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PRACTICE AREAS

- Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability
- Breach of Contract
- Builder's Risk
- Climate Change
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- General Liability Coverage and Defense
- Insurance
- Pandemic Claims and Litigation
- Professional Liability
- Property Insurance
- Subrogation

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Court: Minnesota
- U.S. District Court: Districts of Minnesota, Eastern Wisconsin, and Nebraska

EDUCATION

- William Mitchell College of Law, JD, *magna cum laude*, 2013

Dennis represents some of the world's largest insurance companies in complex disputes over property and liability insurance claims. He counsels clients about coverage, appraisal, claims handling, fraudulent claims, allegations of statutory violations, allegations of insurance bad faith, and other matters. Dennis has successfully defended cases arising from property damage, construction defects, builders risk, business interruption, and bad faith claims. Dennis has particular expertise in the area of property insurance appraisal, advising and representing clients to reach fair and efficient outcomes while avoiding abuses and pitfalls of the appraisal process.

Dennis came to the practice of law after a successful career in construction management. Before joining Zelle, he externed for U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey J. Keyes, and worked as a judicial law clerk at the Minnesota Court of Appeals for Hon. Terri Stoneburner, Hon. John P. Smith, Hon. Michael L. Kirk, and Hon. Peter M. Reyes.

For more than 25 years, Dennis has volunteered with Mano a Mano International partners, and currently serves on its Board of Directors.

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

"Fraud in First-Party Property Claims", Mutual Insurance Association of Iowa Loss Prevention Seminar, Davenport, IA, August 22, 2025, presenter

Practical and Tactical Considerations in the Appraisal of 1st Party Property Insurance Claims, The Northern Wisconsin Chapter of Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) Insurance Day, Merrill, WI, May 7, 2025, co-presenter

Avoiding Bad Faith Allegation in the Adjustment of 1st Party Property Claims, The Northern Wisconsin Chapter of Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) Insurance Day, Merrill, WI, May 7, 2025, co-presenter

"Business Interruption/Period of Restoration" case summary, *Insurance Litigation Reporter*, August 4, 2023, author

The Grantham Research Institute's 2023 Global Trends in Climate Change Litigation Policy Report, citation, June 29, 2023

- Bethel University, BA, 1993;
English Literature & Writing

"Big Oil Certiorari Denial May Alter Climate Change Litigation," *Law360*, April 26, 2023, co-author

"Opioid Case May Guide Climate Change Insurance Suits," *Law360 Insurance Authority*, May 11, 2022, co-author

"Minn. Big Oil Climate Suit Follows Big Tobacco Blueprint," *Insurance Law360*, January 4, 2022, co-author

"Recent Developments in Property Insurance Coverage Litigation," *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*, Spring 2020, co-author

"Crypto Economy Presents Novel Challenges for Insurers," *Insurance Law360*, August 3, 2018, co-author

"Recent Developments in Property Insurance Coverage Litigation," *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*, March 30, 2018, co-author

"Insurance Bad Faith Claims in the Age of AI Jim," *Insurance Law360*, January 29, 2018, author

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Minnesota State Bar Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mano a Mano International Partners, Volunteer (1996 to present), Board of Directors (2013 to present)

NOTEWORTHY

Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America*, 2024, 2025, and *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2026.

Named "Rising Star" by *Minnesota Super Lawyers* 2022-2024.