

People



William Hunter Craven

Partner, Litigation

Dallas *

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vCard

Will Craven focuses his practice on complex litigation, strategy, and risk transfer matters. His clients often call on him for their toughest legal and business challenges, with Will representing insurers and insureds in high exposure defense litigation and claims management. Will's practice also includes contractual indemnity, insurance coverage, and bad faith litigation matters. Will's insurance practice extends to premium, audit, and subrogation disputes, where he works to prosecute claims and maximize recovery for his clients.

In addition, Will provides independent advice and counsel regarding complex coverage, regulatory, and business challenges. He regularly acts as monitoring counsel, drafts coverage opinions and position letters, and provides practical solutions and strategy for resolving or, if appropriate, trying to verdict large cases. Will also assists clients with policy wording and drafting, both at the program launch stage and in response to claims or underwriting concerns.

Will's regulatory experience includes legislation governing accident and health, life, workers' compensation, and employee benefit policies and plans, as well as broker/agent licensing and surplus lines issues. Will has experience working with InsureTech companies on claims optimization and compliance. He also assists with claims-handling issues involving ERISA, having developed internal policies and procedures for responding to claims brought by ERISA-governed health plans.

Notable Work

Litigation: Obtained \$1.7 million judgment for insurer client against insured in federal court for unpaid workers' compensation premiums, asserted "filed rate" doctrine arguments on summary judgment.

Litigation: Obtained summary judgment for insurer client, establishing no duty to defend or indemnify a purported additional insured in a wrongful death suit arising from hydrogen sulfide exposure.

Areas of Experience

Litigation
Commercial Disputes
Insurance Litigation
Insurance Fraud
Insurance Regulation
Product Liability and Mass Torts

Education

J.D., University of Mississippi School of Law, 2012, magna cum laude
B.A., Mississippi State University, 2009, summa cum laude

Admissions

Bars

Texas
District of Columbia
Virginia

Courts

Supreme Court of Texas
U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas

Related Content

Georgia Federal Court Applies "Fungi or Bacteria" Exclusion and Holds Insurer Owed No Duty to Defend Mold Exposure Wrongful Death Suit
March 25, 2025

Hawai'i Supreme Court Addresses Insurance and Climate Change Litigation: "Occurrence" Requirement Met, but Pollution Exclusion Applies to Greenhouse Gases
December 19, 2024

Litigation: Secured summary judgment against an insured's claim that client owed a duty to defend a multiparty wrongful death lawsuit stemming from a 2013 terrorist attack at an Algerian gas plant.

Class-Action Dispute: Achieved dismissal of post-judgment discovery and turnover action filed by TCPA class plaintiffs seeking \$3 million in coverage as judgment creditors.

Litigation: Successfully obtained a motion to transfer venue and stay of a parallel proceeding against an excess insurer in a case related to a \$20 million judgment from an indemnification action involving pollution losses.

Litigation: Defended insurer client against multiple "direct-action" suits brought in Texas state and federal courts by insureds and claimants across various liability coverage lines.

Litigation: Representing primary and excess insurers as coverage and monitoring counsel in numerous high-exposure injury and wrongful death cases nationwide, focusing on sectors such as construction, infrastructure, energy, and real estate.

Published Work and Lectures

- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC), Friday Five Newsletter, Co-Author, "Contractual Limitations on Umbrella Coverage and the Texas Supreme Court: Umbrella Policy Coverage Extended Beyond Service Contract Requirements," June 20, 2023
- TexasBarCLE's 20th Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, Speaker, "The Rise & Fall of FTX: Insurance in the Shadow of the Collapse," June 1, 2023
- Dallas Bar Association's Tort and Insurance Practice Section Webinar, Speaker, "Insurers and the Blockchain: Embracing the Role of Insurance Coverage in the Cryptocurrency Space," April 5, 2022
- 33rd Annual Mississippi State University (MSU) Insurance Day, Speaker, "Managing Risks: How to Avoid Common E&O Pitfalls for Insurance Agents," April 7, 2020

Affiliations

- Dallas Bar Association, Member
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Member

Honors and Distinctions

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2021-2024, Listed in Texas for Insurance Law as "One to Watch"
- *Super Lawyers* Magazine, 2020-2023, Listed in Texas as a "Rising Star" for Insurance Coverage and Business Litigation

Akerman Continues to Strengthen Robust Insurance Coverage Capabilities with Addition of Litigation Partner William Craven
January 23, 2024

Location

*Non-resident