

CHRISTOPHER L. NEAL

NEAL FIRM, PLLC

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SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Accomplished litigator of complex insurance coverage and bad faith matters in state and federal courts, with substantial experience in intellectual property coverage claims. Well-versed in all third party liability coverage and contribution issues, including CGL, E&O/D&O, Healthcare Malpractice, Financial Lines, Excess/Umbrella, SIR disputes, allocation among coinsurer and reinsurer, and Homeowner liability claims.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NEAL FIRM, PLLC, Seattle, Washington

Director (2011 – Present)

Defend and counsel insurers regarding insurance coverage and claims handling issues with particular emphasis on complex claims involving high/ultra-high-net-worth individual insureds.

MILLS MEYERS SWARTLING, Seattle, Washington

Of Counsel (2009 – 2011)

Defend and counsel insurers regarding third party insurance coverage and bad faith claims arising from construction defect and environmental claims, as well as defend manufacturers in product liability matters (aircraft).

COZEN O’CONNOR, Seattle Office

Member from 2002 (1997 - 2009)

Defend and counsel large national and international insurers regarding insurance coverage and bad faith claims as Member in 575-lawyer Philadelphia-based international firm known as the “go to” firm by large insurers confronted with complicated coverage and bad faith problems.

- Facing \$13M extracontractual exposure to insurer client, negotiated favorable settlement of extremely complicated interrelated, two-venue, multi-insured, bad faith and coverage actions vigorously prosecuted by aggressive local firm.
- Resolved \$29M “coverage by estoppel” bad faith claim by demonstrating insured sustained no provable damages from insurer’s conduct.
- Prevailed on motion for summary judgment before Judge Dwyer and against well-known national coverage litigator to establish insurer owed no defense to insured seeking \$2M, and preserved result on appeal to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Defeated \$900K garnishment action for cost of a single motion by establishing creditor claimants lacked standing to sue due to insured’s corporate dissolution prior to service of suit.

NEAL & NEAL, Houston, Texas

Owner (1993 - 1997)

Practice concentrated on the analysis, litigation and appeal of claimants'/plaintiffs' insurance coverage, bad faith, personal injury, and employment discrimination cases in federal and state courts.

PHILLIPS & AKERS, P.C., Houston, Texas

Senior Associate (1989 - 1993)

As Senior Associate handled coverage docket of suits/claims in insurance coverage/bad faith litigation section of 15-lawyer insurance defense litigation firm.

- Made new Texas law regarding the scope of the CGL policy's Personal Injury coverage.

SAMPLE DECISIONS

- *Lexington Insurance Company v. Sandra Swanson*, 240 F.R.D. 662 (W.D. Wash. 2007), and No. C05-1614-MJP, W.D. Wash., and *Sandra Swanson v. Lexington Insurance Company and Issaquah Care Center, LLC*, Cause No. 06-2-09844-7 (King County Superior Court)
- *Philips Oral Healthcare, Inc. f/k/a Optiva Corporation v. Federal Insurance Company*, 83 Fed.Appx. 963 (9th Cir. 2003), 2005 WL 3020014 (W.D. Wash.)
- *Sheila Verdon v. AIG Life Insurance Company*, 118 Wn. App. 449, 76 P.3d 283 (Div. 2, 2003)
- *Epoch Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. Federal Insurance Company*, 201 F.3d 443, 1999 WL 1011900 (9th Cir. 1999)
- *Decorative Center Of Houston And Mcdevitt & Street Co. v. Employers Casualty Co.*, 833 S.W.2d 257 (Tex. App. 1992)

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Personal Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith – Recent Cases," NBI CLE Seattle 2010 (Paper/Presentation).
- "Tough Evidentiary Issues in a Coverage and Bad Faith Trial," ABA Ins. Cov. Comm. CLE Tucson, AZ 2010 (Principal Drafter of Paper).
- "Claims for Advertising Injury Coverage: A View From the Insurer's and Policyholder's Perspectives," PLRB Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2001 (Paper/Presentation).
- "Intellectual Property Loss Exposures and Insurance," PLUS Annual Conference, Seattle, WA. 2000 (Joint presentation with Janet Cermac of Marsh, Inc.).

- “Intellectual Property Coverage,” Insurance Coverage: An Analysis of the Critical Issues, Continuing Legal Education Committee of the Washington State Bar Association, 1999 (Paper).
- “Claims for Advertising Injury Coverage: A Primer,” Journal of Insurance Coverage, Vol. 1, No. 4, Autumn 1998 (Author).
- Multiple Presentations to Insurer Clients On Claims Handling Topics of Interest.

EDUCATION **University of Houston Law Center**, Houston, Texas J.D.

- Articles Editor, Houston Journal of International Law
- Chief Justice, Law Center Honor Court

Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio B.A. English Literature

MILITARY **U.S. Army** Honorable Discharge

ADMISSIONS Admitted: **Washington** (Active), **Oregon** (Inactive), **Texas** (Inactive), **Colorado** (Inactive), also admitted to practice before all federal courts in Washington and Oregon, as well as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.