

Michael J. Lynch

Senior Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Mike Lynch has been a member of the firm's commercial litigation group for 38 years and its insurance coverage group for 27 years. He has been lead counsel for policyholders seeking insurance coverage for environmental or toxic tort liabilities in jurisdictions across the country, including Arizona, California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and Washington. His experience includes being lead trial counsel in a case in which the jury awarded our firm's client its past and future remediation costs, attorneys' fees, and pre- and post-judgment interest. Mike was also lead trial counsel in a successful trial concerning insurance coverage for asbestos-related cancers. He has represented corporations, utilities and a governmental entity in their efforts to obtain insurance coverage.

In addition to his insurance coverage experience, Mike was lead trial counsel for a manufacturing client that was sued in over 1,300 asbestos-related cases. He also has trial experience in breach of contract, tax and construction cases and has litigation experience in a number of other substantive areas, including constitutional law.

Mike has argued before various federal and state appellate courts. He has also testified and presented before a number of public utility commissions on insurance recovery for environmental contamination at former manufactured gas plant and coal ash sites.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Mike has practiced as part of the commercial disputes group since his graduation from law school in 1981. He has been a member of the firm's insurance coverage group since 1991. He has served as the chairman of the hiring committee for the firm's Pittsburgh office, has sat on the firm's associates committee and its Diversity Committee, and has been in charge of the Pittsburgh office's mentoring program for new lawyers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Selected to Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Insurance Law in Pennsylvania, 2018-2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Kids Voice (Current member, and former President, of Board of Directors)
- Member of Heyward House
- Former board member and/or participant in other charitable organizations

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Mike has lectured on insurance coverage and other topics before professional audiences in the United States and in England.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1981
- A.B., Colgate University, 1976

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 26 January 2021, COVID-19: COVID-19 Insurance Coverage Developments: The National Landscape and the State of Play in Washington
- 10 August 2020, Strategic Insurance Considerations for Emerging Coal Ash Bodily Injury Claims
- 20 March 2019, Identifying and Preserving Coverage for Alleged Coal Ash Liability
- 13 December 2017, New York Court Rejects Insurer's Defenses to Coverage for Asbestos Claims Arising Out of the Construction of the Original World Trade Center

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Recovering Remediation Costs At Former Manufactured Gas Plants: A Practical Guide For Utilities,” by Michael J. Lynch and Thomas F. Holt, Jr., *Insurance Coverage Monograph*, June 1996.

NEWS & EVENTS

- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 19 August 2021, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2022 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- Appellate Litigation
- Commercial Disputes
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

INDUSTRIES

- Energy

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- PECO Energy Co. v. Insurance Company of North America, et al. Case No. 99-07386Served as lead counsel for client in its efforts to obtain insurance recovery for environmental damage at 28 former manufactured gas plants and for other sites.
- Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. v. Associated Electric & Gas Insurance Services Ltd., et al. (Ohio Common Pleas Hamilton County). Served as lead counsel in the client's efforts to obtain insurance recovery for environmental damage at two manufactured gas plant sites in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- King County v. Travelers Indemnity Co., et al. (W.D. Wash). Served as lead counsel for King County in its effort to obtain insurance recovery for sediment contamination at two Superfund sites.
- Stonewall Insurance Company v Asbestos Claims Management Corporation, et al. Served as lead trial counsel in asbestos insurance case where court entered a verdict in client's favor.

- Washington Natural Gas Co. v. The Aetna Casualty and Surety Co., et al. (In the Superior Court of the State of Washington in and for the County of King: No. 91-2-13506-1) Served as lead trial counsel for client in its efforts to obtain insurance recovery for environmental damage at a former manufactured gas plant site.
- Continental Insurance Co. v. Honeywell International Inc., et al. (N.J. Super. Ct. Morris County). Successfully represented policyholder in litigation regarding alleged asbestos liabilities. After reaching favorable settlements with most insurers, trial court entered judgment against last remaining insurer. Obtained nine figure trial judgment for global manufacturer of commercial and consumer products in insurance coverage litigation relating to its asbestos bodily injury claims arising from friction materials | Continental Insurance Co. v. Honeywell International Inc., et al. (N.J. Super. Ct. Morris County). Served as lead counsel in client's efforts to obtain insurance recovery for asbestos bodily injury claims allegedly arising from exposure to brake products. The Firm won a verdict for the client and successfully defended it before the New Jersey Appellate Division and Supreme Court.
- American Home Assurance Co. v. Port Authority of N.Y. and N.J., et al. Serve as lead counsel in clients efforts to retain insurance recovery for asbestos bodily injury claims allegedly arising out of the construction of the original World Trade Center. The firm obtained a verdict in our client's favor.