



NAMWOLF

INSURANCE

PRACTICE AREA COMMITTEE



About the Insurance Practice Area Group

NAMWOLF's Insurance Practice Area Committee's ("I-PAC") mission is to introduce insurance clients to a national network of preeminent women and minority owned law firms comprised of highly skilled attorneys who are interested in their clients' issues, with the goal of fostering synergistic relationships. Member firms have significant expertise representing insurance companies relating to insurance products and personal and commercial insurance lines of business. Member firms also have experience with insurer recovery actions, and matters involving life, health, annuities and disability products and ERISA plans. Many Member attorneys came from the largest and most well-known firms and in-house legal departments in the country, and have significant experience representing Fortune 500 corporations. Through the I-PAC, NAMWOLF law firms and insurers will partner to identify potential problems, develop cost-effective solutions and explore the potential for an early resolution. If a settlement is not achievable, the Member firms have the depth of experience to try cases and handle appeals.

This booklet contains profiles of NAMWOLF firms that have significant experience working with insurance companies on a variety of matters. The firms are divided alphabetically, by practice area and by state.

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About NAMWOLF

Founded in 2001, NAMWOLF is a nonprofit trade association comprised of minority and women-owned law firms who have exhibited excellence in the legal profession, and other interested parties throughout the United States. Many corporations and public entities committed to diversifying their outside law firm ranks have focused on the utilization of minority and female attorneys at majority firms. However, the most effective way for corporations and public entities to increase diversity in the legal profession is to increase their utilization of minority and women-owned law firms. NAMWOLF's mission is to promote true diversity in the legal profession by fostering the development of long lasting relationships between preeminent minority and women-owned law firms and corporations and public entities.

About NAMWOLF's Law Firm Membership

NAMWOLF Law Firm Members must complete an extensive application and screening process before they can be admitted for membership. Law Firm Candidates must exhibit excellence in the quality of law practiced, as evidenced by corporate references, presence on outside counsel approved lists and panels for national or regional corporations, and other awards and memberships. Law firms must be headquartered in the United States or Puerto Rico and have a minimum of three full-time attorneys. profession by fostering the development of long lasting relationships between preeminent minority and women-owned law firms and corporations and public entities.

Firm Name	Location/s	Website
Boggs, Avellino, Lach & Boggs, L.L.C.	Illinois Missouri	balblawyers.com
Brooks and Berne PLLC	Georgia New Jersey New York	lawbbh.com
Christian, Dichter & Sluga, P.C.	Arizona	cdslawfirm.com
Clayborne & Wagner LLP	Illinois Missouri	claybornewagner.com
Colvin, Saenz, Rodriguez & Kenamer, L.L.P.	Texas	rcclaw.com
Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Matherne & Bell, L.L.C.	Louisiana Mississippi Texas	courington-law.com
d'Arcambal Quesada Malyk Peters & Creed LLP	Florida Georgia New Jersey New York Philadelphia Texas	dqmlaw.com
Emile Banks & Associates, LLC.	Wisconsin	emilebanksllaw.com
The Employment Law Solution	Georgia	<a href="http://theemploymentlaw
solution.com">theemploymentlaw solution.com
Fields & Brown, LLC	Missouri	fieldsandbrown.com
Fisher Maas Howard Lloyd & Wheeler P.C.	Indiana	fishermaas.com
Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP	Florida Jamaica New York Puerto Rico The Bahamas U.S. Virgin Islands	hamiltonmillerlaw.com
Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs	California	imwllaw.com
J. Selmer Law, P.A.	Minnesota	jselmerlaw.com
Lewis & Blain, LLC	South Carolina	lbrblaw.com
Magdich Law	Michigan	magdichlaw.com
Martineau King PLLC	North Carolina South Carolina	martineauking.com
Nilan Johnson Lewis	Minnesota	nilanjohnson.com
Paul Garcia & Associates	Texas	pgtxlaw.com
Perez Morris	Connecticut Massachusetts New Jersey New York Ohio Pennsylvania	perez-morris.com
Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer P.A.	Alabama Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware DC Florida Georgia Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Jersey New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming Virgin Islands (U.S.)	qpwbllaw.com

Firm Name	Location/s	Website
Roig Lawyers	Florida North Carolina	roiglawyers.com
The Royal Law Firm	Connecticut Massachusetts Maine Vermont	theroyallawfirm.com
Sacro & Walker, LLP	California	sacrowalker.com
Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP	Illinois	sanchezdh.com
SMGQ Law	Florida	smgqlaw.com
Sioli Alexander Pino	Florida	siolialexanderpino.com
Sutton Booker PC	Colorado	suttonbooker.com
Walsh Pizzi O'Reilly Falanga LLP	New Jersey New York Pennsylvania	walsh.law
Walsworth LLP	California	wfbm.com
Wong Fleming	California DC Florida Georgia Illinois Indiana Michigan New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Tennessee Texas Washington	wongfleming.com



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Commercial General Liability

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Environmental

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Fraudulent Claims

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Insurer Recovery Actions

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Labor & Employment

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Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP
SMGQ Law
Wong Fleming

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Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP
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Medical Malpractice

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Personal Injury Litigation

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Product Development

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Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP

Product Liability

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Professional Liability

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Regulatory

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Workers Compensation Defense

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ABOUT US:

Colvin, Saenz, Rodriguez & Kennamer L.L.P. is a minority-owned law firm that understands what it takes to represent businesses and manufacturers in the blue-collar, working-class communities of the Rio Grande Valley and South Texas. Our legal team is experienced in defending cases involving commercial general liability, products liability, motor vehicle and trucking accidents, premises liability, general negligence and personal injury lawsuits, insurance coverage and bad-faith claims, contract actions, and other civil defense matters.

