



**Veronica M. Bates**

Founding Partner  
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*“With so many years of experience, I’ve learned how to think outside the box to achieve the best possible outcome. I am decisive and can answer issues quickly, so clients know they can count on me to handle emergencies efficiently and effectively.”*

**Practice Areas**

Insurance

Veronica M. Bates is a founding partner in the law firm of Hermes Sargent Bates, L.L.P., formed in January 2000. She is head of the Insurance Section of the firm, which is made up of attorneys whose practices are solely devoted to insurance issues.

The majority of Veronica’s practice involves pursuing declaratory judgment actions on behalf of insurers and insureds, and defending and advising insurance companies on extra-contractual claims, including pursuing alternative forms of dispute resolution such as through negotiation, mediation and arbitration.

In addition, her practice includes interpreting and rendering coverage opinions in almost all areas of commercial and personal lines, including commercial and comprehensive general liability, builders risk, personal auto, commercial auto, homeowners, professional liability, OCIP programs, first party property, environmental, excess and surplus lines and other specialty policies.

Veronica is rated AV Preeminent by Martindale Hubbell.

**Bar Admissions**

- State Bar of Texas, 1987
- United States District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas

**Education**

- Bachelor of Arts Degree, with high honors, from the University of Notre Dame, 1984
- Juris Doctor Degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law, 1987

**Professional Experience**

- Hermes Sargent Bates, L.L.P.  
January 2000 to present

- Attorney - Partner, Head of Insurance Section
- Cowles & Thompson, P.C.  
1990-2000  
Attorney-Shareholder, Head of Insurance Coverage Section
- Vial, Hamilton, Koch & Knox, L.L.P.  
1988-1990  
Attorney - Litigation
- Dallas Court of Appeals  
1987-1988  
Briefing Attorney

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell
- "The Best Lawyers in Dallas 2012" – *D Magazine*
- Selected for inclusion in the 2012 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America®*
- "Best Lawyer in America®" for Insurance Law – *Corporate Counsel Magazine*, 2008-2010
- "The Best Women Lawyers in Dallas" – *D Magazine*, 2010
- "Texas Super Lawyer" – *Texas Monthly and Law & Politics Magazine*, 2004-2011
- "Whose Who Legal" – Law Business Research, 2008
- "Top 50 Women Lawyers in Texas" - *Texas Monthly*

### **Publications & Presentations**

- Course Director, Advanced Insurance Law Seminar, April 2012
- Regional Editor, "DRI Excess and Umbrella Compendium," January 2012
- Speaker, "Declaratory Judgment Actions," Business Torts 2011, Westin (Memorial City) Hotel, Houston, TX, October 13-14, 2011
- Speaker, "Time is Running Out! Calculating Deadlines for Coverage & Bad Faith Lawsuits," The Advanced Insurance Seminar, Sheraton Dallas, Dallas TX, April 14-15, 2011
- Speaker, "Reserving Your Rights Under a Casualty Policy – Core Claim Skills," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference, Nashville, TN, April 3-6, 2011
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters & Waiver Issues" PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference, Nashville, TN, April 3-6, 2011
- Speaker, "Additional Insured or Contractual Indemnity Coverage: Which Is Better?," University of Texas School of Law 2010 Insurance Law Institute, Austin, Texas, October 14-15, 2010
- Speaker, "Chinese Drywall Litigation – Coverage Issues," The Advanced Insurance Seminar, the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas TX, April 8-9, 2010
- Speaker, "Reserving Your Rights Under a Casualty Policy – Core Claim Skills," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 2010
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters & Waiver Issues" PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference, San Antonio, TX, March 2010
- Author, "Coverage for Punitive Damages," Dallas Bar Association's *Headnotes*, October 2009

