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CNA  
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**EDUCATION:** **Indiana University, Mauer School of Law – Bloomington**  
Graduated *cum laude*, 1987  
Note and Administrative Editor, *Indiana Law Journal*

**University of Michigan**  
A.B. in Political Science and Communications  
Graduated with High Distinction, 1983

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:** **October 2016 to Present – Commercial Coverage Counsel and Personal and Advertising Injury Practice Leader**  
CNA, Chicago, IL

Provide legal advice and support to CNA's Claims Organization, including Personal and Advertising Injury, Media Liability, Professional Liability, Construction Defect, First Party Property and Recovery units. Responsible for evaluating complex and novel coverage issues, mentoring and consulting with claims professionals, preparing coverage opinions, responding to coverage challenge letters, overseeing litigation counsel, evaluating settlement and resolution opportunities, evaluating viability of contribution and subrogation suits against potentially responsible parties / insurers, including evaluating the sale of subrogation claims to private equity, and providing CNA colleagues with claims handling and underwriting advice. Per request of Senior Vice President, authored and spearheaded "Writing for Professionals" training program for CNA claims professionals, including "How to Write an Effective Coverage Position Letter;" mandatory training for all CNA claims personnel.

**June, 2010 – October, 2016 - Senior Coverage Counsel & Practice Leader - Personal and Advertising Injury Claims**  
CNA Coverage Litigation Group, Chicago, IL

Representing CNA Affiliated Insurers in coverage litigation in state and federal courts. Handle and supervise litigation of intellectual property claims, cyber liability claims, data breach and TCPA class actions, disparagement claims, product liability claims, health care and professional liability claims and other coverage matters. Responsible for brief writing, motion practice, written and oral discovery, strategy, settlement negotiations, mediations, trial preparation and appeals. Responsible for evaluating complex and novel coverage issues, consulting with claims professionals,

preparing coverage opinions and providing clients with claims handling and underwriting advice.

Achieved high rate of litigation success, including four summary judgment victories, two successful motions to dismiss and a successful motion for reconsideration in declaratory judgment actions arising out of underlying TCPA class actions, an intellectual property suit, and a commercial /breach of contract suit. Won two victories in the Illinois Court of Appeals, including a declaration of no duty to defend or pay a \$20 million consent judgment. Achieved multiple favorable settlement and mediation outcomes.

Appointed firm's Personal and Advertising Injury Practice Leader, overseeing work product, supervising, and mentoring the firm's attorneys in this coverage area.

Appointed to CNA's Cyber Liability Team. Responsible for handling firm's cyber liability coverage litigation and acting as firm's representative on cyber team.

**September, 1990 – May, 2010 – Associate, Of Counsel and Senior Counsel**

Tressler, LLP, Chicago, IL

Represented insurers in coverage litigation throughout the United States. Handled or directed litigation of fax blasting, construction, intellectual property, environmental and asbestos, first party property and uninsured motorists' claims, including preparation of coverage opinions, trial briefs, appellate briefs before the Seventh Circuit and Illinois Appellate Courts, negotiating settlements and preparing cases for mediation and trial.

**August, 2002 – January, 2008 – Clinical Professor of Law**

Loyola University-Chicago, School of Law

Teaching courses in legal writing and appellate advocacy. Teaching law students all aspects of legal writing including brief writing, preparation of memoranda, appellate brief writing and oral advocacy. From August, 2004 to January, 2005, served as the law school's Legal Research Coordinator, teaching legal research and preparing legal research curriculum.

**January, 1997 – May, 2002 – Paralegal Instructor**

Loyola University of Chicago, Institute of Paralegal Studies

Teaching paralegal students courses in legal writing, legal research, civil litigation, torts and insurance law.

**July, 1989 – September, 1990 – Associate Attorney**

Burke Bosselman & Weaver, Chicago, IL

Associate in product liability group. Represented Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Harris Graphics, AT&T Technologies and General Electric in lawsuits filed in state and federal court.

**June, 1987 – July, 1989 – Associate Attorney**

Lord Bissell & Brook, Chicago, IL

Associate in insurance coverage practice group. Handled asbestos, hazardous waste, toxic and tort and professional liability coverage claims as well as excess and reinsurance matters on behalf of Underwriters at Lloyd's, London.

**INVITED  
PRESENTATIONS**

CNA Learning's "Writing for Professionals" program, including "How to Write an Effective Coverage Position letter," mandatory training for all CNA claims professionals.

"Personal and Advertising Injury Coverage; Impact on ALAE and the Duty to Defend." Presentations with Kelly Walsh (SVP/Underwriting) to the Life Sciences, Technology and Middle Market Underwriters on March 7, 2019 and May 23, 2019;

Panelist, Litigation Panel Discussion, CNA Fall 2018 Leadership Meeting, Tampa, Florida, October 2-4, 2018;

"Coverage for Personal and Advertising Injury Under CNA's Proprietary Forms and Endorsements," Roundtable for CNA's Tech Underwriters and Complex Claims Unit, February 25, 2016;

"Personal and Advertising Injury Coverage, Missouri Bad Faith Law and How to Draft an Effective ROR." Roundtable for CNA's Complex Claims Unit, San Francisco, CA, February 26, 2015;

"Significant Decisions Impacting A Liability Policy's "Personal and Advertising Injury" Coverage – A Year in Review," Roundtable with CNA's Oversight and Complex Claims Unit, February 26, 2015.

"Significant Developments Impacting a Policy's Personal and Advertising Injury Coverage," CNA's Major Litigation Conference, Sept. 25, 2014;

**REPORTED  
DECISIONS:**

*Amerisure Mut. Ins. Co. v. Microplastics Inc.*, 622 F. 3d 806 (7th Cir. 2010);

*Clarendon America Ins. Co. v. 69 West Washington Management, LLC.*, 374 Ill. App. 3d 580 (1st Dist. 2007);

*Beck v. Budget Rent-A-Car*, 283 Ill. App. 3d 541 (1st Dist. 1996)

**ADMISSIONS:**

Illinois State Bar  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana  
United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

**ASSOCIATIONS:** Board Member, The Hope Chest – Non-profit business donating all retail proceeds to battered women shelter;  
Defense Research Institute;  
Philanthropy Chair, La Grange Kappa Gamma Alumnae;

**PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION:** Designated a “Super Lawyer” by *Chicago Magazine* and *Illinois Super Lawyer Magazine* as top insurance coverage lawyer;

Annually awarded AV Preeminent® rating by Martindale-Hubbel;

Recognized a “Legal Lion” by *Insurance Law360* after obtaining win before Illinois Court of Appeals, finding CNA Affiliated Insurers had no duty to defend or indemnify for \$20 million consent judgment (May, 2016).

**REFERENCES**

James W. Kienzle, AVP Coverage, CNA Financial  
630-719-3136  
[James.kinzle@cna.com](mailto:James.kinzle@cna.com)

Harbinder K. Johal, Claims Consultant, CNA Financial  
415-932-7521  
[Harbinder.johal@cna.com](mailto:Harbinder.johal@cna.com)

Jennifer Brendel, Clinical Professor, Direct of Legal Writing Program  
Loyola University-Chicago School of Law  
312-915-7869  
[jbrende@luc.edu](mailto:jbrende@luc.edu)