading cases nationwide on allocation of long-tail claims

Handled numerous cases limiting the obligations of excess insurers where underlying insurance has become insolvent or exhausted, including *Werner Industries, Inc. v. First State Ins. Co.*, 548 A.2d 188 (N.J. 1988), a leading case finding no “drop down” due to underlying insolvency

Prosecuted successful appeals for insurance company clients in other leading cases, including, *Keyspan Gas East Corp. v. Munich Re*, 15 N.E.3d 1194 (N.Y. 2014) (leading case rejecting waiver of coverage defenses), *Con Edison v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 774 N.E.2d 687 (N.Y. 2002) (leading case on allocation and burden of proof re existence of an occurrence)

IN THE NEWS

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 40 White and Williams Lawyers
8.21.25

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 49 White and Williams Attorneys
8.15.24

EVENTS

Coverage College 2025
Convvene CityView, Philadelphia PA, 10.23.25

2025 Environmental & Emerging Claim Manager Association (EECMA) Annual Conference
Orlando, FL, April 9-11, 2025

Coverage College 2024
Philadelphia, PA, 10.30.24

2024 Environmental & Emerging Claim Manager Association Annual Conference (EECMA)
Savannah, GA, April 3-5, 2024

Coverage College 2022
10.13.22

Coverage College 2021
10.21.21

PFAS are Here to Stay: The “Forever Chemical” That Will Impact the Industry for Years to Come
In2Risk 2021, 9.24.21

Special Issues in Claims-Made Coverage
White and Williams Coverage College, 10.8.15

PUBLICATIONS

Beyond Response Costs – Liability for Natural Resource Damages
The Legal Intelligencer, Environmental Law, 8.5.25

Key Takeaways – Coverage College 2024
12.12.24

18th Annual Coverage College
10.30.24

An Overview of Emerging Hazards Under CGL Policies
The Legal Intelligencer, Insurance Law, 8.20.24

The Complex Insurance Coverage Reporter - November 2022 - Special Edition
The Complex Insurance Coverage Reporter, 11.21.22

Next, Please: The Fast Food Industry Is Hit With the Latest PFAS Suit
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Alert, 3.29.22

NY State Appellate Court Holds That Pollution Exclusions Bar Duty to Defend Under Liability Policies for Claims Alleging Exposure to PFAS
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Alert, 1.7.22

The ABCs of PFAS: What You Need to Know About Liabilities for the "Forever Chemical"
The Complex Insurance Coverage Reporter, 2.3.21