

CHRISTOPHER W. WOODWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL



AREAS OF PRACTICE

Miscellaneous Professional Liability
Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith
Litigation

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ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania
2013

U.S. District Court Eastern District
of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court Middle District
of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court Western District
of Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit

OVERVIEW

Christopher is a member of the Professional Liability Department where his practice is focused on insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. As an experienced litigator, he has developed a deep understanding of insurance policy and coverage issues arising from commercial, personal, and specialty property and casualty policies, professional liability policies, health/life policies and workers' compensation policies.

Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Christopher worked as a senior claims examiner where he dealt with coverage issues and the management of professional liability lawsuits with a focus on municipalities. This experience has provided Christopher with a unique perspective in understanding the tactics utilized by plaintiffs to leverage settlement issues both before and during litigation, as well as analyzing available coverage, responses to civil remedy notices, pre-suit investigations and coverage evaluations. Christopher also presents seminars to clients about issues in the insurance coverage and bad faith practice area.

In 2009 Christopher graduated from Penn State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He later attended Widener University School of Law where he earned his *juris doctor*, magna cum laude, in 2013.

During his time in law school, Christopher was a senior staff member of the Widener Law Journal, which published his survey analyzing a Pennsylvania Supreme Court administrative law decision in its Spring 2013 issue. Christopher also held an internship for the Pennsylvania Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund and clerked for the local staff defense counsel of a national insurance company.

EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law
(J.D., magna cum laude, 2013)

The Pennsylvania State University
(B.A., 2009)

ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Cumberland County Bar
Association

Dauphin County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

YEAR JOINED

2015

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Court Confirms UIM Claimants Must Qualify as an ‘Insured’ Under the Policy Insuring Their Employer’s Vehicles in Order to Stack Their Personal Auto UIM Policy

Harrisburg

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

January 1, 2026

While in the course and scope of his employment and while operating a vehicle owned by his employer, Russo was injured in a motor vehicle accident.

Superior Court Enforces Forum Selection Clause, Dismissing UTPCPL Claim and Transferring Breach of Contract and Bad Faith Claims Against Carrier to Insured’s Home County

Harrisburg

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

October 1, 2025

The plaintiff, Robert Mark Winner, was rear-ended by another driver and suffered alleged injuries. Winner brought a claim against the other driver and also notified his own auto insurer, Progressive, that he was making a UIM claim.

Federal Court Limits UIM Payout to \$100K in Fatal Crash, Rejects Parents’ Bid for Double Recovery

Harrisburg

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

July 1, 2025

Alexander Wetzel tragically died as a result of a motor vehicle accident involving an underinsured motorist. Case Law Alerts, 3rd Quarter, July 2025 is prepared by Marshall Dennehey to provide information on recent developments of interest to our readers.

Court Denies UIM Coverage to Woman, Claiming ‘Family Member’ Status Through Daughter

Harrisburg

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

April 1, 2025

The plaintiff, who resided with her daughter in the home of her daughter’s paternal grandmother, sought UIM benefits under an auto insurance policy issued to the grandmother. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, April

Pennsylvania Court Reiterates that Single Vehicle Policies Can Be Stacked and Stacking Can Provide Benefit to Insured

Harrisburg

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

January 1, 2025

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the grant of summary judgment in favor of Nationwide by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in this purported class action litigation. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, January

CLASSES / SEMINARS TAUGHT

Untying Tangled Titles – How Property Insurance Drives Fraud, Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (IFPA) Conference, Pocono Manor, PA, April 27, 2023

Untying Tangled Titles – How To Recognize How Property Title Issues Drive Fraud, Marshall Dennehey Insurance Fraud 360 Seminar, Lafayette Hill, PA, June, 2022

PIP in PA: Questions & Answers, Client Webinar, December 2020

PUBLISHED WORKS

"'Regular Use Exclusions' Stand: Pa. Supreme Court's Latest Ruling Post-'Gallagher'," *The Legal Intelligencer* Insurance Law Supplement, August 20, 2024

"Your Residence Is Not Necessarily Where You Live," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 28, No. 12, December 2022

"Pa. Ruling Leaves Auto Policy Stacking Questions," *Law360*, November 10, 2021

"Just How Hard Does Gallagher Hit the Household Vehicle Exclusion?," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 25, No. 2, June 2019

"The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Clarifies the Standard that Courts Must Use When Considering Claims Made for Insurance Bad Faith Under 42 Pa.C.S. § 8371," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 2018

Case Law Alerts, regular contributor, 2016-present

"PA Superior Court Decision Means Bad Faith Claims May Live to See Another Day, *Rancosky v. Washington National Insurance Co.*, 2015 Pa. Super. LEXIS 822, 2015 PA Super 264 (Pa. Super. Ct. Dec. 16, 2015)," *Legal Updates for Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith*, March 3, 2016

RESULTS

Defense Prevails in Automobile Liability Case.

Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation

May 11, 2018

We secured the dismissal of a declaratory judgment action filed in federal court against a large insurer. This case arose from a motor vehicle accident that occurred in 2015. The plaintiff averred that she had sustained injuries in excess of the tortfeasor's bodily injury liability limits and sought stacked underinsured motorist (UIM) benefits. While the plaintiff had admittedly signed a rejection of UIM coverage form and a rejection of UIM coverage stacked limits form, she argued that her insurer had altered the statutorily required forms by adding additional language.