



25th Annual Claims Handling Seminars

FIGHTING THE STRATEGIC BATTLE TO WIN THE WAR

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Presented and Prepared by:

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Gary D. Nelson
- *Managing Partner*

Gary currently serves as the Managing Partner of the firm. He began his legal career with Heyl Royster in 1977 and became a partner with the firm in 1985. He became the firm's managing partner in 2010.

Gary is also the Chair of our state-wide Insurance Coverage Practice Group. He concentrates his practice on liability insurance coverage cases for CGL, umbrella/excess, automobile, home, life, health and disability policies, as well as civil litigation in trial and ADR settings with a special focus on trucking and common carrier disputes, construction litigation, and architect/engineer professional liability claims.

He has represented more than 100 insurers and self-insureds in over 1,000 cases in his career.

He has litigated a wide range of coverage issues in both the state and federal courts, including the defense of insurance carriers in bad faith and vexatious refusal to pay cases as well as representing insurance agents in errors and omissions claims. He has also had the opportunity to represent several trucking companies and construction companies in catastrophic injury cases, utilizing accident reconstruction and animation techniques, defending against fatigue, distraction, and conspicuity issues, as well as the medical and biomechanical issues confronted in those types of catastrophic injury cases.

Gary is a frequent speaker on insurance issues to bar and industry groups, both in Illinois and nationally, as well as addressing motor carrier groups and counsel and design professionals on issues unique to those industries. He has authored a chapter on "Other Insurance" in *The Law & Practice of Insurance Coverage Litigation* published by West Group and has published a chapter on "The Intentional Act Exclusion" in the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education handbook on *Commercial and Professional Liability Insurance*.

Gary served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1972-1974.

Professional Recognition

- Martindale-Hubbell AV Rated
- Selected as a *Leading Lawyer* in Illinois. Only five percent of lawyers in the state are named as *Leading Lawyers*.
- Named to the Illinois *Super Lawyers* list (2008-2010). The *Super Lawyers* selection process is based on peer recognition and professional achievement. Only five percent of the lawyers in each state earn this designation.
- Illinois State Bar Association, Past Chair, Insurance Law Section Council
- American Bar Association, Past Chair, Self-Insurers & Risk Managers Committee
- American Bar Association, Past Chair, Insurance Law Coverage Committee
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel, Past Chair, Insurance Coverage Committee
- Abraham Lincoln American Inn of Court (Master)

Professional Associations

- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- Defense Research Institute
- Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel
- Trucking Industry Defense Association
- American Bar Association
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Peoria County Bar Association

Court Admissions

- State Courts of Illinois
- United States District Court, Central District of Illinois (trial bar)
- United States Courts of Appeals, Seventh Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Education

- Juris Doctor, University of Illinois, 1977
- Bachelor of Arts-Political Science, University of Illinois, 1972

