

John D. Cole

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Career Summary

More than 20 years senior executive experience as both Chief Claims Officer and General Counsel concentrating in management of complex insurance and reinsurance issues, arbitration, environmental/mass tort litigation, and insurance standards and practices.

Professional Experience

Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP (August 2002-present)

Partner

- Provides strategic advice on claims and litigation management, asbestos and mass tort exposures, regulatory issues, mediation and arbitration.
- Provides expert consultation on claims, insurance, reinsurance and regulatory issues.
- Serves as Certified Arbitrator in reinsurance/insurance arbitration proceedings.

Zurich Insurance Group (1977-2002)

Executive Vice President and Chief Claims Officer, Zurich North America (4/00 – 8/02)

Significant responsibilities included:

- Direction of all North American claim operations for the third largest U.S. commercial insurer through a staff of 3,500, administering more than 550,000 claims annually.
- Management of total North American Claim operating and allocated/legal expense budgets.
- Strategic development of the organization's largest and most complex litigation exposures.
- Ultimate settlement authorization and decision-making for the largest multi-million dollar litigation exposures.
- Executive responsibility for reinsurance claim management, recoveries and dispute resolution, including establishment of Zurich's Reinsurance Claim department .

Executive Vice President, Legal Services - Zurich-U.S. (9/92-4/00)

- Group-wide management of all Mass Tort and Environmental Claim exposures (including multi-plaintiff/class action litigation involving asbestos, pollution, toxic chemical, pharmaceutical, breast-implant, mold, and similar industry-wide exposures).
- Management of National Staff Counsel program consisting of 48 staff legal offices, employing more than 300 trial attorneys litigating more than 20,000 suits countrywide.

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Senior Vice President and Chief Claims Officer, Maryland Casualty Company (5/90-9/92)

- Directed national claim operations, through a dedicated staff of 1,100, for independent operating subsidiary of Zurich Group.

Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Maryland Casualty Company (8/86-9/90)

- Chief Legal Officer for top-25 property-casualty insurer.
- Managed staff of 10 attorneys responsible for all corporate legal matters, state and federal government affairs activities and insurance regulatory compliance.
- Conducted confidential internal investigations.

Industry & Association Experience

International Association of Defense Counsel Member, 1989 – present.

(Largest invitation-only association of pre-eminent defense trial attorneys, insurance and corporate legal executives)

- *Vice President*, Insurance; *Member*, Executive Committee, 1994-1996.

American Insurance Association

- *Board of Governors* (Alternate), 1986-1990.
- *Member*, Law and Regulation Committee (General Counsel) 1986-2002; Claim Administration Committee (Chief Claims Officers). 1990-2002.
- *Member*, Special Committee of the Board of Directors on Superfund, 1986-2000.
- Selected by AIA as industry spokesman, provided Congressional testimony regarding Superfund reauthorization, 1992.

Defense Research Institute Member, 1986–present.

- Selected as speaker for numerous DRI industry-wide litigation programs, 1985-2001.

Insurance Environmental Litigation Association

(currently known as the Complex Insurance Claims Litigation Association)

- Selected organization's founding Chairman, 1986-1988.

ARIAS*U.S. (AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society)

- Member, 2002
- ARIAS-U.S. Certified Arbitrator (2003) ; appointed arbitrator in 25-plus arbitrations

Asbestos Claims Association

- Founding Member of the Steering (Governance) Committee, 1981-1985.

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Bar Memberships

- Admitted to the Maryland Bar (1979), District of Columbia Bar (2003) and the United States District Court, District of Maryland (1980).

Education

- B.A., Rutgers University.
- J.D., University of Baltimore School of Law.
- Harvard University, Program on Negotiation for Senior Executives.
- Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Executive Education Program.