

People



Robin N. Johnson

Partner, Litigation

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vCard

Robin Johnson focuses her practice on commercial litigation. She has experience litigating in state and federal courts across the country and has litigated a wide range of issues with a focus on insurance coverage and bad faith matters. Robin advises insurance companies not only on policy coverage issues and disputes, but also monitors disputes and advises insurers attempting to avoid bad faith claims. Robin has advised insurers on claims involving construction defect, first-party property loss, premises liability, and personal injury. Robin has successfully represented clients in trial and appellate courts.

Robin has also been involved in the litigation of complex commercial cases involving, breach of contract, securities fraud, medical malpractice, construction defect, landlord-tenant, commercial debt collection, and post-employment restrictive covenants on behalf of business entities and individual clients.

Notable Work

Georgia:

- Secured a major victory at the Georgia Supreme Court for insurance company client, clearing insurer from liability for a \$5.3 million excess verdict against its policyholder in an underlying automobile liability litigation. Drafted summary judgment motion at trial court where court found in favor of client, finding the insurer did not act negligently or in bad faith by not responding to an offer to settle before the offer was withdrawn, where the offer did not include a deadline for acceptance. The Georgia Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals by affirming the trial court judgment. The Supreme Court's decision clarifies Georgia law surrounding settlement offers, to the benefit of all insurers issuing liability policies in the state. The Court held that an insurer's duty to settle arises only when the injured party presents a valid offer to settle within the insured's policy limits, and not merely when the insurer knows

Areas of Experience

Insurance Litigation
Litigation
Appellate
eDiscovery Services
Commercial Disputes

Education

J.D., Georgia State University College of Law, 2007, cum laude
B.B.A., Georgia State University, 2004, magna cum laude
A.S., Perimeter College at Georgia State University, 2001, highest honors

Admissions

Bars

Georgia

Courts

Georgia Court of Appeals
Supreme Court of Georgia
U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

Related Content

April Fools? Nope. Hard-to-Believe Reasons Used to Defeat Acceptance of Settlement Offers
April 01, 2024

Georgia Owners and Contractors: Time to Update Your Lien Waiver Forms and Other Contract Provisions
October 06, 2020

Akerman's Litigation Bench Expands in West Palm Beach with Grasford Smith
February 18, 2020

or reasonably should know that settlement within the insured's policy limits is possible. The holding will help curb "set-up" claims against insurers by plaintiff's lawyers who try to manufacture bad-faith claims by sending vague settlement demands.

Arizona:

- Defeated stipulated judgment in Arizona federal court saving insurer client from paying a \$25 million settlement agreement which was entered without the consent of the insurer.

National:

- Handled hundreds of construction defect claims on behalf of insurer client including the issuance of declination of coverage and reservation of rights letters.

Tennessee:

- Assisted at the trial of the largest damages case ever in Tennessee, alleging breach of an insurance contract arising out of the 2010 flood in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to trial, summary judgment was granted on claims of bad faith, estoppel and violation of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act. Post-trial, a \$45 million reduction in pre-judgment interest was achieved. Tennessee Court of Appeals unanimously reversed Chancery Court's summary judgment ruling on policy limits and \$204 million jury verdict, resulting in zero liability for insurer client. Tennessee Supreme Court denied opposing party's application for appeal.

Affiliations

- Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, Member, Designated a Certified Litigation Management Professional in 2014
- American Bar Association, Member
- Georgia Justice Project, Volunteer Lawyer
- Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, Volunteer Lawyer

Published Work and Lectures

- The Seminar Group, Speaker, "Insurance in the Construction Industry," March 2019
- Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Speaker, "Recent Updates in Legal Malpractice and Ethics," 2015
- Appraisals in Property Damage Insurance Claims: Law, Strategy, and Practical Advice, Claims & Litigation Management Alliance, Co-Author, 2014
- ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, Midyear Program, Speaker, 2014
- *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*, Co-Author, "Recent Developments in Property Insurance Coverage Litigation," Fall 2013

Honors and Distinctions

- Fulton County *Daily Report*, Insurance Litigation Department of the Year, 2013 and 2017