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Courington, Kiefer, Sommers, Matherne & Bell, L.L.C. has a solid tradition in insurance defense with the heart and the emphasis of the firm on defending claims in the areas of product liability, mass tort, automobile negligence, workers' compensation, premises liability, construction defects, insurance coverage, bad faith, environmental law, Jones Act, longshore, and trial practice. We measure our success through the loyalty of our clients. In fact, our largest clients have been with the firm since its inception.

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ABOUT THE FIRM: Emile Banks & Associates, LLC is a Milwaukee defense firm with nine attorneys having over 200 combined years of experience in courtrooms throughout Wisconsin. The firm was founded in 1999 to provide clients with high-quality, cost-effective legal services. The firm's principal, **Emile H. Banks, Jr.**, is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in the United States. Fellowship in the College is extended by invitation only, comprising the top 1% of trial lawyers in United States and Canada. Emile is also a member of the International Association of Defense Counsel, the oldest and most prestigious international organization of attorneys representing corporations and insurers. Membership in the IADC is a select privilege and also by invitation only. Emile has also been selected as a Super Lawyer from 2005-2008, including being listed as one of the **Top 50 attorneys in Wisconsin** in 2008.

The goal of Emile Banks & Associates, LLC is to achieve the best possible result for clients at a fair cost. The firm believes that early, aggressive and thorough preparation is essential, along with innovation and creativity during the litigation process in order to achieve positive results.

The firm believes in vigorous advocacy on behalf of its clients. Through experience, the firm has found that mediation, arbitration and other creative forms of alternative dispute resolution are effective and economical ways of resolving certain disputes. The firm's reputation for high quality legal representation and skilled trial practice often enables it to secure favorable pre-trial settlements for its clients. However, once a decision has been made to try a case, the firm is willing to do so at any time and at any location. The firm is known for its aggressive and well-prepared trial attorneys, and opposing litigators know there is a strong likelihood Emile Banks & Associates, LLC will prevail at trial.

AREAS OF PRACTICE: Emile Banks & Associates, LLC has provided trial and appellate representation in virtually every area of commercial and civil practice, including product liability, auto accident liability, professional liability, medical malpractice, transportation, building construction, premises liability, inland marine, employment law, fire and explosions, environmental impairment, toxic torts, insurance, municipal law, school law, contract interpretation and claims disputes. In addition, our firm advises insurance company clients on risk assessment and management, coverage opinions and insurance code compliance.

FIRM DEMOGRAPHICS AND GEOGRAPHIC PRACTICE AREA: The only principal of Emile Banks & Associates, LLC, since being established in 1999, is Emile H. Banks, Jr., who is African-American. Each of the firm's attorneys practices in state and federal courts across Wisconsin. One of the firm's attorneys is also licensed to practice in Illinois and another in California.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS/REFERENCES: GEICO Ins. Co.; American Family Ins. Co.; Acuity, A Mutual Ins. Co.; Progressive Ins. Co.; State Farm Ins. Co.; Continental Western Ins. Co.; General Casualty Ins. Co.; Aegis Corporation; Wisconsin Mutual Ins. Co.; OHIC Ins. Co.; Wisconsin Patients Compensation Fund; AIG, The Truck Ins. Group; Triangle Ins. Co.; Shelter Mutual Ins. Co.; Johnson Controls, Inc.; Milwaukee Transport Services; Districts Mutual Ins. Co.; Wisconsin Health Care Liability Ins. Plan; Medical Protective Ins. Co.; Northwestern National Ins. Co.; Highlands Insurance Group.

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Ellen L Spahr (Associate) born Milwaukee, Wisconsin, December 12, 1958; admitted to bar, 1985, Illinois, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois and U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin; 2006, Wisconsin. **Education:** University of Wisconsin-Platteville (B.A., cum laude, 1981, Phi Eta Sigma; Alpha Lambda Delta); John Marshall Law School (J.D., 1984). Member, Moot Court Executive Board. Listed, Super Lawyer for Illinois, 2007. **Member:** State Bar of Wisconsin; Illinois Trial Lawyers Association; Illinois Defense Council; Chicago Bar Association. **Practice Areas:** Insurance Litigation; Negligence Law; Insurance Coverage law; Product Liability Law; Corporate Law; Personal Injury Litigation; Environmental Law; Securities Litigation; Transportation Law; Employment Law. **Email:** ellen@emilebanksllaw.com

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Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell & Diggs is the largest Black-owned law firm in California (Certified MBE) and we are proud of our commitment to diversity. Our differing perspectives allow us to think creatively and to better understand our clients' needs.

IMW ATTORNEYS

- Seven (7) attorneys appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court.
- Five (5) Past-Presidents of the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles (non-profit association of Black judges, attorneys and law students in Los Angeles).
- Two (2) Past-Presidents of Black Women Lawyers of Los Angeles and California Association of Black Lawyers (CABL).
- Two (2) Members of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA).

