



Matthew J. Sekits

Shareholder-in-Charge
Board of Directors
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Matt Sekits is on the Board of Directors and is the Shareholder-in-Charge of the firm's Seattle office. Matt is a trial lawyer who focuses his practice on defending and prosecuting cases on behalf of corporate clients in complex commercial litigation, including class action lawsuits. He has significant experience as lead counsel in a wide range of multi-million dollar cases involving liability and property insurance, business torts, shareholder disputes, and catastrophic personal injury. Matt has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict.

Matt recently prevailed in the trial and appellate courts where his clients were awarded nearly \$1.4 million. The unanimous jury verdict followed a two-week trial and the decision was affirmed on appeal by three judges. The case involved claims against the manufacturer of a clothes dryer after the dryer caught fire.

Matt is frequently asked by the U.S. Department of State's Office of Children's Issues to act as pro bono counsel to secure the return of children abducted from their home countries under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Representative Matters

Insurance

- Defended national property insurer in \$15 million insurance coverage and bad faith case arising out of a fire at a grocery store.
- Defended national liability insurer in jury trial of \$13 million insurance coverage and bad faith case arising out of patent infringement claims brought against an insured shoemaking company.
- Represented national liability insurer in bench trial regarding the reasonableness of a \$3.75 million settlement entered into by an insured plumbing company.
- Defended national property insurer in jury trial of insurance coverage and fraud case arising out of the alleged vandalism to an insured's home.

Commercial

- Defended national auto parts maker in breach of contract and business tort case brought by a competitor.
- Represented international bank in breach of contract case arising out of the purchase of over \$5 million in equipment lease payment streams.
- Defended national vacation ownership developer in jury trial of copyright infringement case after \$100 million lost profit claim was



dismissed on summary judgment.

Catastrophic Personal Injury

- Defended regional pipeline company in personal injury case arising out of a pipe bomb explosion.
- Defended stepfather in wrongful death case arising out of a gasoline can explosion that killed his stepson.
- Defended cabulance company in wrongful death case arising out of the death of one of its passengers.

Practice Areas

Commercial Litigation
Insurance Law
Personal & Catastrophic Injury Litigation

Industries

Insurance

Education

University of Washington, School of Law - J.D.
University of California, Berkeley - B.A., *with honors*

Bar Admissions

- Washington, 1996

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

Professional and Civic Involvement

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (Extern to the Honorable Eugene A. Wright)
- University of Washington (Presiding Officer, Citation Hearings Office)
- West Publishing (Member, Editorial Board, *Insurance Litigation Reporter*)

Awards and Honors

- AV[®] Preeminent[™], Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion in *Washing Super Lawyers* (2018 — Insurance Coverage)
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016 — Insurance Law)



Publications and Presentations

- Co-Speaker, "Bad Faith Discovery: What's Discoverable, What's Not, and What Might Be Deemed Discoverable Given the 2015 FRCP Amendments, and How to Adapt to States that Don't Adopt Changes to Federal Rules," American Conference Institute (ACI) Extra-Contractual & Bad Faith Liability Conference (2016)
- Co-Speaker & Author, "Change is in the Air: Recent Changes in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure," Western States Surety Conference (2016)
- Co-Speaker, "Surety Bad Faith: A Pre-Flight Safety Briefing," Western States Surety Conference (2015)
- Co-Speaker, "Discovery and Attorney-Client/Work-Product Privilege Scare: Managing the Widening Scope of Plaintiffs' Discovery Demands, Institutional Discovery in Bad Faith Cases, and the Erosion of Attorney-Client/Work Product Privilege," American Conference Institute (ACI) National Forum on Bad Faith Claims & Litigation (2015)
- Co-Speaker, "Examining the Impact of Additional Insured Coverage in the Industry and Marketplace," American Conference Institute (ACI) National Advanced Forum on Bad Faith Litigation (2014)
- Co-Author, "Binding Arbitration Clauses No Longer Bind Policyholders in Washington," American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Newsletter (2013)
- Co-Speaker, "Introduction to Extra-Contractual Insurance Claims in Washington State," Western States Surety Conference (2013)
- Speaker, "Innovative Strategies for Litigating Bad Faith Claims," Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) Insurance Law Update (2013)
- Co-Speaker, "Innovative Procedural and Substantive Strategies in Litigating Bad Faith Claims: Motion Practice, Expert Witnesses, Attorneys Fees and Beyond," American Conference Institute (ACI) Advanced Forum on Bad Faith Litigation (2012)
- Co-Speaker, "Insurance Bad Faith Claims," Sterling Education Services CLE Seminar (2012)
- Chapter Author, "Professional Liability Insurance: A Compendium of State Law," Defense Research Institute (DRI) (2012)
- Co-Speaker, "So You've Got All Sums – Now What?: Applying All Sums to a Complex Insurance Program," HB Litigation Conference (2012)
- Co-Speaker, "Ethics: Attorney-Client Privilege & Work Product Protections," American Conference Institute (ACI) Advanced Forum on Bad Faith Litigation (2011)
- Co-Speaker, "Preparing to Tell Your Story and Attack the Plaintiff's Story at Trial," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Insurance Bad Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar (2011)
- Co-Speaker, "Protecting the Insurer's Internal Communications from Discovery," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Insurance Bad



- Faith and Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar (2011)
- Co-Speaker, "Washington's 'Insurance Fair Conduct Act'—A Potential Landmine for the Unwary," Western States Surety Conference (2011)
- Speaker, Society of Claim Law Associates (SCLA) Annual Claims Education Conference (2008-2010, 2012-2015)