

Professional Liability and Malpractice Litigation

Miller Canfield's professional liability and malpractice defense lawyers are the “go-to” attorneys for handling high-stakes professional liability litigation. Led by nationally recognized litigator Tom Cranmer, the firm's strength lies in its ability to skillfully handle these types of matters in a way that inspires confidence in our clients, and leads them to trust our judgment throughout the process. Our primary clients are law and accounting firms, and our lawyers have also handled professional negligence claims against physicians, health care professionals, social workers and appraisers.

What makes Miller Canfield particularly unique is that the firm also excels at counseling these professions facing disciplinary claims, claims of misconduct and/or criminal liability. We have been routinely called on to handle criminal and administrative investigations involving financial consultants, lawyers, judges, physicians, high-level employees and public officials. Our reputation is such that we've been hired twice by the Michigan Attorney General's office to defend the state's interests.

Miller Canfield's experience handling these types of matters adds value to our representation of any insured because our lawyers are aware of the types of behavior, evidence, testimony and admissions that could possibly trigger criminal liability or disciplinary action against the insured, or subject the insured to broader civil liability. Thus, we can advise with the 360-degree perspective of how an insured's conduct may subject it to liability of any kind. We look to limit more than just the insured's liability stemming from civil claims of professional liability; we also consider how we can ensure that our clients do not face additional risk or exposure from their underlying conduct.

Representative Matters

Successfully prosecuted claims against national insurance brokerages for professional negligence in placing commercial general liability and inland marine insurance coverages

Represented an AmLaw 200 firm in the successful resolution of a legal malpractice action related to a patent infringement lawsuit

Defended an international certified public accounting and business advisory firm against professional liability claims brought by a telecommunications industry client that hired the firm to advise them about their individual tax situation, and about certain business transactions

Represented a national law firm against claims brought by a sports manufacturer alleging it was responsible, under a successor liability theory, for supposed legal malpractice committed by certain lawyers prior to the time the lawyers became members of the firm

Represented a leading law firm against a professional liability claim brought by individuals who had hired engaged it to prepare documents to advertise and sell investment interests in an oil and gas exploration and extraction project in California

Represented an intellectual property law firm in a declaratory judgment action that it pre-emptively filed after being threatened with professional liability claims by an owner of several trademarks in the fitness industry