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insurance
coverage
advocates

BEVERLY B. GODBEY

Principal

Beverly Godbey knows the power of asking nicely.

When a client's insurance claim is denied, Beverly leverages her decades of coverage experience to draft a concise, well-researched letter aimed at persuading the insurer to change its decision. If that doesn't achieve the desired result, then Beverly continues to speak softly, and she brings a big stick to the courtroom.

With 30 years as a trial and lawyer and nearly 50 cases tried to verdict, she knows how to face adversity with grace. Her unparalleled understanding of the complexities of insurance coverage, combined with her calm, professional demeanor, makes her a formidable opponent and a powerful advocate for her clients.

In addition to navigating coverage disputes, Beverly provides critical insights for policyholders in all types of insurance coverage matters, including policy reviews and comparisons. In addition to her insurance work, Beverly has represented corporate clients in complex commercial litigation, personal injury claims, products liability actions, trade secret cases, and professional malpractice claims, among others.

She is admitted to practice before state courts in Texas and Georgia, as well as the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas; U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia; and U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh Circuits.

Based on her work for clients in insurance coverage litigation and commercial litigation, she has been named by her peers to *D Magazine's* list of the Best Lawyers in Dallas, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and the annual listing of *Texas Super Lawyers*.

Beverly is also committed to providing pro bono legal services through The Human Rights Initiative and The Senior Source. For her pro bono work, she received the Justinian Award from the Dallas Bar Foundation in 2017.

She earned her law degree at Tulane University School of Law and her undergraduate degree, *magna cum laude*, at Southern Methodist University.

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Recovered policy aggregate limit for two different employee theft claims in the same policy year
- Negotiated insurance terms in construction contracts, leases, and other commercial contracts
- Achieved defense verdict in two-week products liability trial in state district court
- Obtained reimbursement of defense costs in numerous cases in which the insurer initially denied any duty to defend
- Negotiated settlement of property damage claim with homeowner's insurer
- Negotiated enhanced coverage for publicly traded clients in directors and officers, employment practices liability, fiduciary liability, crime, and commercial general liability policies
- Won summary judgment in federal court on duty to defend and violations of the Texas Insurance Code
- Named as an expert witness on coverage and bad faith issues for insurer client
- Panel member of arbitrators for the American Arbitration Association

PUBLICATIONS | PRESENTATIONS

- Feb | Mar 2018 “Your Brain on Ethics :: How that Thing Between Your Ears Can Lead You Astray” presentation at the Justice James A. Barker Guide to Ethics and Professionalism in Texas, Texas Center for Legal Ethics, Austin, Texas (February) and Dallas, Texas (March)
- June 2017 “Professional Liability Insurance :: Errors and Omissions to Avoid” presentation at *State Bar of Texas, Advanced Insurance Law Course 2017*, San Antonio, Texas
- December 2016 “Proactive Approaches to Ethics and Professionalism” presentation for newly licensed Texas lawyers package, *Justice James A. Baker Guide to Ethics and Professionalism in Texas*, a 4-hour online CLE available through the Texas Center for Legal Ethics
- August 2015 “Insurance Coverage for Drones” article in *Headnotes*, a publication of the Dallas Bar Association
- January 2015 “Transfer of Risk and Insurance Requirements in Business Contracts” presentation for American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education
- January 2015 “Drafting Risk Transfer and Insurance Provisions in Business Contracts :: Strategies for Mitigating Risk” presentation for American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education
- June 2014 “Common Pitfalls of Certificates of Insurance” webinar presentation for Lorman Education Services
- November 2013 “Misrepresentations in an Insurance Application” article in *Headnotes*
- April 2012 “Case Law Update” presentation at the *State Bar of Texas, Advanced Insurance Law Course 2012*, Dallas, Texas
- April 2011 “Insurance – What Your Management Team Needs to Know” presentation at the 33rd Annual Corporate Counsel Institute, Dallas and Houston, Texas
- April 2011 “ERISA – A Primer for Coverage Lawyers” presentation at the *State Bar of Texas, Advanced Insurance Law Course 2011*, Dallas, Texas

PROFESSIONAL | COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- State Bar of Texas, Member
Past Chair of the Board
Former Co-Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee
Past Director, District 6, Place 2
- Texas Supreme Court Task Force on the Texas Bar Exam, Member
- Texas Equal Access to Justice Commission, Former Member
- American Law Institute, Member
Consultative Group on Principles of the Law of Liability Insurance, Member
- Dallas Bar Association, Former President
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Former President
- American Arbitration Association
Arbitrator (2015 – present)
- Texas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Dallas Bar Foundation, Life Fellow
- Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation, Founding Fellow
- Texas Center for Legal Ethics, Board of Trustees
- Texas Association of Defense Counsel and the Defense Research Institute, Member
- International Association of Defense Counsel, Member
- Campaign for Equal Access to Justice, Former Chair
- Lakehill Preparatory School Board of Directors, Advisory Director
- The Senior Source, Director
- Crossroads Community Services, Director
- Dallas Museum of Art, Member
- First United Methodist Church in Dallas, Member
Church Council, Former Chair
Staff Parish Relations Committee, Former Chair

- Junior League of Dallas, Sustainer
- Attorneys Serving the Community, Former Chair
Human Rights Initiative
Pro Bono Committee

EMPLOYMENT

Prior to joining Amy Stewart Law, Beverly was a Partner and Co-Chair of Litigation at Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP in Dallas from 1986 to 2018.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Tulane School of Law, 1982
- B.S., Southern Methodist University, 1979, *magna cum laude*
Phi Beta Kappa Society

BAR | COURT ADMISSIONS

- State Bar of Texas
- State Bar of Georgia
- Dallas Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth, Eighth, and Eleventh Circuits
- U.S. District Court of the Northern, Southern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Texas
- U.S. District Court of the Northern District of Georgia