

Sara C. Tilitz

Associate

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Sara Tilitz's practice includes complex insurance coverage, bad faith and insurance contract disputes. She focuses her practice on the representation of major insurance carriers in matters involving environmental pollution and long-term exposure to hazardous substances. Sara has experience litigating issues including allocation of coverage among multiple triggered insurers, trigger of coverage, application of policy exclusions, choice-of-law determinations, and defense of allegations of bad faith. Sara's practice has included involvement in sophisticated insurance-related litigation in Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

While at Penn, Sara was an editor of the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law*. She also served as an executive board member of the Penn Housing Rights Project, providing pro bono legal representation to indigent Philadelphians involved in landlord/tenant disputes. In 2010, she was named that project's volunteer of the year. Sara is currently active in the SeniorLAW Center pro bono clinic, which assists Philadelphia seniors in making personal planning decisions and in the preparation of life planning documents.

Prior to attending law school, Sara worked for several years at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. During her time there, she was assigned to the Business & Securities Fraud section, where she assisted in the prosecution of white collar criminals.

Representative Matters

- Represented a commercial general liability insurer in Ohio State Court in obtaining a summary judgment ruling regarding the application of a pollution exclusion to at least 84 separate bodily injury claims resulting from the release of hazardous and toxic chemicals over a 70-year period. The ruling of the trial court was subsequently affirmed by the Ohio Court of Appeals. *GrafTech International, Ltd., et al. v. Pacific Employers Ins. Co., et al.*, Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth Appellate District (Dec. 28, 2017)
- Obtained summary judgment in United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (affirmed by the Second Circuit) based on late notice defense in multisite environmental litigation involving more than \$100 million in alleged groundwater cleanup costs. *Travelers Indem. Co. v.*

Practice Areas

Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability
Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith

Bar and Court Admissions

Pennsylvania

New Jersey

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

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

Education

University of Pennsylvania Law School,
JD, 2011

Rutgers University, BA, 2005

- *Henry Rutgers Scholar*

Northrop Grumman Corp., 3 F.Supp.3d 117 (S.D.N.Y. 2014); *Travelers Indem. Co. v. Northrop Grumman Corp.*, 956 F. Supp.2d 494 (S.D.N.Y. 2013)

- Represented a major insurance company and obtained a favorable summary judgment ruling with respect to the late notice defense in an action brought in the Northern District of New York by an energy services provider seeking past and future costs related to 22 former manufactured gas plant sites
- Obtained summary judgment based on choice-of-law and allocation in an asbestos coverage dispute in Pennsylvania State Court
- Achieved significant ruling in Pennsylvania Commerce Court that Pennsylvania's "Bad Faith" Statute does not apply to out-of-state insureds *Anheuser-Busch v. Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, Case No. 00315 (Pa. Phila. C.P. Comm. Ct. Nov. 1, 2012)

Recognition & Involvement

Sara received a 2021 Best Lawyers: Ones To Watch recognition for her work in Insurance Law.

In the News

Best Lawyers® Recognizes 43 White and Williams Lawyers
August 20, 2020

12th Annual Coverage College Features Current Trends and State of the Insurance Claims Industry
October 23, 2018

Eight Lawyers Admitted to U.S. District Court for Eastern District of PA
November 15, 2011

Events

Long-Tail Insurance: An Update on Coverage Issues Concerning Asbestos, LTE and Environmental Claims
12th Annual Coverage College | October 4, 2018

Publications

The ALI Restatement – What Lies Ahead?
Complex Insurance Coverage Reporter | July 12, 2018

Ohio Court Of Appeals: Absolute Pollution Exclusion Bars Coverage For Workplace Coal-Tar Pitch Exposure Claims
Complex Insurance Coverage Reporter | January 4, 2018

Cases & Deals

White and Williams Secures Decision on Application of Pollution Exclusion in Ohio Court of Appeals
December 28, 2017

Coverage Team Secures Significant Choice-of-Law Victory in Ohio State Court
April 14, 2015