



Christian A. Preus

Shareholder

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Practice Groups

Insurance Coverage

Industry Groups

Insurance

Overview

Mr. Preus is an accomplished insurance coverage attorney who regularly counsels and represents clients in all aspects of insurance involving sensitive, complex coverage issues.

Mr. Preus brings more than 30 years of experience in a broad variety of lines of property and casualty insurance coverage to his insurance clients. He represents and assists carriers in insurance coverage litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts throughout the country, also serving them in claims handling, coverage positions, and insurance policy drafting.

In addition, Mr. Preus counsels and defends religious organizations with regard to First Amendment rights, governance, and employment issues. He has extensive experience serving on the governing boards of religious organizations.

Education & Admissions

Education

- University of North Dakota School of Law, J.D., 1985
- Indiana University School of Business, B.A., 1981

Bar Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- U.S. District Court, District of Nebraska
- U.S. District Court, District of North Dakota
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Wisconsin

Judicial Clerkship

- North Dakota Supreme Court, Chief Justice Ralph J. Erickstad, Law Clerk, 1985-1986

Experience

Representative Cases

During the course of his career, Mr. Preus has counseled and represented clients in more than 2,000 insurance coverage matters.

Obtained an appellate victory in insurance coverage case involving conflict of law dispute; *Am. Fire & Cas. Co. v. Hegel*, 847 F.3d 956 (8th Cir. 2017).

Obtained an appellate court victory regarding whether insurance coverage is available for affirmative claims; *Church Mut. Ins. Co. v. Ma'Afu*, 657 F. App'x 747 (10th Cir. 2016).

Obtained an appellate court victory in coverage dispute over \$3 million judgment against church youth pastor; *Clifford v. Church Mut. Ins. Co.*, 655 F. App'x 293 (6th Cir. 2016).

Obtained an appellate court victory regarding application of pollution exclusion to carbon monoxide; *Church Mut. Ins. Co. v. Clay Ctr. Christian Church*, 746 F.3d 375 (8th Cir. Neb. 2014).

Obtained summary judgment regarding applicable limits of insurance; *Church Mut. Ins. Co. v. First United Pentecostal Church of Parma*, 2012 WL 3619812 (N.D. Ohio Aug. 20, 2012).

Additional Representative Cases

Obtained summary judgment in favor of proper denial of coverage and lack of right to appraisal; *St. Panteleimon Russian Orthodox Church, Inc. v. Church Mut. Ins. Co.*, 2015 WL 283044 (D. Minn. Jan. 22, 2015).

Obtained summary judgment on intentional acts exclusion; *Safeco Ins. Co. v. Skar*, 2011 WL 3163332 (D. Minn. July 27, 2011).

Obtained appellate victory affirming summary judgment on statute of limitations applicable to legal malpractice claims; *Saecker v. Thorie*, 234 F.3d 1010 (7th Cir. 2000).

Obtained appellate court victory affirming summary judgment on choice of law; *Klimstra v. Granstrom*, 95 F.3d 686 (8th Cir. 1996).

Obtained appellate victory court affirming summary judgment on regulatory exclusion; *Am. Cas. Co. v. FDIC*, 16 F.3d 152 (7th Cir. 1994).

Obtained appellate court victory affirming summary judgment on coverage and denial of additional time for discovery. *Cont'l Cas. Co. v. Kinsey*, 513 N.W.2d 66 (N.D. 1994).

Obtained appellate victory on application of First Amendment to church disciplinary proceeding; *Schoenhals v. Mains*, 504 N.W.2d 233 (Minn. Ct. App. 1993).

Professional & Civic

Bar Associations

- Minnesota State Bar Association

- State Bar Association of North Dakota
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Hennepin County Bar Association

Professional Associations

- Defense Research Institute
- Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association

Civic Involvement

- Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Board of Directors
 - Charter Commission, Plymouth, Minnesota

Accolades

Honors & Awards

- Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Minnesota Super Lawyers list, *Super Lawyers*, 2014-present