



Jason A. Morris

SHAREHOLDER

ATLANTA

P : 404.815.2724

F : 404.815.3415

WASHINGTON, D.C.

P : 202.965.8100

F : 202.965.8104

CONNECT

jmorris@carltonfields.com

Overview

Jason Morris represents property and casualty insurers in litigation, mediation, and arbitration across the country. He counsels carriers on issues regarding claims practices and procedures, focusing on maximizing his clients' business interests and often helping them avoid litigation in the first place. When litigation becomes necessary, Jason draws on his experience handling bad faith and coverage claims, disputes between insurers, and defending the financial services industry from consumer class actions, primarily in federal court. Jason routinely serves as defense counsel for insureds on behalf of insurers, using his industry knowledge to advance the interests of both carriers and insureds through efficient and timely claims resolution.

In addition, Jason advises insurers with respect to coverage disputes concerning representation and warranty, professional liability, cybersecurity, directors and officers, employment practices liability, aviation, media, fidelity, fiduciary liability, securities, medical liability, and intellectual property insurance policies. In the RWI context, Jason has experience spearheading efforts to disqualify party-appointed arbitrators as biased against insurers and undermining claimants' overstated damages calculations, which are often based on an enterprise valuation multiple that has no bearing on the merger or acquisition purchase price pre-negotiated by the buyer and seller.

Jason also handles complex civil litigation, class actions, and disputes for clients in the financial services, life insurance, annuity, entertainment, and real estate industries. His substantial national experience includes matters governed by the laws of California, Illinois, New York, Minnesota, Washington, D.C., Florida, Georgia, and more than 20 other states. His matters have covered a variety of substantive areas, such as RICO, ERISA, deceptive trade practices, unfair competition laws (UCL), fraud, financial elder abuse, breach of contract, bad faith, breach of fiduciary duty, and issues arising from market conduct examinations and other regulatory proceedings.

Experience

- Represented screenwriter in suit alleging defamation in connection with televised documentary.
- *Patel v. Specialized Loan Servicing LLC*, 183 F. Supp. 3d 1238 (S.D. Fla. 2016) (dismissal with prejudice of lender-placed insurance class action complaint on grounds of filed rate doctrine).
- *Giorvas v. Grow*, No. 2015-1-CV-285323 (Cal. Super. Ct. Oct. 14, 2016) (jury verdict in favor of insurer after monthlong trial concerning the suitability of fixed deferred annuities).
- *LincolnWay Cmty. Bank v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, No. 1:11-cv-05907, 2015 WL 7251931 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 17, 2015) (granting summary judgment for insurer and finding that STOLI policy was void at inception for lack of insurable interest).
- *Lee v. Ocwen Loan Servicing, LLC*, 101 F. Supp. 3d 1293 (S.D. Fla. 2015) (denying class action settlement objector's demand for discovery concerning settlement payment structure).
- *Hicks v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. 8:15-cv-00454, 2015 WL 4474593 (M.D. Fla. July 16, 2015) (securing stay for insurer while order was sought in related class action barring plaintiff from relitigating claims).
- *Montoya v. PNC Bank, N.A.*, No. 1:14-cv-20474, 2016 WL 1529902 (S.D. Fla. Apr. 13, 2015) (approving nationwide class action settlement over settlement class member objections).
- *Blau v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, 124 F. Supp. 3d 161 (E.D.N.Y. 2015) (dismissing complaint alleging failure of insurer to comply with statutory notice provisions when life insurance policy lapsed).
- *Meyer v. One West Bank, F.S.B.*, 91 F. Supp. 3d 1177 (C.D. Cal. 2015) (dismissing at pleading stage insurer in lender-placed insurance class action involving RICO and state statutory and common law violations).
- *Logan v. Union Sec. Ins. Co.*, No. 2:14-cv-01174, 2015 WL 3745047 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 31, 2015) (dismissing ERISA section 1132(a)(3) claim and other claims against insurer in putative class action concerning payment of accidental death and dismemberment benefits).
- *Perryman v. Litton Loan Servicing, LP*, 81 F. Supp. 3d 893 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (granting motion to stay putative nationwide class action alleging improprieties in the placement of lender-placed insurance).
- *Braynen v. Nationstar Mortg., LLC*, No. 1:14-cv-020726, 2014 WL 6090665 (S.D. Fla. Nov. 10, 2014) (overruling objections to preliminary approval of class action settlement).
- *Kline v. CUNA Mut. Grp. Lending Sol. Grp., Claims*, No. 10818 of 2005 (Pa. Ct. Com. Pl. Luzerne Cty. 2014) (granting motion for partial summary judgment as to negligence and statutory bad faith claims).
- *Negrete v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, Nos. 2:05-cv-06838, 2:05-cv-08908, 2013 WL 6535164 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 9, 2013) (granting key motions in limine in insurer's favor in nationwide annuity sales practices class action).
- *Kolbe v. BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP*, 738 F.3d 4320 (1st Cir. 2013) (en banc) (affirming district court's dismissal of complaint involving lender-placed insurance).
- *Am. Sec. Ins. Co. v. Cricket Commc'ns*, Civ. A. No. 7410 (Del. Ch. Apr. 30, 2012) (ordering preservation of the parties' status quo business relationship).

