

Christopher J. Blake

Partner

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With 30 years of litigation experience, Chris has had primary responsibility for handling a range of complex commercial disputes. His litigation practice focuses on business and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts, as well as arbitration and other dispute resolution forums. Chris's approach to complex commercial disputes is to identify a client's business objectives and then work jointly with the client to develop a litigation strategy to maximize the achievement of those objectives. He is co-leader of the Insurance Group.

Experience

The following is a selected sampling of matters and is provided for informational purposes only. Past success does not indicate the likelihood of success in any future matter.

Representative Experience

- Represented a healthcare client in a complex commercial arbitration arising from the client's acquisition of the assets of another healthcare business. Upon discovery of practices by the selling company constituting possible Medicare fraud, the client commenced arbitration against the sellers alleging claims for breaches of representations and warranties and seeking damages for the reduced value of the assets purchased. Following a weeklong hearing, the arbitration panel awarded damages in excess of \$5 million, plus the client's attorneys' fees and arbitration costs.
- Represented a client in seeking recovery of a deficiency judgment against a spousal guarantor arising from a failed real estate development. The spousal guarantor raised defenses under the federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA). Following a trial court judgment against the client after the only jury trial under ECOA in North Carolina at that time, Chris appealed the judgment to the North Carolina Supreme Court, obtained a reversal of the judgment, and had judgment entered against the spousal guarantor. *RL Regi N.C., LLC v. Lighthouse Cove, LLC*, 367 N.C. 425, 762 S.E.2d 188 (2014).
- Represented healthcare clients in disputes with providers involving complex issues of claims submission and adjudication, coverage under health plans, and terms and

Education

Catholic University of America, JD
(1986)

Pace University, BA, Journalism (1983)

Admissions

District of Columbia

North Carolina

Practice Areas

[Appellate Practice & Legal Strategies](#)

[Bad Faith & Extra Contractual Litigation](#)

[Commercial Litigation & Business Torts](#)

[Class Action & Multi-Claim Litigation](#)

[Property & Casualty Coverage](#)

conditions of provider agreements. Chris is currently handling a class arbitration proceeding for two Medicare Advantage Plans involving claims that the Plans failed to implement fee schedule changes pursuant to provider agreements.

- Represented clients in complex financial disputes seeking to obtain judgments against high net worth individuals. These cases involve issues related to deficiency judgments arising from failed real estate developments, rights and obligations of guarantors, fraudulent conveyances, debt collection involving failed financial institutions and the FDIC, and complex judgment collection efforts. Has obtained deficiency judgments of \$20 million, \$2.7 million, and several amounts up to \$1 million.
- Represents life and property and casualty insurers in connection with coverage litigation, and claims handling litigation involving claims of insurer bad faith and unfair and deceptive trade practices. In one bad faith case, Chris assisted in an appeal to the North Carolina Court of Appeals that resulted in discovery sanctions being vacated against the insurer. *Arnold v. The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania*, Case No. COA14–715 (December 31, 2014) (unpublished opinion). Chris also regularly provides coverage opinions for general liability claims, including triggers of coverage and the duty to defend and indemnify.
- Has litigated cases involving liability of officers and directors for breaches of fiduciary duties, and alleged failures to follow the business judgment rule
- Has been lead trial counsel in more than 20 jury trials and arbitration hearings and complex commercial and business disputes
- Regularly appears before state regulatory agencies, including the N.C. Department of Insurance and the N.C. Industrial Commission

Previous Professional Experience

- Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, Washington, DC
- Moore & Van Allen, Raleigh, NC

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association
- North Carolina Bar Association
- Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, Commercial Litigation and Insurance Sections

Leadership

- Board member, Kid's Voting–North Carolina/Wak

Articles & Speeches**Events/Speaking Engagements**

Litigation Management: Tips for Navigating Dispute Resolution Efficiently and Cost Effectively, Research Triangle Area Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel - Co-Presenter (April 13, 2022)

[Navigating the Legal, Economic and Business Challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic | Webinar 4- Speaker](#) (April 8, 2020)