

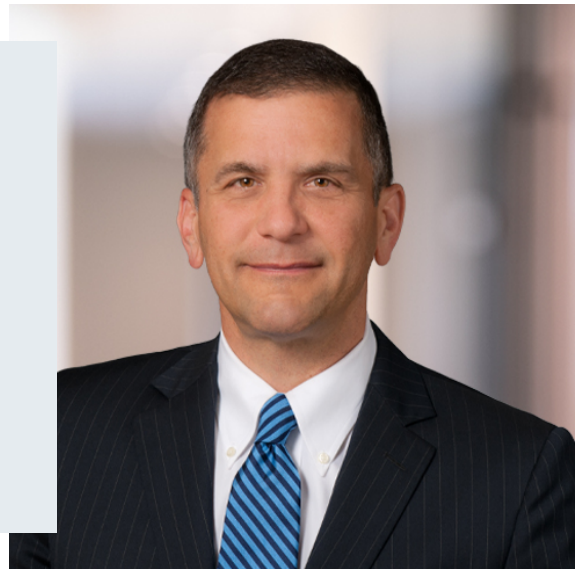
Michael R. Pontrelli

Partner

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Michael R. Pontrelli's practice has focused on high-stakes insurance and reinsurance matters, including title insurance disputes, ERISA claims, disputes among the principals of closely held businesses, and real estate litigation. He handles a range of complex litigation in federal and state courts across the country. Michael brings to the table a pragmatic, businesslike approach to achieving client objectives, coupled with forceful advocacy whenever necessary. A seasoned trial and appellate lawyer, he has particular experience structuring, managing, and resolving large cases.

Representative Experience

- Secured a judgment worth US\$200m in a federal court case over rights to share in the compensation paid to policyholders when a mutual life insurance company converted to a stock company.
- Defeated at trial and on appeal the pension-related claims brought against a *Fortune* 500 company by a former director and senior executive officer. (See *Hampers v. W.R. Grace & Co.*, 202 F.3d 44 (2000).)
- Won decisions worth several million dollars in a lawsuit on behalf of a leading defense contractor and its excess insurance carrier against the primary carrier for coverage of losses sustained by the defense contractor in two class actions.
- Enforced valuable easement rights in a case marked by extensive discovery and motion practice, a multiweek trial, and an appeal. (See *Dent v. Lovejoy*, 85 Conn. App. 952 (2004), *cert. denied*, 272 Conn. 912 (2005).)
- Advised on and resolved disputes for leading insurers over myriad direct and reinsurance coverage matters, including directors' and officers', banking, professional and fiduciary liability, antitrust, environmental, first-party property, patent and trademark, and products liability.
- Obtained favorable results for both plaintiffs and defendants in cases involving "freeze-out" claims by minority stockholders of close corporations.

Awards and Recognition

- *Massachusetts Super Lawyer*, an honor received by 5% of the state bar (2004, 2006, 2007, and 2013-2016)

Presentations and Publications

- Principal author, “Close Corporations and the Duty of Utmost Good Faith and Loyalty,” *Massachusetts Corporation Law and Practice*, a widely cited reference work for business lawyers and litigators

Sectors

- [Innovative Technology](#)
- [Racial Justice & Equity](#)

Practice Areas

- [Commercial Litigation](#)
- [Environmental](#)
- [Insurance & Reinsurance Litigation](#)
- [Litigation](#)

Education

- Harvard College (A.B., with honors)
 - Phi Beta Kappa
- Harvard Law School (J.D., with honors)
- Clerked for the Honorable Stephanie K. Seymour of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Admissions

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.