PRACTICE AREAS

Our attorneys provide a high level of professional legal service to clients in the following practice areas:

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- Cannabis Law
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- General Liability/Personal Injury
- Intellectual Property
- Investigations & Counseling
- Labor & Employment
- Public Entity Representation
- Products Liability
- Real Estate
- Regulatory Law
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- Transportation/Logistics
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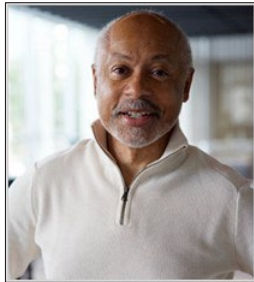
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Managing Partner



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Senior Counsel



TONY CHIN
Associate



MATT McVEETY
Associate

FIRM OVERVIEW

J. Selmer Law, P.A. (JSL) is a defense litigation law firm with 40+ years' experience representing Fortune 500 clients. We represent insurers, banking and financial services companies, agri-businesses, manufacturing businesses, professional services firms, and construction businesses.

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- Errors and Omissions
- Public Law
- Premises Liability
- Property Damage
- Auto Liability
- No Fault Auto (PIP)
- First Party Claims
- Coverage
- Commercial Litigation
- Employment Law, Investigations
- School Law

JSL attorneys skillfully navigate insurers and their insureds through simple and complex matters in **Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin**. JSL is a member of the prestigious Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), the Defense Research Institute (DRI), and a preeminent member of NAMWOLF.

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C: 612-220-8545

JSelmer@JSelmerlaw.com



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We are a Michigan-based, woman-owned law firm specializing in Insurance Defense and Corporate Litigation in State and Federal Courts. Our attorneys have the expertise to defend our clients aggressively and efficiently. We resolve matters when it is in our client's best interest, yet we are proven trial attorneys, who are ready, willing and able to take a matter to trial or through the appellate process. We provide superior, yet personalized service in a wide variety of civil litigation matters for insurance companies, their insureds, national health care systems and small to mid-sized businesses and corporations. Our attorneys utilize technology in the presentation of trials so juries can see the evidence being discussed in real time. Having tried many cases throughout the State of Michigan, we are well known by the judges. Our attorneys have a proven track record of taking matters over from other counsel for the purpose of trying the case.

Firm Contacts



Practice

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Medical Malpractice
Corporate Litigation
Appeals

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The Hartford
Farm Bureau
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Contact

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MARTINEAU KING

Our Firm

With offices in Charlotte, NC and Rock Hill, SC, Martineau King PLLC is a certified Woman- and Veteran-Owned law firm committed to representing employers and businesses across the Carolinas. Our clients range from professionals and small businesses to large international corporations and municipalities. With a team of 14 attorneys, we bring a fresh, modern approach to litigation. At Martineau King, we're not just focused on helping your business survive—we're here to help it thrive.

Our Partners



Elizabeth Martineau, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, is a founding member of Martineau King PLLC. She exemplifies tenacity, an exceptional work ethic, and—above all—unwavering loyalty to her clients. She can be reached at EMartineau@martineauking.com.



Joe Fulton has been with Martineau King PLLC since 2015. He represents insurers in insurance coverage litigation, including first- and third-party claims involving commercial general liability (CGL), personal auto, homeowners, and excess policies. He can be reached at JFulton@martineauking.com.

Our Practice Areas

- Catastrophic Injury / Wrongful Death
- Creditors' Rights
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- Defense of Government and Municipalities
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Nilan Johnson Lewis' life, disability and health team represents insurers, ERISA-governed benefit plans, employers, third-party administrators, and reinsurers in federal and state courts throughout the country.

We defend ERISA claims in areas of life, health, disability, and other benefits. Our deep expertise also includes claims regarding breach of fiduciary duty and interpleader actions. Our talented attorneys are prepared to tackle key issues such as determining if an employer-sponsored benefit program is an ERISA plan, the impact of state laws prohibiting discretionary clauses, or ascertaining whether a church-named plan is exempt from ERISA. We also frequently handle matters involving out-of-network provider claims based on an assignment of benefits, defending claims denied on the basis of fraud, conflict of interest discovery, and class actions.

Beyond ERISA insurance litigation, our bench is well-equipped to defend bad faith/deceptive trade practices and breach of contract claims, punitive damage claims, and interpleader actions. Our reinsurance practice regularly handles health care claims and coverage disputes.

COMPLEX INSURANCE DEFENSE AND COVERAGE

Our product liability, complex tort, and commercial practice encompasses a wide range of expertise that allows us to hit the ground running when insurers and their insureds need us most. We have handled auto and truck liability, commercial general liability, negligence, product liability, professional liability, toxic tort, and a variety of other complex claims. We have also served as coverage counsel for coverage opinions and litigation, as well as agent errors and omissions claims. Among other engagements, we have resolved nine-figure contract disputes, defended industry-wide conspiracy and fraud claims, managed litigation across the country as national counsel on complex product liability cases, and taken over trials as drop-in and appellate counsel. We are well prepared to take on the most complex cases for insurers and insureds. Although our primary practice is focused in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and North and South Dakota, we handle cases in a number of other states as well.

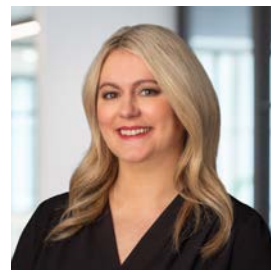
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Paul Garcia & Associates is a civil litigation boutique law firm specializing in lawsuits throughout the San Antonio and South Texas Region. The firm has offices in San Antonio as well as Harlingen, so that we can meet the growing needs of our clients that continue to expand through the Southern area of Texas.

