



J. Tyler Butts

Partner

jbutts@rc.com

Hartford — 860.275.8226

J. Tyler Butts represents the insurance industry in complex first-party property and third-party liability insurance coverage litigation throughout the country, with a focus on litigation concerning allegations of bad faith and other extra-contractual claims. He is part of our firm's Litigation section and a member of our firm's Insurance + Reinsurance group.

COVID-19 Pandemic

In the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Tyler has helped lead Robinson+Cole's efforts to advise, counsel, and defend our firm's insurance clients during these unprecedented times. He has been involved in COVID-19 related matters across the country, including in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Texas, Arizona, and California, and has worked on litigation involving many different industries, including restaurants, entertainment venues, manufacturing risks, law firms, and personal service businesses. These claims have implicated numerous policy provisions, including those providing coverage for business interruption, extra expense, and civil authority, as well as policy exclusions for virus, ordinance & law, acts & decisions, and loss of use.

Property Insurance Coverage + Bad Faith Litigation

Tyler has extensive experience litigating and advising clients on complex property insurance coverage issues and allegations of bad faith and unfair claims settlement practices arising out of large property losses. He has been involved in property coverage disputes in a number of states, including Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. He routinely litigates high-exposure claims arising from a wide variety of insurance lines, including commercial property, business interruption and extra expense, builder's risk, boiler and machinery, liability, and high net-worth homeowners. Tyler is adept at working with expert witnesses in connection with property coverage disputes, including structural engineers, mechanical engineers, electrical engineers, cost estimators, appraisers, and forensic accountants.

Tyler has significant experience handling lawsuits asserting claims for extra-contractual damages, such as those available in Massachusetts under Chapter 93A and in Connecticut under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA) and Connecticut Unfair Insurance Practices Act (CUIPA). He has successfully represented clients in arbitrations, appraisals, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. He also has significant trial experience at both the state and federal level, having tried a number of cases to successful verdict, including recently recovering over \$300,000 for his client after a jury trial determined that the insured homeowner had committed fraud when submitting her claim.

Write-Your-Own Insurance Carriers - National Flood Insurance Program

Tyler has considerable experience representing Write-Your-Own insurance carriers in litigation brought under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program. He has litigated matters on behalf of WYO-carriers in a number of states, including New York, New Jersey, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and California. Tyler has successfully moved to dismiss WYO cases seeking bad faith or punitive damages, as well as suits that failed to comply with the Standard Flood

Insurance Policy's preconditions for initiating suit. He has also successfully resolved a number of litigated matters prior to incurring significant fees in discovery and motion practice.

Pro Bono

Tyler is committed to pro bono work. He participates in our firm's Domestic Violence Restraining Order Program, and provides free legal services to family violence victims, including helping them obtain restraining orders and navigate the family court system. He also provides pro bono services to incarcerated individuals asserting violations of their civil rights under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Because of his efforts, Tyler was Robinson+Cole's Pro Bono Service Award Recipient in 2013.

Prior to joining Robinson+Cole, Tyler worked with a national law firm on securities and probate litigation as well as on complex class action matters.

Services

- Insurance + Reinsurance
- Insurance Appeals
- Extracontractual Liability Litigation
- Liability Coverage
- Property Insurance Coverage Litigation
- Class Action Defense
- Appellate

Education

- The College of William & Mary School of Law (Juris Doctor, *Order of the Coif*)
 - Notes Editor of the William & Mary Law Review
- The College of William & Mary (Bachelors, *magna cum laude*)
 - B.A., History and Government
 - Monroe Scholar

Admissions

- State of Connecticut
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Connecticut
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York

Recognitions

Robinson+Cole Mentor of the Year Award recipient, 2019

Robinson+Cole Pro Bono Service Award recipient, 2013 and 2018

Selected as a Rising Star to the Connecticut Super Lawyers list from 2013 to 2020

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, "First 100," 2013

Connecticut Bar Association Young Lawyers Section Leadership Award recipient, 2022

Leadership + Memberships

American Bar Association

Connecticut Bar Association

Young Lawyers Section, Executive Committee, Membership Director

Insurance Law Section, Treasurer (2020 - 2022)

Insurance Law Section, Secretary (2022 - 2023)

Connecticut Bar Foundation

James W. Cooper Fellow

Civics First

Board of Directors

United Way

Co-Chair of R&C's United Way Drive (2020)