



# Stephen A. Cozen

Chairman

Philadelphia

scozen@cozen.com | (215) 665-2020

## Practice Areas

- Appellate & Supreme Court
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Government & Regulatory

## Industry Sectors

- Gaming
- Insurance
- Sports

## Education

- University of Pennsylvania Law School, L.L.B., 1964
- University of Pennsylvania, B.A., 1961

## Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania

## Court Admissions

- Commonwealth Court Of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court
- Superior Court of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Pennsylvania
- U.S. Supreme Court

## Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- American Bar Foundation
- American College of Trial Lawyers
- American Judicature Society
- Defense Research Institute
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Institute
- Pennsylvania Defense Institute
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Advisory Board of the Litigation Counsel of America, Senior Fellow (2015-2018)
- President's Leadership Council for the Kimmel Center

Steve is the founder and chairman of Cozen O'Connor, a Philadelphia-based law firm with 33 offices throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The firm has grown from just four attorneys in 1970 to its present complement with more than 925 attorneys. Originally a boutique firm focusing on insurance related and commercial litigation, today Cozen O'Connor is a full-service law firm serving clients' needs in business and corporate matters, securities, bankruptcy, insolvency and restructuring, real estate, tax, public and project finance, health law, labor and employment matters, intellectual property, government relations, and trusts and estates.

An accomplished litigator and counselor, Steve is a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, a designation held by only the most respected and experienced courtroom practitioners, a fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, and a senior fellow of the Advisory Board of the Litigation Counsel of America. He is also well-recognized as a consummate strategist, an appellate advocate, and is frequently called upon for appellate advice, counsel, and oral advocacy before both state and federal appellate courts. John Ryan, Executive Vice President, Chief Counsel Officer and Corporate Secretary for Temple University Health System said of Steve: "He is a force of nature, tenacious, wise, and always supremely prepared. What Steve has done to create and build a thriving and growing law firm is inspiring, and great for Philadelphia." Steve is a nationally recognized lecturer and author on a wide variety of legal and litigation issues, and judicial opinions frequently cite his articles and texts as authoritative references.

Throughout his career Steve has served as an adviser, counsellor and occasionally in an official capacity on behalf of federal, state and city government executives.

Steve serves on numerous education and philanthropic boards, including the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History, where he is first vice-chair, the President's Leadership Council for the Kimmel Center, and the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School Board of Advisors *Emeritus*: Stephen A. Cozen, Esq. Steve also spearheaded the development of the Samuel D. Cozen PAL Center and is actively involved with the organization. He is chairman emeritus of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute Board of Councilors and currently serves on the board of Franklin Square Holdings, LP.

Steve is often awarded for his skills and leadership, both within the legal arena and in the community as a whole. In 2002, he was awarded The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) highest honor – The 25th Annual Americanism Award, and named to the lists of the 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2006), *The National Law Journal's* 100 Most Influential Lawyers in America (2000), The Best Lawyers in America, and "Pennsylvania Super Lawyers" (2006-present). In addition, the firm made a gift to the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Steve's honor, establishing the Stephen A. Cozen Professorship of Law, and he was honored with the 2008 Musser Excellence in Leadership Award from Temple University's Fox School of Business. In 2024, Steve received the first ever Only in America Humanitarian Award from the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History.

In 2011, Steve was honored by Drexel University as the Business Leader of the Year. While bestowing the honor, Drexel President John Fry said, "I think Steve is a perfect recipient of this award because his

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## Awards & Honors

- Chambers & Partners USA: Nationwide: Insurance; Dispute Resolution: Insurer; Pennsylvania: Insurance; Pennsylvania: Litigation: General Commercial 2011-2024
- Legend of the Bar Award by *The Philadelphia Business Journal*, 2021
- Best Lawyers in America 2007-2025
- Drexel University Business Leader of the Year (2011)
- Drexel Hillel Leadership Award (2017)
- Lawyer of the Year 2018
- *The Legal Intelligencer's* Lifetime Achievement Award (2013)
- *The Legal 500* "Hall of Fame" 2020
- Who's Who Legal: Insurance & Reinsurance 2017
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyer 2004-2023
- Pennsylvania Power 100, 2022, 2023
- Business Today, Top 10 High-Impacting Insurance Lawyers in Pennsylvania for 2023

