Katharina Kraatz-Dunkel

Partner

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PRACTICE AREAS

- Breach of Contract
- Commercial Litigation
- General Liability Coverage and Defense
- Insurance
- Pandemic Claims and Litigation
- Property Insurance
- Reinsurance

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- State court: Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- England/Wales
- Germany

EDUCATION

- Humboldt University School of Law, Berlin, Germany (2005)
- Boston University School of Law, LL.M. (2020)

Katharina represents many of the worlds largest insurers in (re)insurance coverage, litigation, and dispute resolution, as well as complex commercial litigation and insurance defense. Her practice extends globally and covers multiple industries.

In addition to her practice in the U.S., she is an English solicitor, and fully qualified German lawyer.

Katharina began her career in the London insurance market, advising insurers and reinsurers in coverage, liability defense, and subrogation matters, as well as international arbitrations and mediations originating in common law and civil law jurisdictions, often involving cross-border elements.

Prior to joining Zelle, Katharina was a law clerk for the Honorable William G. Young at the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Katharina is a native German speaker.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

General Liability Coverage and Defense

Liability defense of a French shipyard in the English High Court following a fire loss aboard a vessel while in dry dock (*Acergy Shipping Ltd v Societe Bretonne de Reparation Navale SAS* [2011] EWHC 2490 (Comm)).

Advised and assisted with a deposition in England relating to proceedings against general liability insurers following a number of toxic-tort actions brought against an insured manufacturing company.

Advised insurers of a manufacturing company in the mediation and subsequent settlement of a liability claim involving a fire on board a prototype luxury yacht while under construction at a UK shipyard.

Advised in settling technically complex subrogation claims against a Continental European engineering group arising from catastrophic failures at a major manufacturing plant in the UK which were the subject of ICC arbitration.

Property Insurance

Advised insurers in a coverage dispute arising from hurricane damage under a property policy to a luxury hotel complex in the British West Indies which was the subject of ARIAS arbitration.

Advised insurers on the operation of a deductible provision in a global property insurance policy in relation to a flood/storm loss at a large manufacturing plant located in the North-East of the United States.

Advised insurers of a Dutch shipyard to achieve settlement in an insurance coverage dispute under a Builders Risk insurance policy involving the construction of a number of marine warships.

Reinsurance

Advised reinsurers regarding their outwards recoveries under facultative retrosurance and treaty reinsurance contracts in relation to property and business interruption losses following flooding in Thailand.

Advised reinsurers on a property damage claim in relation to heat and smoke damage at a large data storage facility in the Netherlands.

Advised reinsurers on questions involving arbitration in England and the aggregation of large property and business interruption losses in the Midwestern and Southern United States under several contracts of reinsurance.

Advised reinsurers in an UNCITRAL arbitration following a machinery breakdown and business interruption loss at a petrochemical plant in the Middle East.

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

The Cost of Losing Your Cool: Tallying the Losses of a Supermarket Cyberattack, *Insurance Journal*, October 22, 2026, co-author

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association

Law Society of England and Wales

MLA (Maritime Law Association of the United States)

Association of Professional Insurance Women

Federal Bar Association

International Bar Association

NEWS

Zelle LLP Elects Three to Partnership