



John D. Green

Partner

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John Green has over thirty years of experience recovering money from insurance companies under a broad range of insurance policies, including general liability, directors' and officers' liability, professional E&O, technology E&O, cyber liability, commercial property, and builders-risk policies. He has litigated, arbitrated, or mediated many high stakes coverage matters and has helped clients obtain a total of over \$1 billion in insurance recoveries.

His clients range from some of the world's largest multinational corporations to cutting edge technology companies; and matters he has handled range from high stakes mass tort litigation involving over 10,000 plaintiffs, to many novel insurance questions raised by Bay Area technology companies.

John brings to his practice an exceptionally deep knowledge of insurance coverage concepts, honed by over three decades of experience. He enhances this technical expertise with a pragmatic, business-oriented perspective that keeps the focus on the clients' ultimate goals and interests. As a negotiator, he strives to be straightforward and reasonable, but also seeks to obtain the optimal value on each claim. John believes in setting ambitious targets and devotes his energetic and enthusiastic effort to achieving those goals. He believes litigation should not be pursued for its own sake, but to achieve solutions that provide the best outcome for his clients.

Distinctions

- *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of Insurance Law, Litigation—Insurance (2021-2025)
- Best Lawyers of America, Lawyer of the Year Award (San Francisco) in Litigation-Insurance (2023)

Memberships and Affiliations

- Fellow, American College of Coverage Counsel
- ABA Section of Litigation; Insurance Litigation Section; Tort and Insurance Practice Section

Experience

Expert Witness Testimony on Captive Reinsurance

One of our partners served as expert witness on California insurance law on behalf of Camarin Ltd., a captive reinsurer for Weyerhaeuser. Camarin paid \$25 million in connection with a class action settlement and sought reimbursement from its reinsurer, Swiss Re. Swiss Re denied coverage, resulting in coverage litigation in British Columbia. The case involved novel issues of proving a reinsurance claim for a matter resolved by settlement where the reinsurance policy does not have a "follow the settlements" clause. The British Columbia courts held that Camarin was required to present a full trial of the class action as if it had not settled, but had gone to trial in 2003. The matter settled on favorable terms shortly after Camarin presented the expert reports constituting its case in chief.

Services

- Antitrust
- Energy + Infrastructure
- Insurance Recovery
- Product Liability and Stewardship
- Technology

Education

- University of California, Berkeley, School of Law (J.D., 1985)
 - . first in class; Order of the Coif
- University of California, Berkeley (A.B., 1979)
 - . high honors
 - . Economics

Bar Admissions

- California

Environmental Coverage Litigation and Resolution

We represented U.S. Borax, a mining and chemical company, in insurance coverage litigation over multi-state, multi-site environmental coverage clean-up costs involving over 80 policies issued over a 25-year period. After securing favorable Phase I rulings on key legal and policy interpretation issues, we obtained substantial recoveries in settlement on the eve of a jury trial and preserved coverage for potential future claims.

Publications

6/27/2017

There May Be Coverage for the Defense and Settlement of FTC Claims

9/25/2015

Insurer Must Still Defend Even if Covered Claims Are Dismissed

9/24/2015

Claims For Defective Solar Panels Could Be Covered By General Liability Insurance

9/15/2015

Insurance May Cover Call Recording Class Actions

7/23/2015

Claims for Defective Solar Panels Are Covered by CGL Insurance

6/15/2015

Insurance May Cover Call Recording Class Actions

7/28/2014

Court Finds Coverage For Settlement Of Restitution Claim

Winter 2013

California Court of Appeals Clarifies Carrier's Duty to Settle

November 2011

Developments in Insurance Law

4/22/2010

The Truth About "Tendering" a Claim

4/2/2010

The Myth of "Accident-Based" Policies

2/5/2010

"Impaired Property Exclusion" Doesn't Apply Where Repair Requires More Than "Simply" Replacing Insured's Product or Work

1/29/2010

Rebutting Insurer Myths About Rescission Under California Law

1/30/2008

Alert: Liability Insurance Policies Don't Cover Settlements, Only Judgments, Court Rules

Outside the Office

John loves to travel, with recent trips with his family to Portugal, Spain, Italy, Morocco, Bali, and Singapore. He also plays guitar and golf, and has an interest in art. He is active in his local art community, including the SFMOMA Curators' Circle.