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PRACTICE AREAS

- Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability
- Commercial Litigation
- General Liability Coverage and Defense
- Insurance
- Pandemic Claims and Litigation
- Property Insurance
- Subrogation

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
- 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 Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Bryant counsels many of the world's largest insurers concerning their most troublesome and complex first-party property, cyber insurance, business income, builder's risk, inland marine, and excess indemnity claims in complex litigation across the U.S. He also defends clients in high-value appraisals, bad faith, and liability claims.

Representing insurers in a wide array of sophisticated property insurance coverage matters, Bryant was at the forefront of decisions concerning business interruption claims for COVID-19 losses.

With extensive experience in all phases of litigation, Bryant has argued numerous cases to verdict before federal and state juries and has delivered arguments before several courts of appeal.

Additionally, he serves on the firm's eDiscovery team.

Prior to joining Zelle, Bryant served as a law clerk for the Honorable Stuart R. Berger of the Appellate Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Special Appeals). Thereafter, he practiced at a regional firm in Baltimore, Maryland, where he tried insurance coverage and general liability cases across Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Served as lead trial counsel in a property insurance jury trial involving a natural gas explosion that damaged a commercial warehouse, and obtained a verdict that was a fraction of the insured's last settlement demand.

Obtained a favorable ruling in the District of Columbia's highest court in a case of first impression, affirming dismissal of business interruption claims asserted by several restaurants caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Represented two prominent insurance industry trade associations in various courts of appeal opposing business interruption claims resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Represented a market of insurers in defense of a \$50 million claim to a Miami Beach hotel following damage allegedly resulting from Hurricane Irma.

- State Courts: District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Toledo College of Law, 2015, Valedictorian, *magna cum laude*, Order of the Coif
- B.S., Psychology and Criminal Justice, The Defiance College, 2012

Prevailed on a motion to dismiss on behalf of a major insurer in a \$500 million business interruption claim for COVID-19 losses and argued the subsequent appeal where the case was affirmed.

Prevailed on a motion to dismiss on behalf of a major metropolitan city in a wrongful death case and argued the subsequent appeal where the case was affirmed.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a major insurer in a \$2 million insurance coverage matter for damage to an apartment building involving the interpretation of an ensuing loss exclusion, and then argued the subsequent appeal where the case was affirmed.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a major insurer in a coverage matter involving the historic 2016 Ellicott City flood, then argued the subsequent appeal where the case was affirmed.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a major insurer in a case affirming the application of an anti-concurrent earth movement exclusion following a landslide on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a major insurer in a case involving the application of collapse coverage following a sinkhole under a complex hotel insurance policy, then argued the subsequent appeal where the case was affirmed.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a major insurer in a federal bad faith claim involving damages to a yacht.

Served as lead trial counsel in a property insurance jury trial involving water damage caused by frozen pipes, and obtained a defense verdict.

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

"Tendering Defense and Indemnity to Excess Carriers and Other Parties," Zelle LLP Webinar Week, May 1, 2025, co-presenter

"Duty to Defend: Navigating Exceptions to the Eight Corners Rule", Old Lloyd's Library, London, April 3, 2025, presenter

"Demystifying Ensuing Loss Clauses", 2025 PLRB Claims Conference & Insurance Services Expo, March 31 and April 1, 2025, Indianapolis, IN, co-presenter

"When to Hold 'Em and When to Fold 'Em - Restoring the Traditional Purpose of Tort Law in Combating Social Inflation and Nuclear Verdicts," American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA) National General Counsel Conference, October 2, 2023, co-presenter

"Is Your Forensic Investigation Worth It?", *CLM Magazine*, June 20, 2023, co-author

"Forensic Files: The Pros & Cons of Forensic Investigations in Property Damage & Construction Defect," CLM Annual Conference, March 30, 2023, panelist

"Policyholders Should Also Want To Fight Social Inflation," *Law360*, November 8, 2022, author

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association

Maryland State Bar Association

Virginia Bar Association

The District of Columbia Bar Association

DRI, Defense Research Institute

Property & Liability Resource Bureau (PLRB)

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)

Maryland Defense Counsel

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, Board Member

Gallery Church Baltimore, Leadership

NOTEWORTHY

Selected by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA), the Insurance Careers Movement, and AM Best as a 2023 Emerging Leader in the insurance industry.

Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, 2024, 2025.

Named a Rising Star by Washington, DC Super Lawyers, 2022, 2023 and 2024