

STEPHEN A MELENDI

E: STEPHENM@TBMMLAW.COM / P: 214-665-0103



Mr. Melendi's practice focuses on insurance coverage analysis and disputes. He has represented parties to insurance disputes

involving interpretation of liability, property, errors and omissions, commercial auto, trucking, and excess policies, as well as in disputes regarding an insurer's duty of good faith and fair dealing and other duties throughout the State of Texas at the trial court level and on appeal.

Stephen is rated "AV Pre-eminent" by Martindale-Hubbell, and is a Member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. He was named a "Texas Super Lawyer" as published in Texas Monthly Magazine in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016; and was named a "Texas Rising Star" as published in Texas Monthly Magazine in 2007 - 2013.



EDUCATION: Stephen graduated cum laude from Southern Methodist University School of Law. While in law school, he was an articles editor for the International Law Review Association and is a member of Phi Delta Phi. Mr. Melendi also served as Judicial Extern for the late Chief Judge Jerry Buchmeyer of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Prior to attending law school Stephen graduated from Texas A & M University with a B.S. in political science.

ADMISSIONS: Mr. Melendi is admitted to practice law before all state courts in Texas, all United States District Courts in Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as the United States Courts of Appeal for the Fifth, Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Circuits.

MEMBERSHIPS: State Bar of Texas, American Bar Association, Dallas Bar Association, College of the State Bar of Texas, Texas Aggie Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) – Greater Dallas Chapter Vice President and Extra Contractual Committee

ACTIVITIES: Council Member, Council of the Insurance Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, 2014-present
Dallas Bar Association Tort and Insurance Practice Section, Director – 2014 – present, Secretary – 2016, Vice-Chair - 2017, Chair 2018

Member of the Planning Committee for the Annual Insurance Law Institute, co-sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law 2009- 2016 (Co-Chair 2014 - 2016)

Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM) – Greater Dallas Chapter Secretary – 2016-2017, Vice-Chair 2018-present

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Representative Cases

- Priority of Coverage or: Who Picks Up the Tab at the End of the Night
State Bar of Texas, Fourteenth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2017
- The Primary Excess Relationships, Or the Cause and Effect of Helicopter Carriers
State Bar of Texas, Twelfth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, San Antonio, Texas, 2015
- Gilbert/Ewing – Contractual Liability Coverage
State Bar of Texas, Ninth Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, Dallas, Texas, 2012
- Auto Coverage under General Liability Policies,
Presented at the 16th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2011
- Other Insurance: One, Two, Three ... Not "It!"
Presented at the 15th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2010
- The Application of Pollution Exclusions in Texas
Presented at the 14th Annual Insurance Law Institute, University of Texas School of Law, 2009

Representative Reported Cases

- Colony Natl. Ins. Co. v. United Fire & Fed.Appx. ___ 667 Fed. Appx. 941 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Quibodeaux v. Nautilus Ins. Co., 655 Fed.Appx. 984 (5th Cir. 2016)
- Colony Ins. Co. v. Chesapeake Energy Corp., ___ 215 F.Supp.3d 1190 (W.D.Okla.2016)
- Colony Ins. Co. v. Price, 622 Fed.Appx. 311 (5th Cir. 2015)(per curiam)
- Morrison v. Fettig, et al., 630 Fed.Appx. 307 (5th Cir. 2015)(per curiam)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Texas State Sec. and Patrol, 2010 WL 3239157 (W.D.Tex. June 18, 2010)
- Colony Nat. Ins. Co. v. Specialty Trailer Leasing, Inc., 620 F.Supp. 786 (N.D.Tex. 2009)
- James River Ins. Co. v. Affordable Hous. of Kingsville II, Ltd., 2012 WL 1551529 (S.D.Tex. Apr.27, 2012)
- Continental Cas. Co. v. Consolidated Graphics, Inc., 646 F.3d 210 (5th Cir. 2011)
- National Fire Ins. Of Hartford v. C. Hodges & Associates, PLLC, 825 F.Supp.2d 792 (W.D.Tex 2011)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Villalta, 558 Fed.Appx. 404 (5th Cir. 2014)(Mem.Op)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Steinberg, 316 S.W.3d 752 (Tex.App. – Dallas 2010, pet denied)
- Transport International Pool, Inc. v. Continental Ins. Co., 166 S.W.3d 781 (Tex.App. – Fort Worth 2005, no pet.)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Country Oaks Apartments Ltd., 566 F.3d 452 (5th Cir. 2009)
- Trinity Universal Ins. Co. v. Emplrs Mut. Cas. Co, 592 F.3d 687 (5th Cir. 2010)
- Nat'l Fire Ins. Co. v. Entertainment Specialty Ins. Services, Inc., 485 F.Supp.2d 737 (N.D.Tex. 2007)
- National Fire Ins. Co. v. NWM-Oklahoma, LLC, Inc., 546 F. Supp. 2d 1238 (W.D.Okla. 2008)
- Transcontinental Ins. Co. v. Rainwater Const. Co., LLC, 509 F.3d 454, (8th Cir.(Ark.) 2007)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Nicky & Claire's Day Care, Inc., 630 F.Supp.2d 727 (W.D.Tex. 2009)
- Nautilus Ins. Co. v. Reuter, 537 F.3d 733 (7th Cir. (Ind.) 2008)
- Richmond Condominiums v. Skipworth Commercial Plumbing, Inc., 245 S.W.3d 646, (Tex.App.-Fort Worth 2008, pet. denied)
- Am. S. Ins. Co. v. Buckley, 748 F.Supp.2d 610 (E.D.Tex.2010)