legendary intellect and energy have extended well beyond vision and leadership for his law firm, into civic and development activities that have helped build a great climate for the people and businesses of the region. In support of his beloved Philadelphia, Steve played a major role in the creation of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and was named to its President's Leadership Council in 2018, innovative programs at Project H.O.M.E., and the new National Museum of American Jewish History." In 2017, Steve was presented with the inaugural Drexel Hillel Leadership Award and, in 2023, the Jacovini Award for major contributions to the university by a non-alumni.

Steve earned his undergraduate degree and law degree, both with honors, from The University of Pennsylvania in 1961 and 1964, respectively. Steve was admitted to practice in Pennsylvania in 1964, before all of the courts of Pennsylvania, and in addition to many U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

## Experience

Secured an important ruling, in conjunction with co-counsel, from the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court on behalf of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) in a highly publicized and long-running dispute with Highmark Inc. and Pennsylvania's Attorney General. At issue was whether consent decrees to maintain in-network access for Highmark insureds at UPMC facilities should be extended, and the court ruled that the expiration date should be upheld. This ruling led to renewed negotiation, ultimately an agreement between the parties, and the withdrawal of all related lawsuits by the Commonwealth.

Successfully represented the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, defeating an effort to overturn the statutory damages cap that limits recovery against state agencies to \$250,000. Responding to the plaintiffs' King's Bench petition, the Cozen O'Connor team argued that the extraordinary relief sought was improper and that the plaintiffs' arguments regarding potential changes to the sovereign immunity statute were inappropriately directed to the Court, rather than to the legislature.

Represented ARAMARK in a massive whistleblower case with potential damages of more than \$1.5 billion. The relator (a private person who files a claim on the government's behalf) asserted under the False Claims Act that three major food services companies had been defrauding the National School Lunch Program. The firm won a motion to dismiss from the district court that was subsequently affirmed by the Third Circuit.

Defeated eight class actions, settled thousands of claims, and recovered in excess of \$100 million from 16 defendants, while defending the building owners and managers in the One Meridian Plaza fire in Philadelphia, the largest high-rise fire in U.S. history.

Persuaded an arbitration panel that the language of a contract was clear and secured an arbitration award that required a disability insurer to reimburse a professional sports team for the \$20 million remaining in salary commitment to a permanently disabled player, whom the team obtained in a trade, even though the insurer denied the claim, alleging that the trading team failed to disclose pre-existing injuries during the application process.

Won a dispute in a high-profile 14-week insurance coverage trial under which more than 20 insurers wrote their property policies for the World Trade Center complex, proving that our client, a domestic insurer, bound its policy on a form under which the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center was indeed considered as one occurrence. We saved the company hundreds of millions in potential double exposure and also successfully represented our client on appeal in which the Second Circuit recently affirmed the jury verdict in favor of our client.

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Filed a landmark lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, seeking to hold financial and logistical sponsors responsible for damages resulting from the September 11, 2001, attack. The lawsuit, filed on behalf of 12 major insurance groups against Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Sudan, along with business associations, individuals, and charities designated or implicated as supporting terrorist activities, seeks more than \$12 billion in principal damages for destruction of property and business interruptions losses, as well as compensation for 375 wrongful death and 1,157 personal injury claims assigned to our clients under governing workers' compensation laws.

Represented Airgas, Inc. in a civil suit against Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. The federal court for the eastern District of Pennsylvania denied Cravath's motion for judgment on the pleadings, allowing the claims for breach of fiduciary duty and punitive damages to proceed toward jury trial. Shortly thereafter, the case settled.

Represented the City Trusts in defense of the tax exempt status of Estate of Stephen Girard in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Cozen used historical precedents, including a 143-year-old statute and a 1957 U.S. Supreme Court decision, to defend the tax-free status of leasable Girard Estates property, thereby protecting the hundreds of millions of tax exempt bonds that allow the school to maintain its free educational services.