

## CHRISTOPHER W. WOODWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL



### AREAS OF PRACTICE

Miscellaneous Professional Liability  
Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith  
Litigation

### CONTACT INFO

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### ADMISSIONS

Pennsylvania  
2013

U.S. District Court Middle District  
of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court Western District  
of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court Eastern District  
of Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit

### OVERVIEW

Christopher is a member of the Professional Liability Department where his practice is focused on insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. As an experienced litigator, he has developed a deep understanding of insurance policy and coverage issues arising from commercial, personal, and specialty property and casualty policies, professional liability policies, health/life policies and workers' compensation policies.

Prior to joining Marshall Dennehey, Christopher worked as a senior claims examiner where he dealt with coverage issues and the management of professional liability lawsuits with a focus on municipalities. This experience has provided Christopher with a unique perspective in understanding the tactics utilized by plaintiffs to leverage settlement issues both before and during litigation, as well as analyzing available coverage, responses to civil remedy notices, pre-suit investigations and coverage evaluations. Christopher also presents seminars to clients about issues in the insurance coverage and bad faith practice area.

In 2009 Christopher graduated from Penn State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He later attended Widener University School of Law where he earned his *juris doctor*, magna cum laude, in 2013.

During his time in law school, Christopher was a senior staff member of the Widener Law Journal, which published his survey analyzing a Pennsylvania Supreme Court administrative law decision in its Spring 2013 issue. Christopher also held an internship for the Pennsylvania Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund and clerked for the local staff defense counsel of a national insurance company.

### EDUCATION

Widener University School of Law  
(J.D., magna cum laude, 2013)

The Pennsylvania State University  
(B.A., 2009)

### ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Cumberland County Bar  
Association

Dauphin County Bar Association

Pennsylvania Bar Association

### YEAR JOINED

2015

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

### **Court Denies UIM Coverage to Woman, Claiming ‘Family Member’ Status Through Daughter**

**Harrisburg**

**Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**April 1, 2025**

The plaintiff, who resided with her daughter in the home of her daughter’s paternal grandmother, sought UIM benefits under an auto insurance policy issued to the grandmother. Case Law Alerts, 2nd Quarter, Apri

### **Pennsylvania Court Reiterates that Single Vehicle Policies Can Be Stacked and Stacking Can Provide Benefit to Insured**

**Harrisburg**

**Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**January 1, 2025**

The Superior Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the grant of summary judgment in favor of Nationwide by the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in this purported class action litigation. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Work Product Doctrine Does Not Apply to Claims Materials, Even if Received After Demand Letter Threatening Litigation**

**Harrisburg**

**Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**January 1, 2025**

Ms. Long made a claim for Underinsured Motorist benefits under a policy of auto insurance that the insurer had issued to her. Her lawyer sent a demand letter to the insurer, demanding UIM policy limits to avoid litigation. Case Law Alerts, 1st Quarter, Janu

### **Marshall Dennehey Announces 2025 Shareholder Class And Special Counsel Promotions**

December 13, 2024

Marshall Dennehey is pleased to announce that 10 attorneys have been elected shareholders of the firm effective Jan. 1, 2025. Additionally, two attorneys have been promoted from associate to special counsel.

[Read More](#)

### **Three Recent Third Circuit Decisions Underline Validity of Regular Use Exclusion and Household Vehicle Exclusion—under the Appropriate Circumstances—in UM/UIM Policies.**

**Harrisburg**

**Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**October 1, 2024**

In *Eberly v. LM Gen. Ins.* Case Law Alerts, 4th Quarter, Octo

### **CLASSES / SEMINARS TAUGHT**

*Untying Tangled Titles – How Property Insurance Drives Fraud*, Pennsylvania Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (IFPA) Conference, Pocono Manor, PA, April 27, 2023

*Untying Tangled Titles – How To Recognize How Property Title Issues Drive Fraud*, Marshall Dennehey Insurance Fraud 360 Seminar, Lafayette Hill, PA, June, 2022

*PIP in PA: Questions & Answers*, Client Webinar, December 2020

## PUBLISHED WORKS

"'Regular Use Exclusions' Stand: Pa. Supreme Court's Latest Ruling Post-'Gallagher'," *The Legal Intelligencer* Insurance Law Supplement, August 20, 2024

"Your Residence Is Not Necessarily Where You Live," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 28, No. 12, December 2022

"Pa. Ruling Leaves Auto Policy Stacking Questions," *Law360*, November 10, 2021

"Just How Hard Does Gallagher Hit the Household Vehicle Exclusion?," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 25, No. 2, June 2019

"The Pennsylvania Supreme Court Clarifies the Standard that Courts Must Use When Considering Claims Made for Insurance Bad Faith Under 42 Pa.C.S. § 8371," *Defense Digest*, Vol. 24, No. 2, June 2018

*Case Law Alerts*, regular contributor, 2016-present

"PA Superior Court Decision Means Bad Faith Claims May Live to See Another Day, *Rancosky v. Washington National Insurance Co.*, 2015 Pa. Super. LEXIS 822, 2015 PA Super 264 (Pa. Super. Ct. Dec. 16, 2015)," *Legal Updates for Insurance Coverage and Bad Faith*, March 3, 2016

## RESULTS

### Defense Prevails in Automobile Liability Case.

#### **Insurance Services – Coverage & Bad Faith Litigation**

**May 11, 2018**

We secured the dismissal of a declaratory judgment action filed in federal court against a large insurer. This case arose from a motor vehicle accident that occurred in 2015. The plaintiff averred that she had sustained injuries in excess of the tortfeasor's bodily injury liability limits and sought stacked underinsured motorist (UIM) benefits. While the plaintiff had admittedly signed a rejection of UIM coverage form and a rejection of UIM coverage stacked limits form, she argued that her insurer had altered the statutorily required forms by adding additional language.