

## MICHAEL A. PACKER

OFFICE MANAGING ATTORNEY  
CHAIR, INSURANCE SERVICES PRACTICE GROUP  
SHAREHOLDER

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### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Insurance Services - Coverage &  
Bad Faith Litigation  
Architectural, Engineering &  
Construction Defect Litigation  
Product Liability  
Appellate Advocacy & Post-Trial  
Practice

### CONTACT INFO

**(954) 847-4921**  
**[MAPacker@mdwcg.com](mailto:MAPacker@mdwcg.com)**

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2400 E. Commercial  
Boulevard  
Suite 1100  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

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### ADMISSIONS

Florida  
1997

U.S. District Court  
Southern District of  
Florida  
1997

U.S. District Court Middle  
District of Florida  
2006

U.S. District Court  
Northern District of  
Florida  
2007

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## **EDUCATION**

University of Miami  
School of Law (J.D., cum  
laude, 1997)

State University of New  
York at Albany (B.A.,  
1994)

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## **HONORS & AWARDS**

Florida Trend Legal Elite,  
NOTABLE Managing  
Partner  
2025

AV® Preeminent™ by  
Martindale-Hubbell®

South Florida Legal Guide  
- Top Lawyers in  
Insurance Litigation  
Defense  
2016, 2017, 2019, 2020,  
2021

South Florida Legal Guide  
- Top Lawyers in  
Insurance Litigation  
2014

South Florida Legal Guide  
- Top Lawyers  
2013

Florida Trend's Legal Elite  
- Top Up and Comer  
2012

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## ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

American Bar Association  
Defense Research Institute, 2013  
Florida WIND, 2012, 2013  
The Florida Bar

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## YEAR JOINED

2007

## OVERVIEW

Michael is the firm's supervising attorney for the Insurance Services Practice Group in the state of Florida and a member of the firm's Board of Directors. The group assists insurers in all aspects of a coverage dispute, including responses to civil remedy notices of insurer violations, pre-suit investigations and coverage evaluations, declaratory judgment and bad faith litigation. In particular, Michael defends property insurers throughout Florida in first party coverage matters, where he responds to claims for sinkhole, windstorm, fire, mold, theft, and water losses. Michael's group also conducts examinations under oath and SIU investigations.

In both the state and federal courts, Michael has participated in a number of bench and jury trials through verdict, all of which resulted in either a defense verdict or a verdict which was less than the amount demanded.

In addition, Michael is often asked to serve as coverage and bad faith counsel in third party actions, including monitoring the defense of litigation, as well as trial. As part of this role, Michael is often asked to draft reservation of rights, declinations and prosecute declaratory relief actions.

Michael has substantial experience in alternative dispute resolution, having represented clients in thousands of mediations, neutral evaluations and arbitration proceedings. Michael routinely advises clients on the evaluation and resolution of multi-claimant matters, often times where the injuries and damages exceed the available policy limits.

Over the past ten years, Michael and his group have defended in excess of three hundred sinkhole lawsuits, as well as hundreds of other first party lawsuits. The group has defended a number of cases through trial and appeal, including four sinkhole trials during recent years. In addition, the group represents more than ten statewide insurance carriers in first party property damage lawsuits, including many of the largest insurance carriers in Florida.

Michael routinely speaks at regional and nationwide industry conferences, specifically addressing coverage issues under first party property and third party liability policies. He has also presented a number of seminars on auto negligence, uninsured motorist and bad faith claims. Michael frequently travels around the country to provide in-house claims

seminars with claims professionals. In addition, he has lectured on defending first party property damage claims including sinkhole and mold claims, which included review and analysis of claims handling procedures, as well as recommendations for the same. Michael has also written numerous articles for industry publications addressing Florida-specific claim handling issues and insurance companies' rights and obligations in defending first and third party coverage actions.

In 1994 Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts from the State University of New York at Albany. Subsequently, Michael obtained his juris doctor in 1997 from the University of Miami School of Law, Coral Gables, Florida, where he graduated cum laude.

Michael is married to Nicole Packer and they live with their three children in Weston, Florida.

# THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

## **Mere Speculation is not Enough to Demonstrate Prejudice After Late Notice**

**Fort Lauderdale**

**Insurance Services - Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**March 1, 2026**

Bryan-Wilson, etc. v. Universal Property & Casualty Insurance Company,  
Case No. 4D2024-1547

## **Marshall Dennehey Promotes James Cole and Sunny Sparano to Lead The Firm's Professional Liability Department and Announces New Board of Directors Appointments**

January 5, 2026

Marshall Dennehey announced today that James H.

