

Michael D. Handler

Shareholder

Michael D. Handler provides expert guidance to insurance companies on first and third party insurance coverage analysis, as well as the defense of alleged bad faith in Washington, Oregon, and elsewhere around the country.

Michael's skilled analysis and pro-active consultation helps his clients to advance, and when necessary to successfully litigate, their positions on high-stakes first party and third party insurance claims and complex risks.

PRACTICE EMPHASIS AND EXPERIENCE

- Environmental Insurance Coverage
- Insurance Coverage Analysis & Litigation
- Professional Liability

RECOGNITION

- Northwest Insurance Coverage Association: Co-Chair and Chair, 2008 & 2009
- Super Lawyers – Rising Star 2008

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Represented professional liability insurer in mediations of underlying class actions, addressing significant coverage issues affecting the availability of insurance funds, and assessing the strength of each participant's positions, to achieve mutually agreed insurance-funding participation in global resolutions.
- Liability insurer's Motion to Dismiss granted on all coverage and extra-contractual claims, based on named insured and marital community issues.
- Obtained protective order in "insurance bad faith" lawsuit against all discovery of work product and/or privileged materials withheld from claim file production, including pre-litigation materials, without requiring their judicial *in camera* review.



CONTACT

Main Phone: (206) 689-8500
Direct Phone: (206) 346-3939
mhandler@FoUm.law

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law
J.D., 1993
University of Pennsylvania, B.S.E.
1990

BAR / COURT ADMISSIONS

State of Washington
State of Oregon

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- *VoiceStream Wireless Corp. v. Federal Ins. Co.*, 112 F.App'x 553 (9th Cir. 2004 Washington Law).
- *Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London v. Mass. Bonding & Ins. Co.*, 235 Or App 99, 230 P3d 103 (2010).
- *Westchester Surplus Lines Insurance Company v. Keller Transport, Inc.*, 2016 MT 6.
- Other unreported cases available upon request.

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- CLM Seattle Chapter President 2022, Vice President 2021
- American Bar Association
- King County Bar Association
- Washington Bar Association
- PLUS Northwest Chapter Committee 2016 – 2021, Continuing Education Chair 2021 – 2021
- Northwest Insurance Coverage Association (Co-Chair and Chair, 2008 & 2009)
- Professional Liability Defense Federation

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

- CLM Extracontractual/Focus Conference Presentations: 2014, 2015, 2017 & 2020
- CLM Annual Conference Speaker/Panelist 2022
- Professional Liability Defense Federation: Annual Meeting Presentations 2017, 2019 & 2021
- "PLDF Quarterly" Insurance Coverage columnist: 2018, 2019 & 2020
- PLUS Northwest Chapter: 2016-2019 Annual Presentations on "Cyber Liability"
- Forum on Environmental and Toxic Tort Issues (FETTI): 2013 & 2016 Conference Presentations
- In-House Insurer Trainings: 2013-2018