



# Joseph A. Ziemianski

Co-Chair, Global Insurance Department

Houston

[jziemianski@cozen.com](mailto:jziemianski@cozen.com) | (832) 214-3920

Joseph's practice concentrates in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation involving a wide array of first- and third-party claims including professional liability, pollution, food contamination, pharmaceutical products, construction projects, advertising injury, and medical devices. He is AV rated by his peers and has been recognized as a Super Lawyer and "Top Lawyer in Texas" (2011-2019) in the area of insurance coverage litigation.

Joe serves on the firm's Board of Directors, the Management Committee, and the Shareholders Compensation Committee.

Joe is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel as well as the Defense Research Institute, the American Bar Association, Insurance Coverage and Tort Committees, and the State Bar of Texas, Insurance Coverage Section. Joe was recently elected as a fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, an organization committed to the creative, ethical, and efficient adjudication of coverage and extracontractual disputes. He was also named to *Best Lawyers* in America for Litigation-Insurance.

Joe earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1982, where he graduated with highest honors, and his law degree, *cum laude*, from Tulane University in 1987. During the 1985-86 academic year, Joe was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Warsaw Law Institute in Poland.

## Experience

Won summary judgment in a case in which the plaintiff sought to recover \$30 million as an additional insured under several policies issued to the plaintiff's construction industry contractor. At issue was an injury suffered by two of the contractor's workers, sustained in the course of remediating asbestos when one of them attempted to use a water hose to wash scaffolding, and both were severely burned when hydrocarbons were released instead of water. The plaintiff paid its self-insured retention of \$30 million under its tower of coverage to settle the claims. Rejecting the plaintiff's argument that the asbestos abatement exclusion in the policies at issue were ambiguous and required exposure to asbestos to be a causative factor, the court found that the injury "arose out of" asbestos abatement and therefore was excluded as a matter of law.

## Practice Areas

- Casualty & Specialty Lines Coverage
- Property Insurance
- Professional Liability Insurance Coverage
- Bad Faith
- Insurance Coverage
- Professional Liability

## Industry Sectors

- Insurance

## Education

- Tulane University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1987
- University of Southern Mississippi, B.S., 1982

## Bar Admissions

- Mississippi
- Texas

## Court Admissions

- Mississippi Supreme Court
- Texas Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Mississippi
- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of Mississippi
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Western District of Texas

## Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute
- State Bar of Texas
- American College of Coverage Counsel
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow

## Awards & Honors

- Best Lawyers in America 2016-2021
- Chambers and Partners USA: Texas: Insurance 2019-2020
- Texas Super Lawyers 2011-2019

Joseph A. Ziemianski

[jziemianski@cozen.com](mailto:jziemianski@cozen.com)

P: (832) 214-3920 | F: (832) 214-3905

©2020 Cozen O'Connor. All rights reserved.



