



## BASSFORD REMELE

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### Christian A. Preus OF COUNSEL



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**PRACTICE GROUPS**  
Insurance Coverage

**INDUSTRY GROUPS**  
Insurance

#### OVERVIEW

Mr. Preus is an accomplished insurance coverage attorney with extensive experience counseling and representing 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 has represented and assisted 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 has counseled and defended religious organizations with regard to First Amendment rights, governance, and employment issues. He has vast 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, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth 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 Clerkships

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).

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OF COUNSEL

continued

- 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. 2014).
- Obtained summary judgment regarding applicable limits of insurance.

**Additional Representative Cases**

- Obtained summary judgment in favor of proper denial of coverage and lack of right to appraisal.
- Obtained summary judgment on intentional acts exclusion.
- 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. App. 1993).

**Publications**

- *Directors' and Officers' Liability in the United States, A Global Guide to Directors' and Officers' Issues Around the World 2013*, co-author, Zurich Insurance Group Ltd., April 2013

**PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC**

**Bar Associations**

- Minnesota State Bar Association
- State Bar 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