

## Michael H. Sampson



**PARTNER**  
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Michael H. Sampson is a Partner with Leech Tishman and a member of the firm's Litigation Practice Group, where he leads the Insurance Coverage Group. Mike also co-leads the Cannabis Industry Group. Based in the Pittsburgh office, Mike represents diverse clients in a variety of complex civil and commercial litigation and other matters across the country.

Mike focuses his insurance coverage practice on assisting policyholders across various industries to address and resolve complicated insurance coverage matters relating to commercial general liability policies, property insurance, management liability coverages, and many other types of insurance, such as cyber liability, hull and marine liability, specie insurance, and pollution liability insurance. He has helped policyholders address insurance coverage matters involving a wide range of subjects, including toxic torts, hurricane damage, COVID-19, fire, shootings, boat damage, and personal health care.

While Mike routinely counsels clients at various stages on a wide range of insurance coverage matters (including policy review, placement, and procurement, as well as claim submission, documentation, and resolution), a significant

portion of his practice is dedicated to litigating coverage claims against insurance companies and/or third-party claims administrators.

Mike also regularly advises U.S. and international cannabis-related businesses, as well as ancillary businesses servicing the U.S. cannabis industry. He frequently helps clients in the state-compliant medical and adult-use cannabis, as well as the CBD and hemp markets, comply with U.S. federal law (in particular, the federal Controlled Substances Act), understand the potential for aiding-and-abetting liability, navigate the conflict between federal and state laws, adhere to applicable state regulations, and protect their contractual rights. Bridging his insurance coverage and cannabis law practices, Mike also routinely assists cannabis dispensaries, REITs, and other cannabis-related businesses with various insurance coverage and risk management matters, including, but not limited to, contractual risk transfer provisions.

Representing policyholders, as well as other clients, Mike regularly appears in federal and state trial and appellate courts across the country. He was part of a team that obtained in 2017 what was understood to be, at least at that time, the largest bad-faith verdict against an insurance company in Pennsylvania. In addition to insurer bad-faith, Mike has successfully litigated insurance-coverage issues as diverse as trigger of coverage, other-insurance clauses, and application of the "employer's liability" exclusion.

Mike also has unique experience working with and representing Old Order Amish families across the United States. In that regard, he has advised Amish individuals denied U.S. permanent resident status due to their religious beliefs and has litigated against the U.S. government to resolve these complicated disputes. For his pro bono work on Old Order Amish and other matters, Mike has received significant national and local media attention.

[A detailed list of Mike's representative experience is available here.](#)

### Academics

J.D. with honors, University of Chicago Law School  
B.A. with high distinction in Government, University of Virginia

## **Admissions**

Pennsylvania  
New York  
District of Columbia  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit  
U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania  
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

## **Experience**

Reed Smith LLP  
Bredhoff & Kaiser, P.L.L.C.  
Anti-Defamation League, Legal Affairs Department

## **Professional Accolades**

Reed Smith LLP Sean Halpin Award, Honorable Mention  
(2009, 2019)

## **Community Involvement**

Congregation Dor Hadash (Member-at-Large, Board of Directors)

## **Representative Publications**

[A detailed list of Mike's publications is available here.](#)

## **Representative Seminars & Presentations**

[A detailed list of Mike's seminars and presentations is available here.](#)

## **Press Mentions**

[A detailed list of Mike's press mentions is available here.](#)