Paul Garcia has a proven record of success and the firm specializes in representing businesses and corporations with disputes arising from transactional matters to the most serious accidents. Our practice is primarily focused on the defense of businesses and corporations with a proven ability to win cases in counties that are known to be Plaintiff friendly throughout the state.

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At Paul Garcia & Associates, our philosophy is to put the clients first and obtain results in a cost effective manner. The legal team at Paul Garcia & Associates believes that efficient legal services that provide proven results will always benefit the client and consumers. The firm practice is to resolve a case as quickly as possible while ensuring the client's interest are always protected. The attorneys at Paul Garcia & Associates will often project the estimated costs of legal fees versus the benefit of early settlement, so that clients will see and understand the effectiveness of early disposition of cases.





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Perez Morris represents some of the largest insurance companies in coverage, extra-contractual and bad faith litigation. Our clients benefit from our in-depth knowledge and understanding of the insurance industry and our ability to provide practical solutions to complex legal issues. Perez Morris is committed to providing the highest level of legal representation with our attorneys prepared to litigate the most complex insurance coverage and bad faith claims.

Our attorneys have extensive experience representing insurance companies in a variety of complex coverage, extra-contractual and bad faith litigation matters, including those involving commercial general liability policies, specialty property and casualty policies, professional liability, excess and umbrella policies, health/life policies and workers' compensation policies. We also provide counsel to insurers on policy drafting and interpretation, claim handling practices, and risk management strategies to mitigate future exposure. We have successfully represented and defended insurance companies in first-party and bad faith litigation in both state and Federal courts.



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Perez Morris, the largest woman-owned business law firm in Ohio, operates with a strategic presence throughout the Northeastern U.S., including offices in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

We serve some of the most prominent industry leaders across various sectors—airline, automotive, construction, financial services, food and restaurant, healthcare, retail, global shipping and logistics, and transportation and trucking. Our approach goes beyond managing business risks and liability exposures; we forge strong partnerships with our clients to facilitate deals and navigate complex legal landscapes through expert defense, business litigation, medical malpractice, pharmacy liability, and comprehensive general counsel services.



**FIRM
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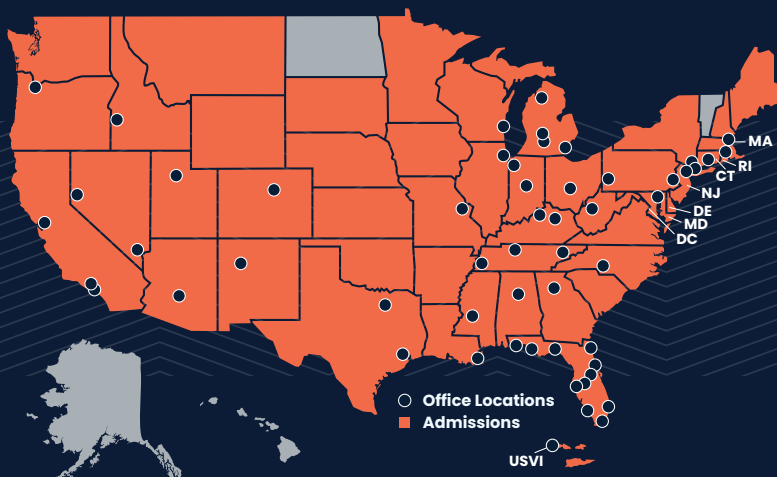
Our litigation and trial experience has resulted in narrowing claims brought by insureds as well as early resolution of claims. Our goal is to resolve conflicts in a fair, timely, and economical manner. We are skilled at uncovering the critical facts necessary for accurate and complete claim analysis. In addition, we know the value of clear, concise analysis of risks to assist insurance carriers in accurately evaluating claims.

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With a strong foundation in Florida—where we have offices in Deerfield Beach, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, West Palm Beach, and Tampa—we are proud to expand our services to North Carolina with our partner, Joseph Paxton. This expansion allows us to better serve our clients with the same dedication and strategic legal expertise they have come to expect from our team.



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PRACTICES

- Arbitration/ADR
- Appellate
- Asbestos
- Automation
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate
- Data Analytics
- Ethics
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- Financial Services Litigation
- Fraud (SIU) Investigations
- Healthcare Fraud
- Homeowners/Property
- Insurance Defense
- Intellectual Property Litigation
- Labor & Employment Litigation
- PIP/No-Fault
- Premises Liability
- Pharmaceutical Litigation
- Product Liability
- Rideshare
- Real Estate & Construction Dispute
- Toxic Tort
- Windshield/Auto Glass Litigation
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Working with a team of knowledgeable and experienced coverage attorneys, Jennifer Yu Sacro is an experienced lead outside counsel for insurers in complex, multi-party coverage litigations. Ms. Sacro has broad-based experience representing businesses and individuals in litigation arising out of commercial contracts, insurance coverage and related bad faith claims, employment relationships, commercial real estate transactions, unfair competition and business practices, and class actions.



John Walker is Managing Partner of Sacro & Walker. His practice focuses on business litigation in state and federal courts, where he has over 30 years of experience defending individuals and businesses against tort and breach of contract claims brought by consumers, competitors, business partners and employees. Mr. Walker is an accomplished trial advocate, having litigated numerous matters to judgment. He is skilled in all aspects of the litigation process, including appellate review.

