



**Jeffrey S. Tindal**

Attorney

206.268.8642

[jtindal@bpmlaw.com](mailto:jtindal@bpmlaw.com)

### PRACTICE AREAS

Insurance Coverage, Claim Advice, Coverage Analysis, Extracontractual Exposure Advice, Insurance Litigation, Special Investigations Assistance and Fraud Reporting, Legislative Monitoring and Regulatory Analysis, Defense Litigation, Commercial Litigation and Construction Litigation

### OVERVIEW

Jeff Tindal is an attorney with Betts Patterson Mines, who began practicing law in 1999. Mr. Tindal focuses his practice primarily in the area of Insurance Coverage and related litigation with a special emphasis in first party property insurance issues. He represents insurers regarding first and third party claims, coverage disputes and extra-contractual litigation involving bad faith, IFCA and the CPA, additional insured issues, and duty to defend and indemnify issues. Mr. Tindal has also assisted insurance clients with the drafting of policy language and forms, proper claims handling procedures, and insurance fraud issues.

### REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Represented an insurer who was being sued for breach of contract, bad faith, IFCA, and CPA damages following a fire at his residence alleging he was owed additional money under his policy and that the insurer's delays caused him substantial financial harm. The insurer prevailed on a motion for judgment as a matter of law and subsequent motion for reconsideration following the late discovery of plaintiff's insurance fraud involving a forged lease.
- Defended an insurance company in an insurance and extra-contractual matter. Plaintiffs sued for breach of contract bad faith, IFCA, and CPA damages following a fire at their apartment building alleging that the insurer had underpaid their claim and forced them to bring suit. The insurer prevailed at trial on all claims except a single technical violation of Washington's insurance regulations pertaining to an appraisal award that was not timely paid.
- Defended an insurance company in an insurance and extra-contractual matter. Plaintiffs sued for breach of contract, bad faith, and CPA damages following a one car accident alleging that the insurer's denial of coverage was wrongful. The insurer prevailed at summary judgment on all extra-contractual claims except one, which subsequently settled for a fraction of what plaintiffs were seeking.
- Represented an insurance company in an insurance coverage matter. Grange Insurance brought a declaratory judgment action to determine whether it owed a duty to defend or indemnify defendants for a lawsuit alleging bodily injuries sustained in an all-terrain vehicle accident on the defendants' property. Grange prevailed on summary judgment based on the application of an automobile exclusion barring coverage for injuries arising out of

the use of an automobile and the court's refusal to apply the efficient proximate cause rule. In an unpublished decision, the Court of Appeals, Division 2, upheld the trial court decision on appeal, 119 Wn.App. 1083 (2004).

- Represented a title insurance company in an insurance coverage matter. Plaintiffs sued for breach of a title insurance policy alleging that the insurer failed to disclose prior deeds that transferred property "except" a portion previously deeded to the United States as a right of way for a canal. Chicago Title prevailed on summary judgment arguing that although there was a breach of the title insurance policy, the failure to disclose the deeds did not cause plaintiffs any damages because the term "except" meant "subject to," and the plaintiffs received exactly what they paid for when they bought the property. In an unpublished decision, the Court of Appeals, Division 3, upheld the trial court decision on appeal, 109 Wn.App. 1070 (2002).

#### EDUCATION

Seattle University, J.D. *cum laude*, 1999

Year End Achievement Scholar, 1999, 1998

Western Washington University, B.A. Political Science, 1993

Honor Roll, 1992, 1991

#### PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

Washington State Bar Association

King County Bar Association

Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association

Northwest Insurance Coverage Association

Defense Research Institute

Member, Insurance Law Committee

#### ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar, 1999

United States District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Washington

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

#### PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Tindal has given presentations to his insurance clients on such topics as claim handling, bad faith and extra-contractual claims, and insurance fraud.