



Gary L. Gassman

Co-Vice Chair, Global Insurance Department
Regional Manager, Global Insurance Department – Midwest/South

Chicago

ggassman@cozen.com | (312) 474-7994

Practice Areas

- Professional Liability Insurance Coverage
- Casualty & Specialty Lines Coverage
- Bad Faith
- International Arbitration

Education

- University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, J.D., 1993
- Indiana University–Bloomington, B.A., 1990

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Arizona
- Wisconsin

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Wisconsin

Affiliations

- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Chair 2022-2023
- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Chair-Elect, 2020-2022
- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Vice-Chair, 2019-2020
- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section's (TIPS) Diversity Officer – 2017-2019
- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS): Council Member, 2015-2018; Chair, Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, 2015-2016; Chair, Corporate Counsel Outreach Task Force, 2013-2015; Chair, Corporate Counsel Committee, 2012-2013; Chair, Task Force on Corporate Governance, 2010-2011; Chair, International Committee, 2009-2011.
- Member, CGL Reporter Editorial Board, 2007-2015
- Professional Liability Underwriting Society
- Defense Research Institute
- The John Marshall Law School, Adjunct Professor of Law on Legal Writing and Oral Argument Technique, August 1996-December 2001
- American College of Coverage Counsel

Awards & Honors

Gary L. Gassman

ggassman@cozen.com
P: (312) 474-7994 | F: (312) 706-9756

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Gary focuses his practice on insurance coverage counseling and litigation. He is co-vice chair of the Global Insurance Department, and is co-chair of the Professional Liability Coverage Practice. For more than 29 years, his practice has been concentrated on management liability including directors and officers and entity liability, employment practices liability, fiduciary liability, various types of professional liability, cyber liability, and commercial general liability coverage. He also has significant reinsurance experience.

Gary speaks at insurance coverage seminars throughout the country and is active in several lead organizations. He has taught legal writing as an adjunct professor of law and regularly publishes in the areas of corporate governance, securities laws, and international and domestic D&O, E&O, and EPL exposures and trends. Gary is the immediate past chair of the American Bar Association, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS). Previously, he served as the section's diversity officer and Council liaison to its special standing committee on diversity and inclusion. Gary has also led the Cozen O'Connor LGBTQ+ Attorney Resource Group and serves on the firm's diversity committee. In 2023, he was named a "Notable Leader in DEI" by Crain's Chicago Business Magazine for his personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Gary earned a Bachelor of Arts from Indiana University in 1990 and a law degree from the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law in 1993.

Experience

Successfully moved to dismiss a lawsuit filed by an insured-law firm seeking coverage for its defense of a trade secrets misappropriation counterclaim in an underlying lawsuit. In granting the motion to dismiss, the court accepted our argument that coverage was barred by a Prior Notice Exclusion given that the claim at issue involved a wrongful act that was the subject of notice under a separate policy under which the insured had received coverage.

Defeated an insured's motion for preliminary injunction compelling our client to defend him and pay defense expenses in certain adversary proceedings, pursuant to D&O policies held by a company of which the plaintiff was formerly a director and officer. This result was affirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Won summary judgment for the insurer in a case in which it sought a declaratory judgment that it had no duty to defend or indemnify the insured under a lawyers liability policy in connection with a state court counterclaim and a demand for arbitration brought by the insured's former business partner.

Represent insurers with respect to coverage for underlying wrongful death action against property management company under EPL and E&O policies worth in excess of \$30 million.

Negotiated a nominal settlement in a coverage dispute arising from a class action lawsuit alleging California Civil Code and California Business and Professions Code violations against a property management company valued in excess of \$5 million.



- ABA, Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Leadership Academy – 2008-2009
- Best Lawyers in America 2018-2025
- 2019, 2021, 2022 Chicago Notable Gen X Leaders in Law
- Leading Lawyers Network, Top Illinois Practitioner
- Crain's Chicago Business Notable Leader in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, 2023

Favorably negotiated a six-figure settlement for an insurer in the coverage dispute component of an FCRA and California Investigative Consumer Reporting Agency Act class action lawsuit valued in excess of \$20 million.

Successfully defeated motion for turnover of policy proceeds on behalf of insurers with respect to coverage for judgments against insureds arising from employment and shareholder disputes under D&O and EPL policies.

Obtained summary judgment for insurer in coverage dispute under a D&O and EPL policy for a case arising from investments in and the development of a medical center alleging breaches of fiduciary duties and derivative claims valued in excess of \$20 million.

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