

STEPHEN A MELENDI

E: STEPHENM@TBMMLAW.COM / P: 214-665-0103



Stephen's practice is concentrated on insurance coverage analysis and disputes. He has represented primary and excess insurers in disputes involving interpretation of the coverage provided under a variety of coverage forms including general and professional liability, commercial property, errors and omissions, commercial auto, trucking, as well as in disputes regarding an insurer's duty of good faith and fair dealing and other duties throughout the State of Texas at the trial court level and on appeal. In addition, Stephen regularly advises insurers on coverage issues outside of litigation, as well as providing insurers with assistance in promulgating coverage forms.



Stephen is rated "AV Pre-eminent" by Martindale-Hubbell, and is a Member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. He has been named a "Texas Super Lawyer" annually since 2013; and was named a "Texas Rising Star" annually from 2007 - 2013.

Admissions

Mr. Melendi is admitted to practice law before all state courts in Texas and Oklahoma, all United States District Courts in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as the United States Courts of Appeal for the Fifth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Circuits.

Education

Stephen graduated cum laude from Southern Methodist University School of Law. While in law school, he was an articles editor for the International Law Review Association and is a member of Phi Delta Phi. Mr. Melendi also served as Judicial Extern for the late Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Prior to attending law school Stephen graduated from Texas A & M University with a B.S. in political science.

Memberships

State Bar of Texas
American Bar Association
Dallas Bar Association
College of the State Bar of Texas
Defense Research Institute (DRI)

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Activities

Council of the Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas,
Treasurer 2019
Council Member 2014- present
CLE Committee Chair 2018-2019; 2014-2016

Dallas Bar Association Tort and Insurance Practice Section,
Chair – 2018
Vice-Chair – 2017
Secretary – 2016
Director – 2014 – 2019

Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) –
Greater Dallas Chapter Vice-President 2018- present
Greater Dallas Chapter Secretary – 2016 & 2017

Recent Speeches and Papers Presented at Accredited Continuing Education Seminars and Published Articles
Everything is Bigger in Texas, Including the Challenges in Construction Defect Litigation
The CLM Construction Conference, San Diego, California, 2019

Course Director

State Bar of Texas, Sixteenth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2019
Priority of Coverage or: Who Picks Up the Tab at the End of the Night
State Bar of Texas, Fourteenth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2017
The Primary Excess Relationships, Or the Cause and Effect of Helicopter Carriers
State Bar of Texas, Twelfth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2015
Gilbert/Ewing – Contractual Liability Coverage
State Bar of Texas, Ninth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, Dallas, Texas, 2012
Auto Coverage under General Liability Policies,
Presented at the 16th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2011
Other Insurance: One, Two, Three ... Not "It!"
Presented at the 15th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2010
The Application of Pollution Exclusions in Texas
Presented at the 14th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2009

Personal

Mr. Melendi was born, and resides, in Dallas, Texas, and is a fourth generation Dallasite.
Mr. Melendi is an Eagle Scout.

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Representative Cases

- Priority of Coverage or: Who Picks Up the Tab at the End of the Night
State Bar of Texas, Fourteenth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2017
- The Primary Excess Relationships, Or the Cause and Effect of Helicopter Carriers
State Bar of Texas, Twelfth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2015
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Presented at the 14th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2009

Representative Reported Cases

- Colony Natl. Ins. Co. v. United Fire & Fed.Appx. ___ 667 Fed. Appx. 941 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Quibodeaux v. Nautilus Ins. Co., 655 Fed.Appx. 984 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Colony Ins. Co. v. Chesapeake Energy Corp., ___ 215 F.Supp.3d 1190 (W.D.Okla.2016)
- Colony Ins. Co. v. Price, 622 Fed.Appx. 311 (5th Cir. 2015)(per curiam)
- Morrison v. Fettig, et al., 630 Fed.Appx. 307 (5th Cir. 2015)(per curiam)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Texas State Sec. and Patrol, 2010 WL 3239157 (W.D.Tex. June 18, 2010)
- Colony Nat. Ins. Co. v. Specialty Trailer Leasing, Inc., 620 F.Supp. 786 (N.D.Tex. 2009)
- James River Ins. Co. v. Affordable Hous. of Kingsville II, Ltd., 2012 WL 1551529 (S.D.Tex. Apr.27, 2012)
- Continental Cas. Co. v. Consolidated Graphics, Inc., 646 F.3d 210 (5th Cir. 2011)
- National Fire Ins. Of Hartford v. C. Hodges & Associates, PLLC, 825 F.Supp.2d 792 (W.D.Tex 2011)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Villalta, 558 Fed.Appx. 404 (5th Cir. 2014)(Mem.Op)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Steinberg, 316 S.W.3d 752 (Tex.App. – Dallas 2010, pet denied)
- Transport International Pool, Inc. v. Continental Ins. Co., 166 S.W.3d 781 (Tex.App. – Fort Worth 2005, no pet.)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Country Oaks Apartments Ltd., 566 F.3d 452 (5th Cir. 2009)
- Trinity Universal Ins. Co. v. Emplrs Mut. Cas. Co, 592 F.3d 687 (5th Cir. 2010)
- Nat’l Fire Ins. Co. v. Entertainment Specialty Ins. Services, Inc., 485 F.Supp.2d 737 (N.D.Tex. 2007)
- National Fire Ins. Co. v. NWM-Oklahoma, LLC, Inc., 546 F. Supp. 2d 1238 (W.D.Okla. 2008)
- Transcontinental Ins. Co. v. Rainwater Const. Co., LLC, 509 F.3d 454, (8th Cir.(Ark.) 2007)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Nicky & Claire’s Day Care, Inc., 630 F.Supp.2d 727 (W.D.Tex. 2009)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Reuter, 537 F.3d 733 (7th Cir. (Ind.) 2008)
- Richmond Condominiums v. Skipworth Commercial Plumbing, Inc., 245 S.W.3d 646, (Tex.App.-Fort Worth 2008, pet. denied)
- Am. S. Ins. Co. v. Buckley, 748 F.Supp.2d 610 (E.D.Tex.2010)