



## Steven D. Pearson

Partner | Chicago

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### Areas of Practice

Insurance and Reinsurance | Litigation/Trial Law | Trade Secrets

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Steven D. Pearson is a Partner in and Co-Head of the Litigation Department of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Mr. Pearson was previously the Co-Managing Partner with Freeborn & Peters, which combined with SGR in 2023.

Mr. Pearson has tried numerous cases to verdict in both state and federal courts in Illinois and across the country. His practice emphasizes the areas of insurance non-compete litigation; insurance coverage, bad faith, reinsurance, non-medical professional liability defense, complex general commercial litigation and restrictive covenants. Mr. Pearson also regularly litigates large scale attorney fee disputes and has testified as an expert witness in such matters. He has represented insurers and policyholders at every stage of the claims process, from policy drafting, to claims handling through trial and appeal in state and federal courts across the country. Mr. Pearson has also served as both national and regional counsel for a number of insurance companies in a broad array of industry sectors, including in general liability, construction defect, municipal liability, health care, environmental, mass tort and bad faith claims, and has significant trial experience defending bad faith cases to verdict.

Mr. Pearson has also repeatedly been engaged as an expert on insurance-related topics and has spoken regularly at insurance coverage seminars throughout the country. He has also taught insurance law as an adjunct professor of law with a special emphasis on the litigation of insurance claims and related extra-contractual obligations of insurers.

While at Freeborn (now SGR), Mr. Pearson served as Co-Managing Partner and Co-Leader of the Insurance Brokerage Team. Prior to joining Freeborn, Mr. Pearson was a Partner at Cozen O'Connor and spent 24 years at Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson LLP. Mr. Pearson earned his B.A. from University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

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## Admissions

Illinois

U.S. Supreme Court

U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

## Recognitions

Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated.

The Best Lawyers in America - Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law - 2013 - present.

Illinois Super Lawyers - 2005-2016, 2021, Insurance Coverage.

Leading Lawyer, Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

Illinois Leading Lawyers - Insurance Coverage, Business Litigation, Construction Litigation - 2020 (cited in multiple years).