

**Patricia B. Santelle**

Partner

**Chair, Commercial Litigation Department**

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Patti Santelle is recognized by her clients and peers as a leading attorney in the field of complex insurance coverage. She has devoted the last 20 years to the representation of insurance company clients in matters involving asbestos, environmental, toxic tort and long-tail claims. She is known for her depth of experience, responsiveness, drive and ability to craft solutions for her clients, whether they are in litigation or not. Patti thoroughly understands the needs of her insurer clients.

Patti's practice includes the prosecution and defense of insurers in coverage actions in state and federal courts around the country as well as alternative dispute resolution proceedings. She also negotiates the resolution of disputed coverage claims and counsels insurance company clients on claims litigation strategy, claims resolution procedures and coverage questions.

While she is an experienced litigator, Patti's practice is not limited to litigation. She devotes a substantial portion of her practice to counseling her clients outside the context of litigation. Patti also a frequent speaker at industry seminars and conducts in-house training seminars for her clients.

In addition to leading the Commercial Litigation Department, which consists of more than 70 attorneys in six offices, and the Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith Group, which consists of approximately 20 attorneys in four offices, Patti is a member of the firm's Executive and Compensation Committees.

While in law school, Patti was President of the Student Bar Association, winner (overall and best brief) of the Hunter Advanced Moot Court Competition and a member of the school's National Moot Court Team. After graduation, she served as Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Daniel J. O'Hern, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey, and an associate with the Morristown, New Jersey firm of Pitney, Hardin Kipp & Szuch. She joined White and Williams in 1990.

Patti is a former member and Past Chair of the District IV Ethics Committee in New Jersey and has been twice appointed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to serve as a Special Master on complex ethics proceedings in New Jersey. She is a 20-year member and Past Chancellor of the Board of the Rutgers-Camden Law Alumni Association. In 2010, Patti was given the Scarlet Oak Meritorious Service Award by Rutgers University for her contributions as an alumni leader and student mentor at the Rutgers-Camden School of Law.

**Practice Areas**

Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith

**Bar And Court Admissions**

Pennsylvania

New Jersey

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

**Education**

Rutgers University School of Law-Camden, JD, 1985

Boston College, AB, *magna cum laude*, 1982

### Representative Matters

- For the past 10 years, serves as lead counsel for a group of insurers who are signatories to the landmark “Wellington Agreement”; representation has involved handling multiple phases of alternative dispute resolution adverse to major asbestos producers who also signed the Wellington Agreement and, in most instances, brought about creative, cost-effective solutions to what has otherwise been described as a crisis in litigation in this country
- Serves as lead counsel for insurer clients in dozens of complex disputes involving hazardous waste sites around the country; adversaries have included a number of Fortune 500 companies
- Tried multiple coverage cases, including serving as lead counsel in a two-month bench trial involving the largest waste management company in North America
- Served as lead counsel for a major insurance company before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in a case which affirmed the dismissal of a claim seeking unaggregated coverage for asbestos-related bodily injury claims
- Assisted in a two-week jury trial involving pollution at a manufactured gas plant in New England and a multi-day bench trial involving issues presented by underlying asbestos claims
- Served as lead or co-counsel on appeals in state and federal courts on significant procedural issues such as *forum non conveniens* and choice of law, and substantive issues such as allocation and applicable limits
- Obtained favorable and/or otherwise dispositive rulings for insurance company clients on key issues such as the duty to defend, application of pollution exclusion, after-acquired/involved sites and “trigger” of coverage
- Assisted insurance company clients in limiting policyholders’ attempts to get broad declaratory relief
- Aided clients in preventing underlying claimants from pursuing “direct actions” under the state’s Spill Act
- Counseled insurer clients on cutting-edge issues presented by chemical/indoor exposure and Chinese Drywall claims

### Recognition & Involvement

Since 2005, Patti has been selected in a survey of her peers as a Pennsylvania “Super Lawyer” by *Law & Politics* magazine.

In addition to her involvement in her law school alumni group, Patti is President of the Board of Trustees of the C. Wallace Stuard Sailing Foundation and a Board Member of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May.

### In The News

Coverage College 2011® Brings Over 500 Students Together for Fifth Annual Insurance Industry Event  
October 6, 2011

Patti Santelle Recognized for Joining “Ring of Champions” Mentoring Program  
September 23, 2011

Congratulations 2011 PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars  
May 25, 2011

Patti Santelle Honored by Rutgers University for Outstanding Service to Rutgers School of Law-Camden  
October 22, 2010

## Events

A Year in the Life of Litigating Long-Tail Claims Coverage - Annual Update on Asbestos/LTE/Environmental Liability and Coverage

October 6, 2011

Going Green: Emerging Environmental Insurance Coverage Issues

October 6, 2011

A Year in the Life of Litigating Long-Tail Claims Coverage

September 30, 2010

A Year in the Life of Litigating Long-Tail Claims Coverage

October 2009

Coverage for Long-Tail Claims: An Update

September 17, 2008

Coverage for Long-Tail Claims: An Update

2007

Discovery in Environmental Insurance Coverage Disputes

2007

Coverage for Toxic Tort and Environmental Damage

2005

Environmental Claims

Insurance Coverage for Natural Resource Damages Claim

2005

Allocation for the New Millennium

2001

Slicing Up the Pie: Allocation of Losses and Defense Costs

January 1, 2000

## Cases & Deals

Lawyers in Insurance Coverage Group Score a Win in Case Seeking Unaggregated Coverage

December 16, 2011