Diversity

Sacro & Walker is a certified woman and minority owned law firm focused on promoting diversity and equal opportunity in the legal profession. The firm is supported by an extraordinarily talented and diverse group of attorneys and professional staff who take enormous pride in the firm's status as a preeminent legal services provider.



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Manny Sanchez



Tim Hoffman



Heather Erickson



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Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP is one of the largest certified minority-owned law firms in the country. We are a civil litigation defense firm of 35 attorneys offering the highest level of services at competitive, cost-effective rates for over 25 years. In order to obtain this objective, we are pleased to draw upon the diverse talents and backgrounds of our people. We have worked hard to assemble and cultivate professionals who can share in our legal service mission. After all, the foundation upon which our firm is built rests squarely on the shoulders of the professionals who comprise the firm. We are proud that over half of our partners and associates are women and attorneys of color.

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**Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin
Languages: German, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, Polish, Spanish**

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333 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: (312) 641-1555
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Elaine Davenport



ShawnTe Raines



Edric Bautista



Yifan Xu Sanchez



Renee Ziolkowski

About the Firm

Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP is a mid-sized civil defense litigation firm with over 35 attorneys. We will assist in your efforts to handle legal matters in a cost-effective manner while obtaining outstanding representation.

Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP is a full service civil practice law firm with the top A.V. Martindale-Hubbell rating. The firm is actively involved in the preparation, trial and appeal, if necessary, of civil cases of all kinds including personal injury, property damage, coverage disputes and other litigation. The firm specializes in the fields of product liability, strict liability in tort, construction, asbestos and civil rights litigation. A major portion of our practice is devoted to transportation issues, toxic torts, alleged "bad faith" insurance claims, insurance coverage, excess and reinsurance matters, homeowner's liability, and fire and explosion claims. Additionally, the firm handles contractual, commercial and real estate litigation as well as injunctive and/or equity relief, and appellate litigation. Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP also has extensive expertise in the field of public finance and employment law. The firm's litigation practice takes it before all levels of State and Federal courts in IL, IN, MI, MN, MO and OH. The firm also practices before regulatory and administrative agencies as well as arbitration and mediation adjudicators.

We are quite proud of the fact that since 1987 we have:

- Grown from two to more than 35 attorneys; all solid, experienced professionals;
- Been honored as the recipient of the Thomas L. Sager Award in recognition of our commitment to diversity and gender balance. The award was given by the Minority Corporate Counsel Association;
- Become one of the largest minority-owned and controlled law firms in the United States;
- Gone to verdict in over 150 cases in State and Federal court;
- Been selected as Chrysler Group LLC's "Tier I" counsel from 1995-present with responsibility for all pending and future product liability cases filed against Chrysler for the northern half of Illinois and all of Indiana.
- Actively participated in the field of public finance working as underwriting counsel, bond counsel placement and borrower's counsel in transactions involving the City of Chicago, Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Chicago Midway Airport, the Chicago Park District, the Public Building Commission, the Chicago Board of Education, Cook County, United Airlines, St. Augustine College and Norwegian American Hospital.
- A partial list of established clients, include the following companies:

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All of this is recounted simply to emphasize that the firm is dynamic, firmly established, and eager to demonstrate its effectiveness. Our success is a direct result of our commitment to the belief that our clients come first.

MIAMI, FLORIDA

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ABOUT US

From the courtroom to the board-room, from coverage issues to litigation defense, Sioli Alexander Pino is a multi-faceted law firm equipped to guide you to the best possible results. Our legal team has a well deserved reputation of excellence in providing smart, sensible, and cost-effective legal and business solutions for our clients. With our headquarter location in Miami and bilingual (English & Spanish) staff, we are also able to assist our clients in claims throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. We have attorneys admitted in a number of jurisdictions outside of Florida, including Tennessee, Texas, New Hampshire, New York, and the District of Columbia. We serve a wide range of clientele, and every client relationship is valued greatly and treated with dignity and respect. Each engagement benefits from the depth and breadth of our expertise.

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- Personal Injury Litigation
- Workers' Compensation Defense

CONTACT US

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SMGQ Law is an AV-rated, certified minority-owned, full service law firm with offices in Florida and Georgia, offering extensive experience in the handling of legal matters for key industries and clients ranging from Fortune 500 to privately-held businesses and high-net worth individuals. The Firm serves as counsel to several national clients, representing them in all state and federal courts throughout Florida and Georgia, as well as before arbitration tribunals. With its main office located in the gateway city of Miami, SMGQ Law also assists clients in transactions and legal proceedings throughout Latin America.

CONTACT:

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CHAIR, INSURANCE PRACTICE GROUP
EQUESADA@SMGQLAW.COM

AREAS OF PRACTICE:

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Errors & Omissions
Extra Contractual & Bad Faith
Fraudulent Claims
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Labor & Employment
Products Liability
Real Estate Litigation
Tax Transactions, Federal & State

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CVS Health
ELCO Mutual Life and Annuities Company
Humana Health Insurance Company of Florida, Inc.
Humana Insurance Company
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Lincoln Benefit Life Company
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PARTNER | EQUESADA@SMGQLAW.COM

CHAIR, INSURANCE PRACTICE GROUP

LIFE, HEALTH, DISABILITY & ERISA

HEALTHCARE & PHARMACEUTICAL

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Emilia A. Quesada is a founding partner and Chair of the Firm's Insurance Practice Group, focusing her practice in the areas of complex commercial litigation with specialized knowledge in insurance disputes including life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance and ERISA litigation, managed care litigation claims for healthcare organizations, healthcare consumer claims including HMO, PPO, Medicaid and Medicare claims, emergency services litigation for both in and out of network claims, pharmaceutical litigation, insurance coverage defense in first party cases, supplemental and accident insurance claims, financial service industry matters, banking litigation, general commercial litigation, products liability and class action defense.