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## **Appellate Court Finds Term "Occurrence" Ambiguous as It Pertains to Parkland Mass Shooting**

**Fort Lauderdale**

**Insurance Services - Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**December 1, 2025**

The Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals was recently tasked with determining whether the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL constituted a single occurrence or multiple occurrences pursuant to a commercial general l

## **Fifth District Sides with the Sixth District and Finds SB-2A Does Not Apply Retroactively**

**Fort Lauderdale**

**Insurance Services - Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**Property Litigation**

## **September 1, 2025**

The Fifth District Court of Appeals reversed a trial court's ruling that had retroactively applied statutory changes which eliminated an insured's right to recover attorney's fees in a first-party property damage case under what has become known as a Legal Update for Florida Coverage & Property Litigation - September 2025 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent legal d

## **Michael A. Packer Named a Florida Trend Legal Elite NOTABLE - Managing Partner**

Insurance Services - Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

July 1, 2025

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that Michael A. Packer has been named a Florida Trend Legal Elite NOTABLE - Managing Partner.

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## **CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT**

*Examinations Under Oath - What Claims Professionals Need to Know to Conduct an Effective EUO*, ALM/PropertyCasualty360 Complex Claims Conference, February 26, 2024

*Investigating a Claim Under a Reservation of Rights - Strategies for Managing Claims that May Not be Covered*, Florida Defense Lawyers Association's Florida Liability Claims Conference, Lake Buena Vista, FL, June 16, 2022

*What You Need to Know After you Go - Parts 1 and 2*, CLM Claims College School of Property - Level 1 - Coverage, Virtual, 2021

*Current Issues and Case Law Affecting the Property Claims Arena*, CLM Claims College School of Property - Level 3, Virtual, 2021

*Covid 19: To Be Property Damage or Not to Be Property Damage*, CLM, January 2021

*Insurance Coverage and Bad-Faith Insurance Issues Under Florida Law*, Marshall Dennehey Florida Claims Symposium - *The Best Defense is a Good Offense*, Orlando, FL, September 17, 2014

*Protecting Your Clients' Interest During Settlement*, WIND Conference, 2013

American Conference Institute Bad Faith Litigation Conference (co-chairperson and lecturer) 2012

American Conference Institute Bad Faith Litigation Conference (lecturer) 2011

## **PUBLISHED WORKS**

"What Florida's 'Omnibus Insurance Bill' Means for the Duty to Defend, Appraisal Process," *Insurance Journal*, June 17, 2019

"Relief in Sight for Florida's Assignment of Benefits Crisis," *Daily Business Review*, May 7, 2019

"Constant or Repeated Seepage Over a Period of 14 Days or More," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 2018

"Solving One of the Greatest Mysteries of Florida Property Law--Florida's Valued Policy Law," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 22, No. 1, March 2016

"Bill Would Change How Mitigation Companies Do Business," *Daily Business Review*, March 3, 2015

"Make Effective Mediation Your New Year's Resolution," *Claims Journal*, Windstorm Conference Edition, January 2015

*Case Law Alerts*, regular contributor, 2015-present

"Why Insurers Shouldn't Produce Claims Files in Florida," *Claims Journal*, September 2014

## **MEDIA COMMENTARY**

"Homeowners Have Post-Loss Duties Too, Florida Appeals Court Says in HCI Win," *Insurance Journal*, March 20, 2025

"Florida High Court Says Appraisals Can be Compelled Before Coverage Decided," *Insurance Journal*, February 2, 2024

"Florida Appeals Court Says Pre-suit Notice Requirement Not Retroactive," *Insurance Journal*, November 29, 2023

"What to Expect From Florida's AOB Reform Law," *Insurance Journal*, June 17, 2019

"Florida Supreme Court Rules Against Insurer in Concurrent Loss Case," *Insurance Journal*, December 6, 2016

## RESULTS

Defense verdict for insurance carrier in first party property, breach of contract dispute in the Circuit Court of Palm Beach County.

### **Insurance Services - Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**March 1, 2020**

A water heater leak in a garage caused direct physical damage to the property, and our client paid the plaintiffs \$956.95 for damages sustained to the garage, after applying the \$1,000 policy deductible. The plaintiffs claimed that the defendant breached the contract of insurance by failing to fully indemnify them for all the property damage caused by the water leak.