- Co-Speaker, "Defective Construction/Inter-relationship of the Property Damage Trigger, Montrose Language, and Particular Part Exclusion," 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Insurance Law Institute, Hyatt Hill Country Resort, San Antonio, TX, October 2009
- Speaker, "Insurance Law Update for Litigators" Advanced Civil Trial Course 2009, Hyatt Hill Country Resort, San Antonio, TX, July 29-31, 2009
- Speaker, "Chinese Drywall Insurance Coverage Nightmare," Chinese Drywall Litigation Conference, June 18, 2009
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters for Casualty Claims," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference, Seattle, WA, April 2009
- Speaker, "Choice of Law," The Advanced Insurance Seminar, April 2, 2009
- Speaker, "Keep on Trucking: Insurance Issues Affecting the Industry," The University of Texas School of Law 2008 Insurance Law Institute, Austin, TX, October 23-24, 2008
- Speaker, "Declaratory Judgment Actions - The Good, the Bad and, of course, the Ugly," DFW Claims Managers Council, September 18, 2008
- Quoted in *Claims Magazine* for her opinion on construction defects coverage after the Texas Supreme Court published its decision on the Lamar Homes, Inc. v. Mid-Continent Casualty Co. case.
- Co-author, "Reservation of Rights Letters," which was published in ClaimsJournal.com, June 2008.
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters for Casualty Claims," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference in Boston, MA, April 13-16, 2008
- Speaker, "Declaratory Judgment Actions - Who to Invite to the Party," 5th Annual Advanced Insurance Law Course, March 28, 2008
- Speaker, State Bar Webcast on the new decisions PAJ v Hanover and Mid Continent v. Liberty Mut., February 13, 2008
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters for Casualty Claims," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference at Walt Disney World, FL, March 18-21, 2007
- Speaker, "Reservation of Rights Letters," PLRB/LIRB Claims Conference in Nashville, TN, April 3-4, 2006
- Speaker, "Bad Faith Law Update - The Year in Review," South Texas College of Law, Houston, TX - Texas Insurance Law Symposium, January 26, 2006
- Speaker, "Averting Disaster and Seeking to Uncover – A Carrier's Perspective in the Handling of Liability Claims," UT Continuing Legal Education, 2004 Insurance Law Institute, Houston, TX, November 2004
- Speaker, "Putting Mold on the Map – the Ballard Decision," Defense Research Institute, 2003 Annual Mold Seminar, Houston, TX, April 2003
- Speaker, "To Bifurcate or Not to Bifurcate," South Texas College of Law Insurance Symposium, Houston, TX, January 2003
- Speaker, "Court T.V. – Where You Don't Want To Be," Defense Research Institute, 2002 Insurance Symposium, New York, NY, December 2002
- Speaker, "Coverage for Mold Under a Commercial General Liability Policy," SMU School of Engineering Mold Seminar, Dallas, TX, June 2002
- Program Director, Extra-Contractual Liability Seminar, Defense Research Institute, San Antonio, TX, September 1999
- Speaker, Panel Discussion Regarding State Farm v. Travers, State Bar of Texas, Ultimate Insurance Seminar, Dallas, TX, April 1999

- Speaker, "A Mock Trial and Analysis of a Bad Faith, Punitive Damages Claim," Defense Research Institute, Extra – Contractual Liability Seminar, Atlanta, GA, September 1998.
- Speaker, "Contractual Indemnity Agreements and Insurance Coverage Disputes," Texas Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Annual Ultimate Insurance Seminar, Dallas, TX, March 1998
- Speaker, "The Tripartite Relationship – The Bermuda Triangle," Defense Research Institute, Insurance Coverage & Practice Seminar, San Francisco, CA, June 1997
- Speaker, "The Coming Storm – Allocation Defense & Indemnity," Texas Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ultimate Insurance Seminar, Dallas, TX, February 1997; Houston, TX, March 1997
- Speaker, "Contractual Indemnity and Its Interplay with the CGL Policy," Defense Research Institute, 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Insurance Coverage & Practice Symposium, New York, NY, December 1996
- Speaker, "Overview of Coverage B – Personal and Advertising Injury Liability," Texas Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Ultimate Insurance Seminar, Dallas, TX, March 1996; Houston, TX, March 1996
- Speaker, "Disputes Among Insurers," University of Houston, Advanced Insurance Seminar, Houston, TX, April 1995
- Speaker, "Multiple Coverage Issues: Coordination of Primary & Excess Coverage," University of Houston Handling Insurance and Tort Claims, Houston, TX, August 1994
- Speaker, "Insurance Coverage for Employment Related Claims," Dallas Insurance Association, Dallas Parkway Hilton, Dallas, TX, July 1994
- Speaker, "Multiple Coverage Issues: Coordination of Primary & Excess Coverage," University of Houston, Advanced Insurance Seminar, Houston, TX, March 1994
- Veronica also presents numerous in-house seminars each year for clients.

## **Memberships**

- The American Law Institute, Member
- Dallas Bar Association, Member, Torts and Insurance Practice Section
- Defense Research Institute, Member, Insurance Committee; Past Chairman, Extra-Contractual Liability Subcommittee
- State Bar of Texas, Insurance Section; Former Member of Board of Directors
- Former Dallas Inn of Court Member

## **Personal**

Veronica M. Bates was born in Gary, Indiana.