

BLANKROME

Robert P. Jacobs | Partner

Insurance Recovery

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Rob Jacobs represents policyholders in a wide array of insurance coverage disputes arising from product liabilities, toxic torts, first-party property losses, business interruption, advertising liability, professional liability, kidnap and ransom losses, and various directors and officers-related liabilities, to name a few. For the past several years, Rob has been heavily involved in seeking coverage for liabilities arising out of the life sciences and chemical industries, particularly with respect to agricultural products.

He has advised policyholders and resolved disputes under nearly every type of commercial insurance product, including so-called “Bermuda Form” excess liability policies, Comprehensive General Liability policies, London Market umbrella and excess policies, directors and officers liability policies, errors and omissions/professional liability policies, multimedia policies, kidnap & ransom policies, and other specialized coverages.

Rob is particularly known for his substantial experience representing policyholders in London arbitrations, required under many Bermuda Form and other offshore policies. Rob also has litigated coverage disputes in courts throughout the United States and has engaged in various other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Recently, he also has been advising clients on insurance issues arising from emerging technologies, such as blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies, and also has provided insurance coverage guidance to policyholders in the cannabis industry.

Rob is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel (“ACCC”), an invitation-only organization dedicated to improving the quality of the practice of

insurance law and to increasing civility and professionalism in the field. The ACCC engages in a rigorous vetting process prior to inviting a lawyer to become a Fellow, with its members including many of the most prominent advocates in the insurance law bar.

Rob has written numerous articles and is a frequent lecturer on issues facing policyholders in insurance coverage disputes, as well as ethical issues arising out of arbitrations.

Outside The Firm

Rob is an avid fan of the Florida Gators football and basketball teams and, therefore, he bleeds orange and blue. In fact, he is a big fan of Southeastern Conference football (with the exception of Georgia). Rob bought Bruce Springsteen's *The River* album on October 17, 1980—the day it was released—and then bought every one of The Boss's subsequent albums on the dates that each of them were released.

Select Engagements

- As lead U.S. counsel, successfully prosecuted several arbitrations in London against Bermuda and London Market insurers, securing coverage for bodily injury and property damage claims allegedly arising out of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls.
- Representing a major agricultural company in seeking coverage under Bermuda Form policies for bodily injury (non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) allegedly arising out of a leading weed-killer.
- Key member of a trial team that secured an approximately \$400 million verdict in California Superior Court in favor of a manufacturer of hardboard siding against more than 20 insurance companies. Secured tens of millions of dollars in coverage under a directors and officers liability policy for damages arising out of a Spanish proceeding alleging so-called "criminal bankruptcy" under Spanish law.
- Successfully opposed an insurer's summary judgment motion under a Kidnap, Ransom & Extortion insurance policy with respect to events taking place in Uzbekistan, thereby compelling the insurer to provide coverage for the policyholder's loss.
- Obtained summary judgment in Texas state court on behalf of a major petrochemical company with respect to coverage for massive liability arising out of a plant explosion that caused serious injuries to numerous workers.
- Key member of a litigation team that represented a major coal company in an action in West Virginia state court against more than 20 insurers, successfully obtaining coverage for bodily injury claims allegedly arising out of mining operations.

Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Florida

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, JD
- University of Florida, BS, with high honors

Recognitions

- 2018–2024, Insurance Law, listed in *Best Lawyers in America*®
- 2008–2023, Insurance: Policyholder – District of Columbia, listed in *Chambers USA*
- 2021–2022, Global Leader in Insurance & Reinsurance, listed in *Who's Who Legal*
- 2022, listed in Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll
- 2021, “Top 100 Trial Lawyer,” listed by National Trial Lawyers
- 2021, listed in *The Legal 500 United States*
- 2021, listed in Euromoney's *Insurance and Reinsurance Expert Guide*
- 2012–2015, 2017–2020, “Super Lawyer” in Insurance Coverage, Washington, D.C., listed in *Super Lawyers*
- 2017, listed in *Who's Who Legal – Insurance & Reinsurance*

Professional Activities

Rob is a Fellow of the American College of Coverage Counsel, an invitation-only organization of preeminent lawyers representing the interests of both policyholders and insurers dedicated to improving the quality of the practice of insurance law and to increase civility and professionalism in the field.

Rob is a past co-chair of the Asbestos Subcommittee of the American Bar Association's Section of Litigation Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee.