

Shane R. Heskin

Partner

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Shane Heskin has over 15 years of experience litigating nationwide, complex insurance coverage disputes involving a wide-range of issues in California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. He brings a passionate belief, a competitive spirit and an inventive approach to resolving challenging coverage issues. His unrelenting efforts have resulted in overturning or developing favorable state appellate precedent on issues such as allocation, owned property, expected or intended, and judicial estoppel. He also has extensive experience fighting forum battles and obtaining dispositive rulings to avoid costly litigation based on choice-of-law.

Shane is a trial lawyer at heart and his diverse trial experience includes both insurance coverage and commercial litigation involving environmental claims and general business disputes. He is also deeply devoted to protecting small business victims against predatory lending practices and has substantial experience litigating usury disputes involving small business loans and Merchant Cash Advances.

Using his experience from litigating dozens of environmental pollution coverage cases involving Superfund Sites, Shane also advises on potential environmental liabilities that might arise from corporate real estate transactions.

Additionally, Shane has written and spoken extensively on allocation issues involving long-term toxic exposures. He authored the chapter on The Allocation of Long-Term Progressive Injuries in General Liability Insurance Coverage – Key Issues in Every State (Fourth Edition; Oxford University Press 2018), and the chapter on Commercial General Liability Policies in the Massachusetts Liability Insurance Manual (Second Edition; MCLE New England 2011).

During law school, Shane served as an associate editor of the Albany Law Review. Prior to joining White and Williams, Shane was Counsel in the New York office of O'Melveny & Myers LLP and an associate in the New York office of Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCoy LLP. In college, Shane was an Academic All-American in football.

Practice Areas

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

Bar and Court Admissions

Pennsylvania
Massachusetts
New York
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Education

Albany Law School, JD, *summa cum laude*, 1999
Mayville State University, BA, *summa cum laude*, 1996

Representative Matters

- Obtained summary judgment based on the absolute pollution exclusion and defeated summary judgment on the duty to defend by obtaining New York choice-of-law in the policyholder's home state of Ohio. *GrafTech International Ltd., f.k.a. UCAR International Inc., et al. v. Pacific Employers Insurance Company*, CV-13-818739 (Ohio Ct. Comm. Pl., Cuyahoga County, November 18, 2016); *GrafTech International Ltd., f.k.a. UCAR International Inc., et al. v. Pacific Employers Insurance Company*, CV-13-818739 (Ohio Ct. Comm. Pl., Cuyahoga County, April 7, 2015)
- Obtained summary judgment based on late notice defense in multisite environmental litigation involving more than \$100 million in alleged groundwater cleanup costs. *Travelers Indem. Co. v. 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).
- Obtained summary judgment based on choice-of-law and allocation in an asbestos coverage dispute. *Anheuser-Busch v. Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, Case No. 00315 (Pa. Phila. C.P. Comm. Ct. Nov. 1, 2012)
- Obtained a \$2.55 million jury verdict (including punitive damages) in an unfair competition case involving two Philadelphia-based food distributors
- Defended on appeal summary judgment ruling on named insured issue before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. *Bondex Intern., Inc. v. Hartford Acc. and Indem. Co.*, 667 F.3d 669 (6th Cir. 2011)
- Obtained judgment as a matter of law in environmental pollution case based on allocation, owned property and judicial estoppel. *Boston Gas Co. v. Century Indem. Co.*, 793 F.Supp.2d 511 (D. Mass. 2011), *aff'd*, 708 F.3d 254 (1st Cir. 2013)
- Represented insurance client before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in reversing prior Appeals Court precedent on allocation of long-term property damage claim and adopting instead, time-on-the-risk, *pro rata* allocation. *Boston Gas Co. v. Century Indem. Co.*, 454 Mass. 337, 910 N.E.2d 290 (Mass. 2009)
- Represented insurance client on appeal to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in reversing jury verdict involving environmental claims on owned property and allocation issues in global coverage action involving contamination at nearly 30 former manufactured gas plant sites. *Boston Gas Co. v. Century Indem. Co.*, 454 Mass. 337, 910 N.E.2d 290 (Mass. 2009)
- Represented insurance client in defending against numerous other underlying environmental and asbestos coverage actions in California Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania
- Directly defended against dozens of underlying asbestos claims involving pipefitting and boilermaker companies

In the News

Coverage College® 2014 Brings Over 600 Students Together for Eighth Annual Insurance Industry Event
October 3, 2014

Commercial Litigation Team Secures Three Large-Sum Judgments for Clients
December 16, 2011

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

Insurance Coverage Attorneys Contribute to MA Liability Insurance Manual
May 23, 2011

Events

A Year in the Life of Litigating Long-Tail Coverage Claims: Annual Update on Asbestos/LTE/Environmental Liability and Coverage
White and Williams Coverage College | October 4, 2012

A Year in the Life of Litigating Long-Tail Claims Coverage - Annual Update on Asbestos/LTE/Environmental Liability and Coverage
White and Williams Coverage College | October 6, 2011

Publications

EPA to Relax Environmental Legal Enforcement During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Taking Care of Business | March 31, 2020

Florida's State Constitutional Adjudication: A Significant Shift as Three New Members Take Seats on the State's Highest Court?
Albany Law Review | January 1, 1999

Cases & Deals

NY Federal Court Reaffirms White and Williams Win in Former Gas Plant Pollution Coverage Dispute
May 17, 2018

White and Williams Secures Summary Judgment in Dispute Over Coverage for Breach of Contract Claims
May 3, 2018

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

Coverage Team Obtains Summary Judgment Based on Employer's Liability Exclusion
June 13, 2017

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

White and Williams Coverage Team Records Another Win in Long-Running Environmental Coverage Dispute
January 18, 2013

Commercial Litigation Lawyers Secure \$2.55 Million for Local Stromboli Manufacturer
October 5, 2011