THOMPSON
COE



Thomas A. Culpepper

General Counsel

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214-871-8233

Tom Culpepper serves as Thompson Coe General Counsel, where he supports the Firm's strategic planning and regulatory compliance.

His practice is focused on professional liability defense, commercial disputes, and insurance coverage disputes. He has resolved hundreds of cases outside of trial, and he has tried over 20 cases to verdict. He is committed to helping clients reach the best possible resolution to their disputes whether it be through trial, arbitration or settlement. Tom represents attorneys, insurance agents, insurers, real estate brokers, commercial property owners, accountants, third party administrators, officers and directors, and other professionals throughout Texas. He also guides professionals through grievance proceedings.

Tom served as Chairman of the Firm's Professional Liability Section from 2001-2011 and in 2012, the Firm selected Tom to serve on its Management Committee. Finally, Tom has testified before the Texas House and Senate in support of legislation addressing the inequities insurance professionals face when confronted with a professional liability lawsuit.

Representative Experience

Won Fifth Circuit appeal in which the court upheld arbitration award for law firm client over unpaid legal fees.

After a one-week arbitration, the arbitration panel completely exonerated Tom's client, a prominent Plaintiff's attorney on a legal malpractice claim. The Plaintiff claimed Defendant failed to put on sufficient evidence to sustain a multimillion dollar judgment on appeal.

Obtained a defense verdict for an insurance agency on misrepresentation and negligence claims.

Obtained defense verdict for an insurance agency in a two-week trial on a homeowner's million dollar claim involving a substantially underinsured historic home.

Obtained summary judgment for a Dallas law firm on a malpractice claim in which the plaintiffs claimed the law firm mishandled a child custody case.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of large independent insurance agency on a multi-million dollar misrepresentation and fraud claim involving business interruption insurance.

Obtained summary judgment on behalf of a bonding agent on a school construction project in which the Plaintiff claimed the bonding agent misrepresented it would obtain performance bonds.

Obtained defense verdict in a multi-million dollar legal malpractice case in which the Plaintiff contended the law firm pursued frivolous claims. In the same case, Tom obtained a judgment in favor of his client on its fee claim.

Awards & Recognition

THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA
Lawyer of the Year for Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law
2027

THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA
Lawyer of the Year for Professional Malpractice - Defendants; Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law
2026-2027

THE BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICA
Listed for Professional Liability; Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants; Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law
2012-2027

TEXAS SUPER LAWYERS
Listed for Professional Liability: Defense, General Litigation, Personal Injury – General: Defense
2005-2007, 2020-2026

D MAGAZINE: BEST LAWYERS IN DALLAS
Listed for Professional Liability Litigation
2014-2015, 2017

MARTINDALE HUBBELL
AV Peer Review Rated

Related Services

Publications & Speaking Engagements

What Could Go Wrong? Procuring a Policy and Tendering a Claim from the Policy Holder's and Broker's Viewpoint
13th Annual Advanced Insurance Law
2016

Texas Insurance Agent Liability in Light of the Elusive 'Special Relationship'
Nov 13, 2015

Texas Broker Liability and Where It Is Expanding
20th Annual Insurance Law Institute
2015

LAE Cost Control
Swiss Re Americas Claims Conference
2014

Whose Agent is it Anyway?
Insurance Law Institute
2014

Agent Liability Issues
11th Seminar on Texas Insurance Law Developments
2012

Advanced Strategies for Success in Mediation
Claims and Litigation Management Alliance
2011

Conflicts Between Insurer and Insured in Professional Liability Cases
Claims and Litigation Management Alliance
2011

"Additional Insured and Contractual Liability Coverage," Chapter 6 of *Thirteen Things Every Insurance Agent & Broker Should Know*
AgentsofAmerica.org eBook, co-author
February 2010

Education, Admissions & Activities

EDUCATION

St. Mary's University
J.D., 1991

Southern Methodist University
B.A., 1986
Political Science

Southern Methodist University
B.B.A., 1986

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas
1991

COURT ADMISSIONS

United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

United States District Court of Texas: Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Claims and Litigation Management Alliance

Professional Liability Underwriters Society

Dallas Bar Association