



**BULLIVANT
HOUSER**



JOHN A. BENNETT

Shareholder

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John Bennett has defended and tried cases on behalf of insurance companies for almost 40 years in Oregon, Washington, and other western states. He speaks their language, understands their protocols and pressures they face, and what they need to resolve claims. His practice predominantly involves insurance coverage and defense of claims for extra-contractual, or bad faith, damages. Clients seek his guidance on what a claim is worth, what jurisdictions are like, and their chances of success.

Though John has made a living trying cases, he recognizes that most lawsuits are resolved without trial and settlement. A trial can be expensive and disruptive to an organization. John has used all forms of ADR to resolve cases short of trial, including direct negotiation with opposing counsel, mediation, arbitration, and mini-trials. His goal is to find the most effective and efficient way to solve the client's legal problem.

Sometimes, however, a trial is the only way to resolve a case, and counsel needs to be able and willing to see the matter through to verdict. John has tried to verdict multiple lawsuits involving insurance coverage and bad faith issues.

John's career started in the Multnomah County District Attorney's office, the largest prosecuting office in the state of Oregon, where he tried every type of criminal case, including murders, and was the Chief Deputy District Attorney when he moved to private practice.

Property Insurance Coverage

- Commercial and Personal Lines
- Builders Risk
- Progressive loss claims
- Boiler & Machinery
- Business Income/Extra Expense

Liability Coverage

- Commercial and Personal Lines
- Claims of sex abuse
- Personal and advertising injury issues
- Additional insured issues

SIU / Fraud Claims

Extra-Contractual Defense

Defending insurers against allegations of Consumer Protection Act (CPA) violations, Washington Insurance Fair Conduct Act violations, common law “bad faith” claims handling, torts of intentional interference with business relations, and outrageous conduct.

Insurance Regulatory

Representation of insurers regarding policy forms in non-standard lines and allegations of noncompliance with regulatory statutes.

Class Actions

Has represented insurers in alleged national class actions, including recent COVID litigation, acting as part of team with national counsel. Also, has represented an insurer in state-wide actions seeking class certification

PRACTICE AREAS

Insurance Coverage

EDUCATION

- Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College – J.D., 1975 (Member, Law Review)
- University of Oregon – B.A., 1972

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Oregon, 1975
- Washington, 2002

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

- American College of Trial Lawyers (Fellow, 2013-Present)
- Defense Research Institute (Member)
- Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (Retired Member; Former Chair, Property Insurance Section)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- AV® Preeminent™, Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion in Oregon Super Lawyers (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006 – Insurance Coverage)
- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® (2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 – Commercial Litigation; Insurance Law)
- Named the Best Lawyers® 2020 Portland-OR Insurance Law “Lawyer of the Year”
- Named as a “Local Litigation Star” by Benchmark Litigation (2018, 2017, 2016 & 2015 – Insurance)
- First recipient of Bullivant Houser Bailey’s Trial Lawyer of the Year Award for defense verdict in The Mckee Owners Assoc. v. The Travelers Indemnity Co. of Am., King County Superior Court, Washington (first party claim seeking coverage for construction defects)

**PUBLICATIONS AND
PRESENTATIONS**

- Co-Author, "Fringe Science Put to the Test in 'Collapse' Case," King County Bar Association, Bar Bulletin (2013)
- Co-Speaker, "Insurance in the Construction Industry," The Seminar Group (2012)
- Co-Editor, "Insurance Law: The Basics (2011 Ed.)," Oregon State Bar Legal Publications (2011)
- Author, "Fundamentals of Property Insurance," Washington State Bar Association Insurance Law Primer CLE (2010)