

Christopher P. Leise

Senior Counsel

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Chris works with regional and national brokerage firms defending professional liability claims and handling disputes with insurance companies throughout the mid-Atlantic region, as well as with commercial insurance carriers defending allegations of bad faith.

OVERVIEW

Christopher Leise focuses his practice on complex insurance and commercial litigation, including the representation of licensed insurance agents and brokers in professional liability claims and agency contract disputes. He also has extensive experience litigating complex insurance coverage, insurance bad faith, RICO and insurance fraud claims, fire damage claims, and ERISA disputes. Chris works with regional and national brokerage firms defending professional liability claims and handling disputes with insurance companies throughout the mid-Atlantic region, as well as with commercial insurance carriers defending allegations of bad faith.

Chris has published and lectured on the topics of insurance broker professional liability, fire litigation, insurance bad faith and insurance coverage for the American Bar Association, New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Pennsylvania Defense Institute and the Practicing Law Institute.

After graduating from law school, Chris served as a law clerk to the Honorable William Bishoff of the New Jersey Superior Court Appellate Division.

RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT

Chris is an adjunct professor at Rutgers Law School - Camden where he teaches a course in advanced trial evidence. From 2005-2010, Chris was a member of the NJ Supreme Court District IV Ethics Committee.

Chris has been AV[®] rated by the Martindale-Hubbell peer review rating system. He was named a Best Lawyers[®] 2022 and 2024 "Lawyer of the Year" in New Jersey for his work in insurance litigation.

PRACTICES

Appellate
Commercial Litigation
First-Party Property
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith
Professional Liability

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

New Jersey
Pennsylvania
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION

Rutgers University School of Law, JD, 1978
Clark University, BA, 1974

MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association



Chris is a member of the board and a former president of the Heart of Camden, Inc., a community development housing organization. He is an officer and board member of the Markeim Art Center in Haddonfield, New Jersey.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Court Rules That Assignment of Claims Against Insurance Broker Was Void
11.15.21

Professional Liability Group Defeats Claim of "Special Relationship" Between Insurance Broker and Insured

Won jury verdict for property insurer voiding coverage for a multi-million dollar Pennsylvania fire loss due to policyholder's material misrepresentations about the risk during the application process; verdict and judgment affirmed on appeal (*Hered, LLC v. Seneca Insurance Company*)

Secured jury verdict rejecting Federal RICO claims against an insurance broker arising from the sale of life insurance pursuant to an employee benefit plan

Lead counsel before the New Jersey Appellate Division wherein the Court vacated a \$9 million trial court judgment and entered judgment for an insurance broker in suit arising from the sale of breach of warranty and hull policies to a commercial ferry operator (*Harbor Commuter Service, Inc. v. Frenkel & Co., Inc.*)

Secured multi-million dollar recovery on behalf of New Jersey insurance agents by proving that their agreements with an auto insurance carrier were terminated in bad faith and violation of New Jersey law (*Scheller v. Rutgers Casualty Insurance Co.*)

IN THE NEWS

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 45 White and Williams Lawyers
Firm News, 8.18.23

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 40 White And Williams Lawyers
Firm News, 8.18.22

Christopher Leise Recognized by US News – Best Lawyers 2022 "Lawyer of the Year"
8.19.21

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 38 White and Williams Lawyers
8.19.21

Congratulations 2020 DE, MA, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
11.5.20

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 43 White and Williams Lawyers
8.20.20

Congratulations 2019 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
10.17.19



Best Lawyers® Recognizes 29 White and Williams Lawyers
8.15.19

Congratulations 2018 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
10.18.18

Congratulations 2017 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
11.11.17

Congratulations 2016 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
10.18.16

Congratulations 2015 DE, MA, NJ, NY and PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
10.21.15

EVENTS

A Comparison of Insurance Bad Faith Law in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York
NJ Institute for Continuing Legal Education Seminar (New Brunswick, NJ), 8.21.18

PUBLICATIONS

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

Are Insurance Brokers the Next Target for Claims Arising From the Pandemic?
The Legal Intelligencer, 7.26.21

Court Holds That Insurance Producer Cannot Be Liable for Denial of COVID-19 Business Interruption Claim
Professional Liability Alert, 10.12.20

Broker Liability in the Wake of COVID-19 Coverage Litigation
Professional Liability Alert, 5.8.20