Ms. Quesada has represented numerous Fortune 500 companies throughout her career including healthcare organizations, life and disability insurance companies, supplemental and accident insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, financial institutions, banking entities and numerous other companies, as well as publicly-traded entities and privately owned businesses in the prosecution and defense of life, health, disability and ERISA matters, insurance coverage disputes, healthcare claims, agent claims, interpleaders, structured settlement disputes, vicarious liability issues, reinsurance matters, bad faith litigation, general commercial claims, business disputes, business torts, fraud and RICO claims, consumer claims including FDUTPA, FCRA and TCPA claims, officer/director liability claims, product liability matters and a panoply of civil claims in state and federal courts throughout Florida and Georgia, as well as before arbitration tribunals throughout the country.

Ms. Quesada is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings, the highest rating possible, and an Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association (Commercial, Consumer and Healthcare rosters).

Prior to forming SMGQ, Ms. Quesada was a partner at a national law firm and senior associate at Hunton & Williams LLP (n/k/a Hunton Andrews Kurth), one of the largest U.S. based international law firms. Ms. Quesada commenced her legal career in private practice at Steel Hector & Davis LLP (n/k/a Squire Patton Boggs) after completing a federal clerkship as an Honors Attorney through the Attorney General Honors Program for the U.S. Department of Justice in Atlanta, Georgia, where she was selected from over 2,500 applicants for one of eight positions.

Ms. Quesada is admitted to practice in Florida, including the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Middle and Northern Districts of Florida; in Georgia, including the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia; in New York; and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

NOTABLE RECOGNITION

Ms. Quesada served as one of 12 commissioners appointed to the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession by the president of the ABA and was the first Hispanic appointed from Florida. Ms. Quesada has been featured in Attorney at Law magazine's Women in Law edition, Law360's series Minority Powerbrokers Q&A, the MCCA's Diversity & the Bar magazine, and Diversity Inc. magazine. She has also been highlighted as a Hispanic leader by Miami Today and South Florida CEO magazine, and honored as a Super Lawyer for Insurance, Top Lawyer in Insurance by the South Florida Legal Guide and Best Lawyer in America for Insurance Litigation. Ms. Quesada is a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America, a prestigious association where less than one-half of one percent of American trial lawyers have been invited to join.



Elizabeth Graddy

PARTNER



Rachel Walker

OF COUNSEL



Rachael K. Williams

ASSOCIATE

FLORIDA

GEORGIA

Smith Fisher Maas Howard & Lloyd P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Agricultural/CAFO • Bad Faith and Insurance Fraud
Construction • Environmental/Toxic Tort • Insurance Coverage
Insurance Defense • Employment • Transportation
Trial • Products Liability • Worker's Compensation

Our Goal

We believe that every case we handle, regardless of its complexity, deserves the most thorough and efficient service we can provide. We understand that every case entrusted to our firm has taken a toll of some sort on our clients in terms of stress, time and cost. Therefore, we strive to do everything possible to achieve a fast and final resolution of each matter we undertake through the means most suitable to our clients' expressed needs. Our goal is to know and meet your goals in every instance.

Our History

Smith Fisher Maas Howard & Lloyd, P.C. is small by choice, not by chance. Founded in 1993, the firm's nine attorneys come from a wide variety of backgrounds and collectively have over two hundred years of experience in Indiana's courtrooms. A number of our attorneys are certified mediators. Several have been selected as Indiana Superlawyers. We have substantial trial experience and have been ranked in the top ten law firms in our state for the number of cases tried annually – trying more cases than firms twenty times our size. Smith Fisher Maas Howard & Lloyd, P.C. is certified by the state as a Women's Business Enterprise, is a member of WBENC, and is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Our Clients

Our clients include Allstate; American Family Insurance; Auto-Owners Insurance; American Select Insurance; AT&T; Bituminous Companies; Citizens Insurance; Columbia Insurance Group; Continental Casualty; Erie Ins. Exchange; EMCOR Group; Esurance; The Farmers Automobile Insurance Association; FCCI Insurance Group; General Casualty Companies; Hanover Insurance Group; Hanover Professionals; Hastings Mutual Insurance; Hoosier Insurance; Indiana Farmers Mutual Insurance; Indiana Insurance; Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies; Mennonite Mutual Insurance; Motorists Mutual Insurance; Nationwide Insurance Company; Ohio Casualty Insurance; Ohio Farmers Insurance; Ohio Mutual Insurance Group; Pekin Insurance; Safeco Insurance; Selective Insurance Companies; Shambaugh & Son, LLC; Standard Mutual Insurance; State Auto Insurance; Viox Services, Inc.; West Bend Mutual Insurance; Western Reserve Group and Westfield Companies.

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PEOPLE YOU KNOW. EXPERIENCE YOU TRUST

Smith Fisher Maas Howard and Lloyd, P.C. is a nine attorney firm located on Indianapolis' Northside. Since its inception in 1993, the firm's practice has focused on all areas of insurance defense. Currently, our insurance practice is evenly divided between first party coverage/ bad faith and third party liability issues running the gamut from minor vehicular accidents to major construction losses and environmental contamination claims. Our firm regularly tries cases throughout Indiana in both its state and federal courts. The firm is a member of CLM and is recommended by A.M. Best.



