



Steven D. Pearson

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Areas of Practice

Litigation/Trial Law | Restrictive Covenants/Trade Secrets | Insurance and Reinsurance

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

Mr. Pearson is an experienced trial lawyer who has tried numerous cases to verdict in both state and federal courts in Illinois and across the country. His trial and litigation practice involves a number of areas with an emphasis upon restrictive covenant and trade secrets in the insurance brokerage arena. His vast depth of experience in trials and litigation also involves complex insurance coverage, bad faith, reinsurance, and non-medical professional liability matters. Mr. Pearson also regularly litigates large scale attorney fee disputes and has testified as an expert witness in such matters. His practice representing parties in restrictive covenant and trade secret litigation involves all aspects of the process, from counseling to litigation through trial and appeal in both state and federal courts across the country. He has an intimate knowledge of insurance, having previously served as both national and regional counsel for several insurance companies in a broad array of industry sectors and taught insurance law for nearly a decade as an adjunct professor of law with a special emphasis on the litigation of insurance claims and related extra-contractual obligations of insurers.

Prior to joining Freeborn, Mr. Pearson was a founding partner in Meckler Bulger Tilson Marick & Pearson LLP where during his nearly 25 years tenure he was instrumental in the growth of that firm from 12 lawyers in Chicago at its founding to over 100 lawyers in offices located in multiple states while serving on the firm's Management and Executive Committees.

Mr. Pearson earned his B.A. from University of Minnesota - Twin Cities and his J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

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, Insurance Law, and Insurance Litigation (2013-2025).

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

Leading Lawyer, Law Bulletin Publishing Company.

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