



Amy B. Briggs

Partner

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Amy represents clients across multiple industry sectors, including real estate, construction, health care, and financial services, in insurance coverage and bad faith disputes of all kinds.

Amy is retained by policyholders to negotiate with insurers to maximize coverage and to strategically coordinate the defense and resolution of underlying litigation against her clients, interfacing with insurers, defense counsel, plaintiff's counsel, mediators, and judges. Through such coordination, she can often help all stakeholders reach a resolution, as she did in connection with the Millennium Tower litigation.

Sometimes, however, high-stakes coverage disputes can only be resolved through litigation, and Amy is equally as comfortable in courtrooms and arbitrations as she is in settlement discussions.

Recent litigation successes include:

- Defeated excess general liability insurer's motion for summary judgment in coverage litigation arising from the 2018 shutdown of Salesforce Transit Center; underlying case settled in early 2023 shortly thereafter with contribution from the excess insurer.
- Prevailed on motion for partial summary judgment against builder's risk insurer on a legal issue that the insurer described as one of "first impression" arising out of the 2018 shutdown of Salesforce Transit Center, and then, in 2022, defeated insurer's motion for summary judgment and simultaneously obtained significant sanctions against the insurer for discovery misconduct; case settled shortly thereafter.
- Filed coverage lawsuit on behalf of a large health insurer against a professional liability insurer in 2022; quickly brought a motion for partial summary judgment, and coverage litigation settled while the motion was pending.
- Filed coverage litigation on behalf of a municipality against public entity risk pool and excess liability insurer in a dispute arising out of multiple underlying inverse condemnation and tort actions; moved for summary adjudication three months after filing in early 2022 and, while the motion was pending, resolved the underlying actions on favorable terms for the client.
- Represented mortgage services company in coverage litigation arising out of False Claims Act lawsuit; filed cross-motions for summary judgment five months shortly after initiating litigation against directors & officers liability insurer and professional liability insurers; mediated and settled coverage case while motions were pending in 2021.
- Represented real estate investment and services company in a dispute arising under directors' & officers' insurance policy; filed a complaint and quickly followed with a motion for partial summary judgment. Coverage litigation was settled in 2021 before the motion was ruled upon.

In 2023, won motion for summary judgment against insurer which had denied coverage; obtained order fully reimbursing client for millions in defense fees and costs incurred in complex litigation arising out of BART extension. Insurer then paid limits as part of confidential multi-party settlement.

Amy has also testified as a coverage expert in arbitration.

Distinctions

- *Chambers USA*: Insurance Policyholder - California, Band 4 (2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, "Lawyer of the Year" Award, Litigation-Insurance, San Francisco (2022, 2024)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*, Insurance Law; Litigation-Insurance (2018-2025)

Services

- Insurance Recovery
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Litigation and Dispute Resolution

Education

- University of California, Davis, School of Law (J.D., 1997)
 - Editor, U.C. Davis Law Review
- Harvard University (B.A., 1991)
 - cum laude

Bar Admissions

- California

Court Admissions

- 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court (C.D. Cal.)
- U.S. District Court (E.D. Cal.)
- U.S. District Court (N.D. Cal.)
- U.S. District Court (S.D. Cal.)

- Recommended, *Legal 500 United States* - Construction (2021)
- Fellow, Litigation Counsel of America (2018-present)
- Editorial Advisory Board, *Insurance Law360* (2012-2013)
- Northern California *Super Lawyers*, Business Litigation (2022-2024)

Memberships and Affiliations

- Fellow, American College of Coverage Counsel (2021)

Publications

October 24, 2023

Reporting Dispute Claims Within Closely Held Wineries

Wine Industry Advisor

August 30, 2023

Disputes Between Shareholders May Not Be Governed by Fiduciary Duties but Could Be Covered by Insurance

Private Company Director

December 6, 2022

A Promise To Pay Is Just That: Two Courts Reject Insurers' Bids To Escape Their Coverage Obligations by Complaining About Third Party Recoveries or Reductions in Liabilities

Policyholder Perspective

September 17, 2020

What Nonprofits Need to Know About Landlord-Tenants Relationships and Insurance

Nonprofit Education Series

September 2, 2020

Insurance Dispute Resolution

Real Estate Webinar Series

Outside the Office

When Amy is not challenging her opponent's legal position in court or in negotiations, she is busy attacking the weeds in her garden. She also spends time running in the Oakland hills and coached girls' lacrosse for more than a decade.