



JOHN E. MEAGHER

PARTNER

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John E. Meagher is a partner in the Miami office of Shutts & Bowen LLP and Chair of the Insurance Practice Group.

A Martindale-Hubbell AV® rated trial lawyer, John has been recognized as one of the *Best Lawyers in America*® in insurance law and been named a "Top Lawyer" by *South Florida Legal Guide*. John primarily represents insurance companies and third-party administrators in trial and appellate actions throughout the state and federal court systems. John also is an active commercial litigator.

In the insurance context, John has over thirty-years' experience in first, third party, and bad faith claims involving life, health, long term care, and disability insurance litigation. He has handled large, complex cases and numerous jury and non-jury trials for clients such as MetLife, Northwestern Mutual, Unum, and Davies Life & Health. In one of his recent federal court cases, tried during the pandemic, John obtained a defense verdict in a \$5 million "suicide" life insurance case where, for the first time in Florida, the Court, the parties, the witnesses, and the jury appeared entirely by Zoom.

As a result of his trial work, John frequently argues before both the state appellate courts and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. He has successfully argued before the Florida Supreme Court in a case involving far-reaching issues of attorney-client privilege in first-party bad faith claims and was lead counsel in a precedent setting case before the Third District Court of Appeals on the issue of whether bad faith claims could be pursued simultaneously with an insured's breach of contract claim, resulting in lower costs and exposure to insurers throughout the State. John recently prevailed before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, where the Court affirmed the trial court's ruling, allowing John's client to rescind a disability policy based on fraudulent misrepresentations.

John is a frequent speaker on insurance fraud, trial and deposition preparation, e-discovery, attorney-client privilege, and other litigation topics at meetings of the International Claims Association, the Defense Research Institute, the DI and LTC Insurer's Forum, the Definitive Disability Conference, and the Eastern and New England Claims Conferences. He's a member of the Law Committee of the International Claims Association and the Defense Research Institute.

John E. Meagher

Practice Areas

Insurance

Litigation

Industry Focus

Insurance

Accolades

- [Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ Rated, 5.0 out of 5.0](#)
- [Best Lawyers in America®](#)
 - Insurance Law, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
 - Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
- [Florida Trend](#) NOTABLE Managing Partner, 2025
- [South Florida Legal Guide](#), Top Lawyers, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
- [South Florida Business Journal](#), Power Leaders 250, 2020, 2021, 2024, 2025F

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., with honors, 1985
- University of South Florida, B.S., Political Science, with honors, 1982

Bar Admissions

Florida

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit

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- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional and Civic

- International Claims Association
- Defense Research Institute

Presentations

- Speaker, "Individual Health Insurance Lawsuits and Bad Faith," Life, Health, Disability and ERISA Seminar, Defense Research Institute, 2017
- Speaker, "Can You Keep a Secret? Preserving the Attorney-Client Privilege," Definitive Disability Conference, October 2015
- Speaker, "E-Discovery: Practicing Law in the Digital Age," Life, Health, Disability and ERISA Seminar, Defense Research Institute, 2013
- Speaker, Annual Meeting of the International Claims Association, 2009
- Speaker, "How Claims Decisions Play to a Jury—Mock Disability Trial," International Claims Association, 2005