

People

Gary J. Guzzi

Chair, Insurance Litigation Practice

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vCard

Gary Guzzi serves as chair of Akerman's Insurance Litigation Practice, a national team of 45 lawyers representing leading domestic and foreign carriers, self-insured corporations, municipalities, and related entities in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. He protects the interests of national and international insurance carriers in bad faith disputes, coverage claims, property insurance litigation, rescissions and ERISA-governed policies.

With comprehensive experience in insurance disputes, Gary litigates life, disability, commercial general liability, property, directors and officers, errors and omissions, homeowner, business interruption, and auto claims. His bad faith experience includes both first-party claims such as wrongful denial, delay, improper appraisal invocation, and lowballing, as well as third-party claims such as failure to tender limits, failure to proactively negotiate, and improper settlement communications.

Gary also represents carriers in litigation pertaining to carriers' rescissions of policies, including misrepresentations in applications, failure to update applications, and Stranger-Owned Life Insurance. Gary litigates cases involving life, disability, and similar policies governed by ERISA, including claims for breach of fiduciary duty and claims for benefits. Additionally, Gary advises carriers on proper techniques for claim handling, rescissions, and other aspects of carriers' businesses. Gary also serves as an expert witness in attorney fee disputes.

Notable Work

Bad Faith Claims: Represented a carrier in an automobile bad faith claim alleging that the carrier failed to obtain proper settlement documentation and failed to properly communicate with the insured as part of the settlement demand to resolve a wrongful death liability claim. Obtained summary judgment.

Coverage Dispute: Represented an auto insurance carrier in a state court jury trial regarding the insured's compliance with post-loss

Areas of Experience

Insurance Litigation
Litigation
Employee Benefits and ERISA Litigation
Directors and Officers (D&O) Liability
Financial Services

Education

J.D., Boston College Law School, 1998, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif
B.S., Boston College, 1992, summa cum laude

Admissions

Bars

Florida
Massachusetts

Courts

U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

Related Content

Akerman Earns Top National Rankings in the 2025 *Legal 500 U.S. Guide*
June 12, 2025

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

Record Number of Akerman Lawyers Named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 Guide
August 22, 2023

policy obligations. Obtained defense verdict.

ERISA Litigation: Represented numerous carriers regarding life, disability and similar policies in ERISA benefits dispute lawsuits.

Rescission: Represented a carrier in the rescission of a life insurance policy due to material misrepresentations of the insured's health history. Obtained summary judgment.

Related Professional Experience

- Digital Equipment Corp., Financial Analyst

Affiliations

- The Florida Bar, Member
- Defense Research Institute, Member
- Florida Defense Lawyers Association, Board of Directors

Honors and Distinctions

- *The Legal 500*, 2025, Recommended for Insurance - Advice to Insurers
- *Best Lawyers*, 2013-2025, Listed in Florida for Insurance Law and Litigation - Insurance
- *South Florida Legal Guide* 2008-2012, Recognized as an "Up and Comer" for Insurance and Commercial Litigation; 2013, Listed for Insurance Litigation; 2014-2016 Recognized as a "Top Lawyer" for Insurance, Corporate, and Business Litigation