



Ira J. Belcove

partner

Ira is a partner and co-chair of the firm's Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration Practice Group, with more than 30 years of experience in reinsurance arbitration, complex business litigation and appellate practice. He has tried numerous disputes involving property & casualty, life and finite reinsurance on behalf of ceding insurers and assuming reinsurers. Ira has also represented reinsurers in connection with a number of insurer insolvencies.

In the course of his reinsurance practice, Ira has addressed such issues as:

- The cession of forest fire losses under property catastrophe treaties, including the division of loss occurrences pursuant to an hours clause
- The consolidation of arbitrations arising out of multiple treaties
- The aggregation of asbestos claims, and the number of occurrences in other environmental claims
- The propriety of cessions of construction defect claims
- The notice required for termination of an MGA agreement
- The insurability of claims for punitive damages
- The interpretation of guaranteed minimum death and income benefit reinsurance agreements
- The application of treaty ultimate net loss clauses to policy supplementary payments provisions
- Risk transfer and the interpretation of sublimits, termination clauses and other provisions found in finite reinsurance clauses
- A reinsurer's right of set-off against the estate of an insolvent insurer

In addition to his representation of clients as counsel, Ira has testified as an expert witness before the High Court of Justice in London on questions of U.S. insurance law.

Ira's business litigation practice focuses on complex commercial cases, including enforcement of restrictive covenants, actions under the Uniform Commercial Code and other contract disputes. He has also argued

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago Law School,
J.D., 1987

Columbia University, B.A., *summa cum laude*, 1984

SERVICES

Reinsurance Litigation & Arbitration

Litigation

- Product liability
- Commercial litigation
- Securities litigation
- Professional liability
- Non-competition and trade secrets litigation
- Arbitration and mediation
- Appellate and Supreme Court practice
- Insurance litigation

Business Competition Advice & Litigation

- Non-compete, non-solicitation, non-recruitment and non-disclosure agreements

appeals successfully before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Human Rights Commission.

Before entering private practice, Ira clerked for the Hon. Bernard M. Decker of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar)
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

PRESENTATIONS

- “3rd National Forum on Insurance Allocation,” American Conference Institute, June 2016
- “Allocation Issues That Arise When Reinsurance is Involved,” American Conference Institute’s 2nd National Forum on Insurance Allocation, June 26, 2015
- “Negotiation Workshop,” AIRROC, June 2015
- “Conflict Resolution: Strategies for Resolving Disputes Quickly and Cost-Effectively,” American Conference Institute’s 10th International Advanced Forum on Run-Off and Commutations, April 22, 2015
- “State of Insurance Allocation: Trigger Theories, Allocation Among Triggered Policies and Among Parities or Claims, Number of Occurrences, What Various States Have Done with Trigger and Allocation Issues, as well as Insolvency of Policy Holders vs. Gaps in Coverage and Insurer Insolvency,” American Conference Institute’s National Forum on Insurance Allocation, Oct. 29, 2014
- “Conflict Resolution: Strategies for Resolving Disputes Quickly and Cost-Effectively,” American Conference Institute’s 9th International Advanced Forum on Run-Off and Commutations, April 24, 2014
- “Negotiation Workshop,” AIRROC, February 2014

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- International Association of Insurance Law, U.S. Chapter (AIDA-U.S.), former Secretary-Treasurer
- ARIAS-U.S., Member

HONORS | AWARDS

- *Chambers USA*, Insurance: Dispute Resolution: Reinsurance, Illinois
- *The Legal 500 United States*, Insurance (Recommended Attorney)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®
- Illinois Super Lawyers
- *Leading Lawyers*, Insurance, Insurance Coverage & Reinsurance Law
- 5-Star Insurance Lawyer, *Business Insurance Magazine*, 2021
- *Who’s Who Legal*, Insurance & Reinsurance 2020-2021
- Phi Beta Kappa