

Michael G. Zanic

Partner

Pittsburgh
+1.412.355.6219

michael.zanic@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Michael Zanic focuses his practice on providing strategic advice to energy, manufacturing and construction and engineering companies, including in the areas of (a) insurance coverage, (b) risk management and innovative solutions to toxic tort-related problems, (c) commercial disputes, and (d) anticorruption and other corporate compliance matters.

Michael has litigated major environmental, asbestos, product liability, property damage and business interruption insurance coverage cases, under property and general liability insurance policies, in the courts of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington. The policyholders that Michael has represented have recovered in excess of US$2.0 billion on their insurance coverage claims.

Michael has spent much of his 30+ year legal career in the overlapping areas of insurance coverage for asbestos-related liabilities, the defense of asbestos claims, typically as national coordinating counsel, and strategic restructurings to effectively and appropriately resolve and manage asbestos-related and other toxic tort liabilities.

Michael's experience in toxic tort-related bankruptcies includes representation of debtors and third-party non-debtors, including representation of the debtors in the largest asbestos and silica-related pre-packaged Chapter 11 bankruptcy filed in the United States.

Michael's practice has included representations involving business operations or disputes in Afghanistan, Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, India, Iraq, Italy Japan, Germany, Lebanon, Nigeria, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the UAE, the United Kingdom, and other countries around the world.

From his office in the heart of the Marcellus shale, Michael has deep experience representing clients in the upstream, midstream, and downstream oil and gas industries, particularly in relation to shale oil and gas developments and opportunities in the United States and around the world. As it relates to the downstream aspects of oil and gas developments, Michael has experience with contractual negotiations and international disputes concerning the construction of LNG, GTL, FPSOs, ethane crackers, and other pet-chem facilities around the world.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Michael joined the firm in 1989 and became a partner in 1997. Beginning in 2000, he served on the firm's Management Committee in a variety of roles. From 2000 to 2004, he served as the practice area leader for Litigation, from 2005 to 2011, he served as the managing partner of the Pittsburgh office, from 2011 to 2017, he served as a practice area leader of the firm's global Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources practice, and from 2017 to 2019 he served as the Managing Partner in the United States.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2003, Michael has been recognized by his peers and by various publications:

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Business Litigation (2003-2005), Commercial Litigation (2006-2027), and Insurance Law (2006-2027)
- Named a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer (2024-2026)
- Named to *City & State's 2022 Impact 50* (Pennsylvanians who are making the world a better place)
- *Chambers USA Client's Guide* (Chambers and Partners Legal Publishers) for litigation (2006), litigation-insurance coverage (2007-2010) and litigation-commercial (2011-2020)
- *BTI Client Service All-Star* (2019)
- *Best Lawyers*® 2017 Pittsburgh Insurance Law "Lawyer of the Year"
- *Who's Who in Energy* published by the American City Business Journals in Dallas, Denver, Houston, Pittsburgh and San Antonio (2011-2016)
- *The Young Litigators Fab Fifty*® (The American Lawyer) list of 50 up-and-coming litigators, aged 45 and under (2007)
- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, energy and natural resources, insurance coverage and business litigation (2004-2016)
- *Guide to the World's Leading Insurance and Reinsurance Lawyers* (Legal Media Group) (2006-2014)
- Local Litigation Star in *Euromoney's Benchmark Litigation* 2010 in Pennsylvania for Insurance and Products Liability
- Listed in *Euromoney*'s 2013, 2017 Insurance and Reinsurance Expert Guide
- *Lawdragon Magazine*'s “The Lawdragon 500: New Stars, New Worlds” (Summer 2006)
- Selected as a “Fast Tracker” by the *Pittsburgh Business Times* (2004), an award recognizing business professionals under the age of 45 who are making a difference in Pittsburgh and the surrounding community

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (Board Member: 2017-present)
- Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (Legal Policy Council Member: 2024)
- Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry (Policy Roundtable Member: 2016)
- Dollar Energy Fund, Inc. (Board Member: 2022-present)
- Leadership Pittsburgh, Inc. (Board Member: 2011-2024; Chair Governance Committee: 2013-2016, 2018-2020; Board Chair: 2020-2022)
- United Way Tocqueville Society (Committee Member 2020-2022)
- University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Energy Advisory Board (2013-2018)
- Pennsylvania Business Council (Board Member: 2014-2016)
- Pennsylvania Business Council (Policy Roundtable Member: 2011-2016)
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Board Member: 2007-2017; Secretary: 2008-2012, Chair Governance Committee: 2012-2015)
- Dress for Success - Pittsburgh (Advisory Board: 2006-2018)
- Three Rivers Adoption Council (past Board Member)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Michael has spoken throughout Asia (Singapore, Jakarta, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Taipei, Seoul), Australia (Perth, Sydney, Melbourne), Europe (London, Moscow, Warsaw), and the United States to national oil and energy companies, sovereign wealth funds, multinational corporations, state-owned enterprises, investment banks, national development banks, regional and international trade associations, and other companies about energy-related developments and projects, particularly in relation to shale oil and gas developments and LNG projects and regulations.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Pittsburgh School of Law, 1989 *(magna cum laude; Order of the Coif; Notes and Comments Editor, The Journal of Law and Commerce)*
- B.A., University of Pittsburgh, 1986 *(summa cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Pennsylvania

- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

NEWS & EVENTS

- 2 February 2026, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized on *Thomson Reuters* Stand-out Lawyers List
- 11 March 2025, Nearly 50 K&L Gates Lawyers Receive Global Recognition in *Thomson Reuters*' Stand-out Lawyers List
- 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
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Construction and Infrastructure Dispute Resolution
- Insurance Recovery and Counseling
- Mass Tort
- Product Liability

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Offshore Construction
- Oil and Gas
- Rail and Roads

- Transportation and Logistics

EMERGING ISSUES

- Data Centers and Energy Intensive Infrastructure