

## JOEL T. PELZ, Partner

*Joel T. Pelz is a litigator and Co-Chair of the Reinsurance Practice. He has served as lead counsel in numerous bench and jury trials in both state and federal courts and in arbitration proceedings. Most recently, his focus has been on reinsurance, insurance, bankruptcy litigation, commercial contracts, and governmental authority (redistricting) issues. He has obtained substantial judgments and settlements for plaintiffs in insurance, reinsurance, bankruptcy, commercial contract, and privately owned and family businesses matters. He has counseled numerous business entities on the availability of insurance coverage for underlying litigation. This success includes jury trials, bench trials, arbitrations, mediations and negotiations.*

Mr. Pelz is AV Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell's highest peer recognition for ethical standards and legal ability. He has been named an *Illinois Super Lawyer* in business litigation since 2009. Mr. Pelz was part of the Leading Lawyers Network for seven consecutive years. He is a member of the firm's Insurance Counseling & Litigation Practice and Bankruptcy Litigation Practice.

Mr. Pelz has tried, on a pro bono basis, five murder trials, four of which were death-penalty eligible. He obtained an \$11 million jury verdict for a pro bono prisoner client in a matter involving deficient medical care. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Seventh Circuit Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

### Awards

- *Benchmark Litigation*  
Litigation Star: Insurance - 2017
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*  
Business Litigation - 2009-2020
- Leading Lawyers Network  
Insurance, Insurance Coverage & Reinsurance Law, 2004-2019  
Toxic Torts Defense Law, 2004-2019  
Commercial Litigation - 2004-2019
- *Legal 500*  
Industry focus - Insurance: Advice to Policyholders - 2020
- *Who's Who Legal Illinois*  
Insurance and Reinsurance, 2007 Edition
- Jenner & Block Mentorship Award - 2020



## JOEL T. PELZ Partner

### CHICAGO

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### PRACTICE GROUPS

Bankruptcy Litigation  
Insurance Recovery and Counseling  
Litigation  
Private Wealth  
Reinsurance

### EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1980; *cum laude*

Valparaiso University, B.A., 1977; With High Distinction, Pi Sigma Alpha, Phi Alpha Theta

### ADMISSIONS

Illinois, 1980

### COURT ADMISSIONS

US Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, 1983

US Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, 1986

US Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 1993

US District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 1980

US District Court, Northern District of Illinois (Trial Bar), 1980

US District Court, Central District of Illinois, 1990

US District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2015

US District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin, 2013

## **Service To The Bar**

- American Bar Association
- Chicago Bar Association
- Chicago Council of Lawyers - Judicial Evaluation Committee
- Illinois State Bar Association
- Seventh Circuit Bar Association

## **Publications**

- Insurance Law Update: "Seventh Circuit Adopts Continuous Trigger For First-Party Property Damage Claim Resulting From Defect Discovered After Policies Lapsed", February 3, 2015
- Client Alert: NLJ names Jenner & Block as Insurance Litigation Department of the Year (Chicago), August 15, 2013
- *Reinsurance Reports*, Spring 2006
- *Reinsurance Reports*, Spring 2005
- *Reinsurance Reports/Arbitration News*, Spring 2003
- *Reinsurance Reports*, Summer 2002