



**BULLIVANT
HOUSER**



DANIEL R. BENTSON

Shareholder

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Dan Bentson is a seasoned litigator with extensive experience representing insurers in coverage disputes involving builder's risk, commercial property, and other first-party claims. He also represents insurers in disputes involving various lines of third-party liability insurance, including commercial general liability, employer's liability, and errors and omissions coverage. He has defended insurers in numerous high-stakes lawsuits that involved claims of bad faith and extra-contractual liability and obtained successful results on summary judgment and at trial.

Clients seek him out not only because of his solid understanding of the insurance industry and coverage issues, but also his knowledge of the local landscape and the unique perils insurers face in Washington. Dan is skilled at spotting issues and comes prepared with solutions to build strong defenses early in a case. When developing strategy, he's practical and keeps his client's bottom-line interests at heart. He works to move the ball forward while still keeping the big picture in mind.

Dan also has a successful appellate practice. Before joining Bullivant, he served as a law clerk to Justice James Johnson of the Washington State Supreme Court. Dan now represents clients before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth and Sixth Circuits, the Washington Court of Appeals, and the Washington Supreme Court.

Prior to his clerkship, Dan was a prosecutor and successful trial lawyer in the United States Army JAG Corps. He handled numerous felony prosecutions and served as lead counsel in a capital murder case. This set him up with trial experience early in his career and gave him a leg up when entering private practice. While in the Army, he deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and received the Bronze Star Medal for his service.

PRACTICE AREAS

Admiralty & Maritime
Appellate
Commercial Litigation
Insurance Coverage

EDUCATION

- University of Washington, School of Law - J.D., 2005
- Biola University - B.A., 2002

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Oregon
- Washington

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- American Bar Association (Vice Chair, Trial Tort & Insurance Practice (TIPS) Property Insurance Law Committee)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Selected for inclusion in *Washing Super Lawyers* (2022 — Insurance Coverage)
- Named as a “Rising Star” in *Washington Super Lawyers* (2015-2020 — Insurance Coverage)
- Recipient of the United States Army’s Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and Army Commendation Medal

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Co-Speaker & Author, “Extra-Contractual Issues and Exposures,” The Seminar Group Northwest Insurance Law (2020)
- Co-Speaker & Author, “Understanding ‘Occurrences’ in Liability Policies in the Context of Construction Litigation,” The Seminar Group Comprehensive Insurance Law Summit (2017)
- Co-Author, “The Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011 and Contingent Business Interruption Coverage,” *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal* Fall 2016 (52:1)
- Speaker, “Case Law and Regulatory Update: Washington State,” The Seminar Group Comprehensive Insurance Law Summit (2016)
- Co-Speaker & Author, “Change is in the Air: Recent Changes in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,” *Western States Surety Conference* (2016)
- Co-Speaker & Author, “Japanese Tsunami and Contingent Business Interruption Losses,” American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) Property Insurance Law Committee Annual Spring CLE Meeting (2016)
- Speaker, “Case Law and Regulatory Update: Washington State,” The Seminar Group Comprehensive Insurance Law Conference (2015)
- Co-Speaker, “Intermodal Transportation and Risks,” *Marine Insurance Association of Seattle (MIAS) Day of Education* (2015)
- Speaker, “Case Law and Regulatory Update: Washington State” The Seminar Group Comprehensive Insurance Law Conference (2014)
- Co-Speaker, “Words Matter: Drafting and Interpreting Insurance Policies,” *Association of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco* (2014)
- Co-Author, “Binding Arbitration Clauses No Longer Bind Policyholders in Washington,” *American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee Newsletter* (2013)
- Co-Speaker, “Introduction to Extra-Contractual Insurance Claims in Washington State,” *Western States Surety Conference* (2013)
- Co-Author, “Fringe Science Put to the Test in ‘Collapse’ Case,” *King County Bar Association, Bar Bulletin* (2013)
- Chapter Author, “Professional Liability Insurance: A Compendium of State Law,” *Defense Research Institute (DRI)* (2012)
- Co-Speaker, “Surety Law Updates – Western States (Except California),” *Western States Surety Conference* (2012)