



THOMAS B. UNDERWOOD

PARTNER

tunderwood@pw-law.com

312.385.2159

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Insurance Coverage
- Professional Liability
- Complex Litigation

EDUCATION

- University of Illinois
College of Law
J.D.
- University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign
B. A.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court,
Northern District of
Illinois (including Trial
Bar)
- U.S. District Court,
Central District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court,
Southern District of
Illinois

PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Thomas B. Underwood focuses his practice on insurance coverage, professional liability and complex litigation matters. During his career, Tom has tried more than 25 major lawsuits throughout the United States.

Tom's insurance coverage work includes interpretation and litigation concerning commercial general liability policies, professional liability policies, automobile policies, employment and excess policies. He also defends bad faith claims and advises excess insurance carriers in catastrophic injury matters on issues of priority of coverage, subrogation, tender, case value, and resolution strategy.

His professional liability work involves the defense of attorneys, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, architects, engineers, real estate brokers, and other professionals.

Tom's complex litigation work includes the defense of construction defect claims, employment and civil rights claims and consumer class actions.

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- In federal district court and 7th circuit obtained over \$6 million in judgments for reimbursement of settlement paid by excess insurer in complex insurance coverage
- dispute arising from construction accident involving issues of equitable subrogation, targeted tender, and professional liability exclusion.
- Obtained summary judgment in favor of a general contractor's excess insurer and against a subcontractor's insurer in a declaratory action concerning proper allocation of an underlying construction injury settlement.

COURT ADMISSIONS (cont.)

- U.S. District Court,
Northern District of
Indiana
- U.S. District Court,
Eastern District of
Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court,
Western District of
Missouri
- 7th U.S. Circuit Court of
Appeals

- Obtained dismissal and successfully affirmed dismissal on appeal for an attorney, in a suit alleging that he had caused an insurer's bad-faith failure to settle.
- With a multi-million-dollar underlying case, obtained declaratory judgment for the general liability insurer that the general liability policy's "auto" exclusion applied to the insured's specialized trailer and there was no coverage for the accident under GL policy.

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Tom has presented numerous in-house seminars for insurance carriers and has lectured at the PLRB/LIRB Claims Conferences.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Tom is AV-Rated® by Martindale-Hubbell peer-review ratings, the highest recognition of excellence in legal practice and ethics.

MEMBERSHIPS

Tom is a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and a member of its Civil Procedure, Tort, and Insurance sections. He is also a member of the Insurance, Employment and Professional Liability Committees of Defense Research Institute (DRI).