Kimberly E. Howard, Principal

Kim Howard has practiced as a highly skilled defense trial lawyer in Indiana for over 20 years. Ms Howard practices in general defense litigation, including construction, products liability, and transportation law. She also practices in the area of bad faith litigation. Additionally, she devotes a portion of her practice to her small business clients in the areas of contract negotiation, Request for Proposal Responses and general business development. Ms. Howard was the recipient of the 2014 Indiana State Bar Association Civility Award. Ms. Howard attended Indiana University and graduated from Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis in 1991. E-mail: khoward@smithfisher.com



Rebecca J. Maas, Principal

Becky Maas has been in practice over 25 years and has tried more cases than anyone in the firm, and has obtained favorable verdicts in all of her trials, including numerous defense verdicts. Her current practice includes the defense of catastrophic injuries and large personal injury claims on construction sites as well as construction defect claims. She is the firm's resident authority on confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) litigation and is currently defending several Indiana farmers against claims for nuisance and bodily injury. Mrs. Maas is a graduate of Indiana's Taylor University and of the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis in 1988. E-mail: rmaas@smithfisher.com



Mark R. Smith, Principal

Mark R. Smith, CPCU, has over 30 years of experience in complex insurance coverage litigation. Mr. Smith, a member of the Indiana Bar, has defended thousands of cases in Indiana's state and federal courts, and before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He focuses his practice on the areas of insurance coverage, bad faith and punitive damage litigation. He also maintains a substantial state and federal appellate practice. Mr. Smith received his undergraduate degree from Hanover College (magna cum laude), his law degree from Indiana University at Indianapolis (magna cum laude), and his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation from the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters. E-mail: msmith@smithfisher.com



Marcum J. Lloyd, Principal

Marc Lloyd has a solid history of successful trial work and has tried over 30 cases in his career. Marc has tried numerous cases to winning verdicts. His practice focuses on general insurance defense including transportation, premises defense, workers' compensation and environmental law. Mr. Lloyd obtained his B.S., magna cum laude, from Valparaiso University in 1995 and graduated from Valparaiso's law school in 1999. E-mail: mlloyd@smithfisher.com



Stephen C. Wheeler, Principal

Steve Wheeler's practice has focused on insurance defense for twenty-five years. He has served as lead counsel on numerous trials involving issues of products liability, UM/UIM, workers compensation, arson, fraud, bad faith and insurance coverage. He received his J.D. from American University in Washington D.C. where he served as a law clerk for the Department of Justice and represented veterans before the Department of Veteran's Affairs. E-mail: swheeler@smithfisher.com



Donna H. Fisher, Of Counsel

Donna Fisher, one of the firm's founding members, now serves as Of Counsel to the firm. While in active practice Ms. Fisher focused primarily on the areas of environmental defense and insurance coverage. She currently handles special projects for the firm while mentoring the firm's associates. Ms. Fisher is a Diplomat of the Indiana Defense Trial Counsel. She obtained her B.A. from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and her J.D., cum laude, from Indiana University in Indianapolis E-mail: dfisher@smithfisher.com



Representative Practice

- Over 100 jury trials in cases ranging from insurance bad faith, wrongful death, traumatic brain injury, premises liability, auto liability, dram shop, wrongful discharge, defamation, and medical malpractice in state and federal courts.
- Appellate practice, including amicus curiae briefing, and oral argument before the Colorado Supreme Court, Colorado Court of Appeals, and Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Summary judgment and 12(b) dismissals in favor of insurance, retail, and individual clients.

Practice Areas

Appellate

Crisis/
Emergency
Management

Insurance
Bad Faith

Insurance
Coverage

Personal
Injury

Premises
Liability

Product
Liability

Professional
Liability

Property
Damage

Uninsured/
Underinsured
Motorists

Who We Are



NAMWOLF



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Denver, CO



Insurance



In this complex and multifaceted area of the law, Walsh attorneys work diligently to clarify goals and find the most efficient solution to achieve results. Our Insurance practice encompasses a broad scope of services involving insurance defense work by representing insurance companies, self-insureds, and other industry stakeholders.

Who We Work With

Handling a variety of insurance matters from the straightforward to the complex, Walsh has litigated insurance matters spanning a multitude of industries and professional services. We also have substantial experience with respect to bad faith claims asserted in first party insurance coverage actions. Subject matters include:

- Product liability
- Professional malpractice and negligence
- Construction defect litigation
- Fire and theft losses
- Subrogation recovery
- Environmental
- Errors & omissions
- Fraudulent claims
- Personal injury
- All forms of general liability

In addition to the diverse experiences of the attorneys in the practice area, the chair of the department is the former Commissioner of the Department of Banking and Insurance for the state of New Jersey. This enables us to provide clients with regulatory, compliance, transactional and litigation services.

Additional Practice Areas

Aside from Insurance, Walsh attorneys also represent clients in matters concerning: Appeals; Bankruptcy, Reorganization & Creditors Rights; Business & Commercial Litigation; Class Action Defense; Construction; Cyber Security & Data Privacy; eDiscovery; Education; Financial Services & Risk Management; Intellectual Property; Internal Investigations; Labor & Employment; Mediation, Arbitration & Special Master Appointments; Regulatory & Public Policy; Special Education; Trade Secrets & Employee Mobility.

