

## Paul L. Fields, Jr. *Partner*

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Paul Fields represents domestic and international insurers, leading Fields Howell's first-party property team as a respected attorney with thirty years of experience. In addition to leading the first-party property team, Paul does significant work in the areas of casualty, professional indemnity, and aviation.

Over the years, Paul has tried over thirty jury trials, handling extensive and complicated bench trials and arbitrations. In recent years, Paul has been lead counsel in three successful multi-million dollar class-action lawsuits. Committed to his clients, he argued before appellate courts and had them reverse trial court decisions on several occasions, and he continues to handle various complicated matters.

Time and again, Paul has been elected by his peers for various awards and recognitions. In 2018, Paul earned an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell® for his high level of professional excellence and outstanding ethics. He has also been ranked among the top 5% of lawyers in Georgia by Super Lawyers® for the last eight consecutive years. In 2016, Paul won the Client Choice Award, presented by the International Law Office and Lexology, in the insurance category. He continues to provide the highest level of client service and legal representation to all of his clients. Currently, Paul serves as counsel to a group dealing with property and casualty insurance issues in the London insurance market.

He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in 1988.

### Primary Practice Areas

- Appeals & Appellate Work
- Aviation
- Bad Faith
- Class Actions & Complex Litigation
- Commercial General Liability
- Insurance Defense
- London Market
- Property
- Reinsurance

### Education

- University of Georgia, J.D., 1988
- Wake Forest University, B.A., 1985

### Bar Admissions

- U.S. Supreme Court
- State Bar of Georgia
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- Georgia Court of Appeals
- U.S. District Court for the:
  - Northern District of Georgia
  - Middle District of Georgia
  - Southern District of Georgia
  - Eastern District of Arkansas
  - Western District of Arkansas
- U.S. Court of Appeals for:
  - 4th Circuit
  - 5th Circuit
  - 6th Circuit
  - 8th Circuit
  - 11th Circuit



## Representative Matters

Successfully defended a class action alleging the Syndicates in the Lloyd's of London Insurance Market were not approved surplus lines insurers.

Obtained reversal of trial courts refusal to allow Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's to intervene. Class counsel dismissed case in face of trial court's summary judgment order. Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London v. David Bass et al., 2015 Ark. 178 Supreme Court of Arkansas No. CV-14-788

Represented the London Insurance Market in early and successful resolution of class action complaint relating to depreciation of labor in Arkansas.

Represented insurers in coverage dispute regarding several lawsuits brought by patients against insured physician's group, including obtaining partial summary judgment regarding the coverage issues. Evanston Ins. Co. v. Watts, F.Supp.3d, 2014 WL 4954689

Obtained reversal of trial court in coverage dispute in the 11th Circuit. Atlantic Marine Florida, LLC v. Evanston Ins. Co., 775 F.3d 1268, 2014 WL 7331580

Obtained reversal of trial judge relating to anti concurrent causation clause arising out of Hurricane Katrina. Penthouse Owners Ass'n, Inc. v. Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London, 612 F.3d 383 2010 WL 2773427

Retained summary judgment on behalf of insurer based upon classification limitation where horse riding accident resulted in rider becoming quadriplegic. Brit UW Ltd. v. Hallister Property Development, LLC 6 F.Supp3d 1321 2014 WL 988822

Achieved early resolution of class action alleging improprieties in forced-placed insurance coverage.

Obtained summary judgment from 11th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding \$2 million fire claim, to the insurers based on breach of the protective safeguards endorsement. Chaucer Corporate Capital (No. 2) Ltd. v. Norman W. Paschall Co., Inc., 525 Fed. Appx. 895, 2013 WL 3963464

Obtained summary judgment in favor of carrier in suit alleging hail damage.

Obtained summary judgment from North Carolina Court of Appeals on behalf of the insurers regarding a contingency claim arising out of event cancellation holding policy did not cover lost profits and the unfair or deceptive practices statute was not violated. Defeat The Beat, Inc. v. Underwriters at Lloyd's, London, 194 N.C.App. 108, 669 S.E.2d 48 (2008)

Court of Appeals reversed denial of summary judgment to bar owner, in Dram Shop Act case based on the absence of evidence that establishment knew intoxicated patron was going to be driving. Becks v. Pierce, 282 Ga.App. 229, 638 S.E.2d 390 (2006)

Georgia Court of Appeals affirmed summary judgment based on statute of limitations in this wrongful death/liquor liability suit seeking to recover multi-million dollar judgment. Mikell v. Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's, London, 288 Ga.App. 430, 654 S.E.2d 227 (2007)

Lead counsel in arbitration against large national retailer seeking over \$40 million arising out of alleged Hurricane Katrina damage. property and time element coverage claims.

## Also Practices In

- Accident & Health
- Artisans, Contractors, Architects, & Engineers
- Business Disputes
- Cargo & Specie
- Casualty & Excess Casualty
- Catastrophic Loss Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction Law & Litigation
- Contingency
- Cyber Liability
- Directors & Officers
- Environmental Liability
- Marine & Energy
- Motor Carrier
- Products Liability
- Professional Liability/Indemnity
- Subrogation

## Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Atlanta Bar Association
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Loss Executives Association
- Southern Loss Association

## Representative Matters Continued

Lead counsel for reinsurers of state insurance fund in \$40 million arbitration against state parks commission for damages from Hurricane Ivan.

Obtaining summary judgment and argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which affirmed a judgment for an insurer, in a large fire loss.

Defending insurers against a nationwide grocery chain's claim for its multi-location Hurricane Katrina losses.

Advising various insurers on a \$300 million factory explosion claim, which included property and time element coverage claims.

Counseling insurers regarding the handling of a \$20 million business interruption claim caused by failed efforts to repair a sulfuric acid plant.

## Presentations and Publications

"Litigating in the U.S.," presented to Lloyd's Under 35 by Paul L. Fields, Jr. and Colleen V. McCaffrey in London, England, (July 2015)

"Deposition Training," presented to London Market Syndicate by Paul L. Fields, Jr. and Gregory L. Mast in London, England, (February 2015, July & September 2013)

"Levels of Culpability in U.S. Tort Law and Their Effect on Issues in the Insurance Industry," presented by Paul L. Fields, Jr. and Gregory L. Mast in London, England, (December 2012)

"Diminished Value – Recoverable Under First-Party Policies? Underwriting and Adjusting Claims to Avoid Class Actions," presented by Paul L. Fields and Gregory L. Mast in Richmond, Virginia, ( December 2012)

"Diminished Value – Recoverable Under First-Party Policies? Underwriting and Adjusting Claims to Avoid Class Actions," presented by Paul L. Fields, Jr. and Gregory L. Mast in London, (England, August 2012)