

Lee M. Seese

Partner

Overview

Lee has substantial experience in insurance recovery, complex commercial litigation, product liability, and construction matters. He is well versed in all aspects of pre-trial litigation and has tried cases before state and federal courts. His appellate work is also noteworthy, including arguing before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Experience

- Defended a manufacturing client against breach of warranty and product liability claims that alleged more than \$5 million in damages, and settled the claims against the client for less than 5% of the alleged damages, followed by a recovery of the majority of the settlement payment from the client's insurer
- Successfully defended, in a court trial, a suit by a manufacturer seeking more than \$500,000 in damages for breach of contract
- Has successfully defended multiple product liability lawsuits over the past thirteen years against a large flavoring manufacturer based on alleged exposure to diacetyl in microwave popcorn
- Argued against a late notice defense and maintenance of underlying insurance provision, among other defenses, to recover more than \$20 million for the policyholder in an environmental insurance claim
- Represented the policyholder in a multi-party construction dispute and obtained a resolution of the dispute wherein the client's insurer funded 100% of the client's contribution to a settlement, which exceeded \$10 million
- Argued against a late notice defense and non-cumulation clause, among other defenses, to recover nearly \$10 million for the policyholder in an environmental insurance claim
- Defended a venture capital fund against claims brought by minority investors and, after winning a preliminary injunction hearing, negotiated a settlement of the dispute that resulted in a buyout of the minority investors at a substantial profit to the client



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Industries

Food & Beverage

Practices

Environmental Enforcement
Defense & Litigation
Insurance Litigation
Litigation
Products Liability Defense

- Recovered \$800,000 in settlements for a client that had been defrauded by the agent of a large life insurance company
- Successfully prosecuted breach of warranty and conversion claims against a bank for its wrongful draw on a letter of credit, which resulted in the bank quintupling its pre-trial settlement offer after a court trial, but before the court rendered its verdict

Honors & Recognitions

- "Rising Stars" list, business litigation, *Super Lawyers Magazine*, 2009-2011

Professional Activities

- Member, International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)
- Member, Wisconsin Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Milwaukee Bar Association

Education

- University of Wisconsin Law School, Juris Doctor (J.D.), *cum laude*, 2000; Moot Court, *Wisconsin International Law Journal*
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), *magna cum laude*, 1997

Admissions

- Wisconsin
- United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

Community Involvement

- Board Member, MyChoice Family Care

Related News

PUBLICATION

March 26, 2020

OCI Order helps Restaurants and their Temporary Delivery Drivers Obtain Insurance During COVID-19 Crisis

PUBLICATION

March 18, 2020

Louisiana Company Files the First Lawsuit Seeking Business Interruption Coverage for COVID-19–Related Losses; More to Come.



PUBLICATION

March 12, 2020

Wisconsin Supreme Court Decision Muddies the Water on When an Insurer Must Begin Paying for a Policyholder's Defense

NEWS

February 10, 2020

Michael Best Announces Election of Nine Attorneys to Partnership

NEWS

August 28, 2019

Wis. Appeals Court Affirms Colgate's Win In Talc Suit

PUBLICATION

November 29, 2018

Wisconsin Supreme Court Uses the "Cause Theory" to Limit the Number of Occurrences Arising Out of a Fire