Our Team



Liza M.
Walsh



Thomas J.
O'Leary



David D.
Cramer



Selina M.
Ellis



Richard J.
Badolato



Joseph L.
Linares



Gerhard W.
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INSURANCE DEFENSE

WHY WE'RE DIFFERENT

Walsworth's team of experienced attorneys works closely with in-house counsel and claims representatives to resolve claims in an efficient and cost-effective manner. We are proud to be known for consistently providing exceptional client service and thoughtful and tailored representation.

Our investment in understanding our clients' businesses and operations tailors our representation and helps to inform a strategy that is suitable to meet specific objectives. That, coupled with our experience in handling a wide variety of claims, allows us to not only defend a claim or lawsuit, but to also suggest new and improved policies and procedures for managing both existing and future matters.

Walsworth has represented insureds in a wide range of suits arising from homeowners, automobile, travel, general liability, and commercial policies, and our breadth of experience in this area enables us to honestly evaluate a matter and recommend the right course in a variety of case scenarios. We are also uniquely positioned to represent insurance companies against lawsuits that allege "bad faith" in the handling of claims and claimed reasonable withholding of policy benefits. Moreover, our team includes a specialist in the investigations of suspected fraudulent insurance claims, who has conducted countless examinations under oath for numerous national insurance carriers and their SIU units.

With decades of litigation and insurance defense experience, we are uniquely positioned to develop strong and creative recommendations, defenses, and arguments for our valued clients.

GET IN TOUCH



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AREAS OF FOCUS

- Automotive Liability
- Commercial General Liability
- Coverage Disputes
- Environmental
- Insurance Bad Faith & Fraud Defense
- Labor & Employment
- Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Premises Liability
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Secured a defense verdict for an insurance carrier after a five-week jury trial involving claims for breach of contract, insurance bad faith, elder abuse, and unfair competition, with punitive damages sought. The case arose from two alleged water-loss incidents at a Palm Springs residence, where the policyholder claimed the insurer failed to timely and fully pay the claims.
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice on the second day of a jury trial in a bad faith, large water loss litigation alleging punitive damages against the insurance carrier, when defendant prevailed on all motions in limine, which gutted the plaintiff's case.
- Secured a defense verdict in a case involving an accident between a small car and a tractor-trailer. It was suspected that this was a fraudulent lawsuit, and, during trial, we proved that two of the plaintiffs had lied under oath about critical aspects of the case.



walsworthlaw.com



WARD LAW, LLC

Straightfor**Ward** Legal Advice



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Managing Partner

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Ward Law, LLC is a woman-owned law firm, where diversity meets vision and changes the way clients view their legal matters. When you hire a Ward Law attorney, you get straightfor**Ward** legal advice. Our passion is helping our clients manage risks and minimize costs. Our committed, zealous team of seasoned lawyers are proven resolution experts. We put our clients' priorities first. We listen to our clients while taking a pragmatic approach to bring their matters to a close in a manner that benefits them best!



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COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE AND DEFENSE PRACTICE

Wong Fleming's Trial, Insurance Defense and Coverage practice group encompasses the representation of Fortune 50 companies, national and regional insurance companies, self-insured corporations and third-party administrators in connection with a broad spectrum of matters, including general liability, premises liability, auto liability, medical malpractice, life insurance coverage, benefits coverage, wrongful death, intentional infliction of emotional distress and severe or catastrophic personal injury or property loss claims. Our attorneys also have litigation experience representing and advising food and beverage manufacturers, processors, suppliers, and distributors, as well as restaurants, hotels and similar establishments. Our focus is to understand our clients' needs, craft a strategy that best fulfills them and exceed expectations.

Insurance Key Service Areas

- Commercial General Liability
- Premises Liability
- Complex Insurance Defense
- Life Insurance Coverage
- Benefits Coverage
- Insurance Coverage
- Business Losses
- Wrongful Death
- Employment Litigation
- Catastrophic Claims
- Personal Injury Defense
- Property Damage Claims
- Motor Vehicle Accidents
- Professional Liability
- Products Liability

Our representative clients include:

Allstate Insurance Company, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, The Prudential Insurance Company, New York State Insurance Fund, Metro-North Commuter Railroad Company, FDIC, Bank of America, BMO Harris Bank, N.A., Coca-Cola, Comerica Bank, Ford Motor Credit, Harley-Davidson Financial Company, Home Depot, KeyBank National Association, Macy's, Merck, Prudential Financial, Wells Fargo, Xerox.

Our NAMWOLF Insurance PAC Members:



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Our Practice Areas

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Commercial Litigation
- Corporate Asset Recovery
- Corporate Law
- Creditors' Rights & Bankruptcy
- Employment and Labor Law
- Entertainment, Arts & Sports
- Environmental
- Finance
- Government Relations
- Immigration
- Intellectual Property
- International
- Private Client Services
- Outside General Counsel Services
- Products Liability and Mass Tort Litigation
- Real Estate
- Tax Lien Enforcement
- Transactional Law
- Trial, Insurance Defense and Coverage

About Us

Wong Fleming was founded in 1994 and has over 30 attorneys in offices across the country and in Mexico, Canada, and Germany. The firm is AV-rated and more than 75% of the firm's attorneys are minorities, women or both. We pride ourselves on our innovation, representing clients vigorously and keeping in mind their business interests.





NAMWOLF

INSURANCE

PRACTICE AREA COMMITTEE

