



Michael E. Holzapfel

Counsel

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New York — 212.451.2911

Michael E. Holzapfel is an ERISA litigator with more than 20 years of experience representing a wide range of clients in state and federal courts across the country. Mike has extensive experience representing employers, insurers, third-party administrators, and fiduciaries in ERISA benefits and statutory lawsuits, both on a single-plaintiff and class action basis. His ability to navigate the complexities of ERISA, federal and state insurance laws, and related regulations have made him a “go-to” benefits lawyer for clients located from California to Massachusetts. Mike is widely recognized for his work in the managed care field. He prides himself on delivering practical advice tailored to each client’s needs and provides effective counsel from pre-trial through appeals process.

Mike also has extensive experience in commercial litigation, bankruptcy litigation, and construction law. His clients have included national insurers, banks, private equity lenders, hedge funds, large general contractors, and specialty trade subcontractors. This versatility allows him to advise clients across industries and deliver clear, effective strategies for resolving disputes.

During law school, Mike was an associate editor of the Journal of Contemporary Health Law and Policy. Following law school, he clerked for the Honorable Lawrence M. Lawson, Assignment Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Monmouth County.

* Admitted *pro hac vice* in multiple jurisdictions

Services

- Managed Care + ERISA Litigation

Education

- The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (Juris Doctor)
 - Associate Editor, Journal of Contemporary Health Law & Policy
 - Moot Court Associate
 - Student Attorney, Columbus Family Law Clinic
 - Recipient of “First Lap Award” for outstanding community service
- College of the Holy Cross (Bachelors)
 - B.A., History
 - Dean’s List
 - Francis Ouimet Scholar

- Varsity Swimming
- Patriot League Athletic-Academic Team

Admissions

- State of New Jersey
- State of New York
- U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Recognitions

2024 *Legal 500 USA Guide*, “Recommended Attorney – ERISA Litigation”

Selected to the New Jersey *Super Lawyers* list from 2021 to 2025

Selected as a Rising Star in the New Jersey *Super Lawyers* list from 2006 to 2017

Selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Construction Litigation for 2016 and 2017

Leadership + Memberships

American Bar Association

Fellow, Member of Employee Benefits Committee, and Contributing Editor to ABA Employee Benefits Law Treatise

New Jersey State Bar Association

Defense Resource Institute

Borough of Little Silver

Councilperson (2018-2020), (2021-2023)

Elected as councilperson to a three-year term in 2017; re-elected to a three-year term in 2020

Council President (2021)

Planning Board Member (2013 – 2024)

Chair, Telecommunications Committee, Committee on Affordable Housing, and Planning Committee

Member, Budget and Finance Committee and Personnel Committee

Council liaison to the Planning Board, Environmental Commission, and Tax Assessor’s Office

Drafted first-of-its kind ordinances, including ordinances pertaining to 5G telecommunication regulation.

Chair, Affordable Housing Subcommittee

Appointed by Mayor and Council in 2013

Member, various subcommittees, including subcommittee on retail marijuana