pending outcome of arbitral proceedings).

- *West v. CUNA Mut. Ins. Soc'y*, No. 2:11-cv-01259, 2012 WL 527658 (W.D. Pa. Feb. 16, 2012) (granting motion to dismiss plaintiffs' putative class action claims).
- *Cobb v. Mason*, No. 2002 DRB 2818 (D.C. Super. Ct. July 21, 2011) (adopting firm's recommendations concerning pro bono client following three-day bench trial).
- *Ostrow v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, No. 2009 CA 007621 B (D.C. Super. Ct. 2011). (dismissal of representative action alleging consumer protection claims against insurer).
- *Mooney v. Allianz Life Ins. Co. of N. Am.*, No. 0:06-cv-00545, 2010 WL 419962 (D. Minn. 2010) (defense jury verdict following three-week trial in 350,000-member sales practices class action).
- *Abell v. Cissel*, No. 09-0900 (Md. Ct. Spec. App. 2010) (judgment in favor of pro bono clients who were victims of mortgage "foreclosure rescue" fraud following three-week trial affirmed).
- *Wahl v. Am. Sec. Ins. Co.*, No. 5:08-cv-00555, 2010 WL 1881126 (N.D. Cal. 2010), and 2009 WL 1766620 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (dismissal of all but one claim in putative class action concerning lender-placed insurance).

All Insights

02.12.2019	10 Carlton Fields Attorneys Elected to Shareholder
06.15.2018	The Sentinel Strike: The Hartford's Gift to New York Insurers in the War to Stop Policyholder Experts from Claiming Ambiguities Exist in Clear Policy Exclusions
02.16.2018	Opening the Pandora's Box of Flood Policies, or How Filing Suit Against Flood Insurers Can Effectively Reduce the Suit Limitations Period
07.14.2017	Washington Federal Court Rejects Policyholder's "Separate Claim" Argument
05.05.2017	Oregon Supreme Court Revives Century-Old Statute to Award Attorney's Fees to Policyholder
06.15.2015	\$84 Million Settlement in Northwestern Mutual Annuity Class Case
12.01.2013	California Refines Online Privacy Protection Act to Require New Disclosures
12.01.2013	Effective Now: Increased Prohibitions on Unauthorized Possession of Personal Identification Information

Recognition

- Pro Bono Hero Award (2015)
- Capital Pro Bono High Honor Roll, D.C. Superior Court (2011)
- Contributor to annual updates for *Handbook on ERISA Litigation*
- Staff, *The Tax Lawyer* (2007-2009)

Credentials

EDUCATION

- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 2009)
- Mercer University (B.B.A, *magna cum laude*, 2006)

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- District of Columbia Courts
- Georgia State Courts

BAR ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia
- Georgia
- Virginia

Areas of Focus

PRACTICES

- Class Actions
- Cybersecurity and Privacy
- Life, Annuity, and Retirement Solutions
- Property & Casualty Insurance