



John W. Reis

Partner

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John litigates subrogation and commercial claims involving loss or damage to structures, heavy equipment, trucks, motor coaches, vehicles, vessels and other property damaged by fire, water, collision or collapse.

These cases require his particular experience in product liability, construction, commercial, maritime and admiralty law. John also litigates commercial contingency disputes involving business torts such as fraud, deception and misappropriation. He is licensed to practice law in four states and is admitted to practice in 12 federal district courts in the South.

John has taken leading roles in mass tort cases, including serving as co-lead counsel in a multidistrict litigation proceeding against a product manufacturer. He has published articles and conducted seminars on several of the complex issues that arise in his fields of practice, including the economic loss doctrine, the malfunction theory, the proper measure of damages, trial techniques, CSST failures, expert qualifications and other issues. He genuinely loves getting the call on a catastrophic case, and will take calls at all hours of the night to jump on the case immediately. He values responsiveness, resourcefulness and results.

Services

- Litigation
- Construction
- Retail Industry
- Transportation & Logistics

Representative Matters

- Has pursued dozens of structure fires arising from CSST (Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing)
- Former co-lead counsel of the plaintiffs' steering committee on the Ford Cruise Control Deactivation Switch federal Multi-District Litigation (MDL) proceeding in the Eastern District of Michigan
- Highly experienced in structural failures and fires, including fireproofing failures, fire protection system failures ("spread fires"), truss failures, material failures, electrical failures, plumbing failures, induced sinkholes, appliance failures and product defects
- Recovery of marine losses, including marina fires and vessel fires, collisions and allisions
- Recovery of maritime and cargo claims involving Carmack and/or COGSA
- Business tort litigation

Before Fox Rothschild

John was a partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP, which combined with Fox Rothschild in 2018.

Client Resources

Guideline and Checklists for Subrogation Recovery

This resource serves as a guideline for understanding subrogation recovery and the insurance claims processes in specific subrogation cases. Explore comprehensive checklists that help identify the investigative information shaping water loss, fire loss, vehicle fire, wind/weather loss, sinkhole loss and CSST cases.

[Download the e-book](#)

Bar Admissions

- Alabama
- Florida
- North Carolina
- Tennessee

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Western District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee

Education

- University of Miami School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1992)
 - Executive Editor: Miami InterAmerican Law Review
 - Order of the Barristers
- Duke University (A.B., 1988)

Memberships

- Member, National Association of Subrogation Professionals
- Member, Litigation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association
- Board Member, Mecklenburg County Bar, 2013-2014
- Chair, Mecklenburg County Bar CLE Committee, 2008-2010
- Chair, Distance Learning committee of the CLE Committee for the NC Bar Association, 2005
- Chair, NCBA Disaster Legal Services Committee, 2001 to 2004
- Member, Volunteer Lawyers Program, Mecklenburg County Bar

Honors & Awards

- Selected to the "Best Lawyers in America" list for Commercial Litigation and Product Liability Litigation - Plaintiffs in Charlotte, NC by *Best Lawyers* (2020-2026)

Events

October 29, 2024

Teamwork: Effectively Managing a Loss Site
JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa

November 6, 2023

NASP 2023 Annual Conference

The Broadmoor

October 2, 2019

Don't Get Blown Up: The Perils of the Rule 30(b)(6) Deposition
Byron's SouthEnd

April 11, 2019

Venue Menu: Venue, Forum and Choice of Law Can Make A Difference
Fox Rothschild LLP

October 3, 2018

Feds, Fires, and Firings: Conducting a Proper Internal Investigation

December 13, 2017

Sovereign Immunity and Insurance Claims

February 15, 2017

Training Session - Regional Insurance Company
Lawrenceville, GA

January 31, 2017

Condominium and Homeowner's Association Claims
Charlotte, NC

November 2, 2016

Hot Topics in Fire Cases
Gulf Shores, AL

October 24, 2016

Know Limits: Beating the Statute of Limitations, Statute of Repose, and Other Legal Limits
Colorado Springs, CO

October 5, 2016

Can I Get a Witness?! Preparing for and Successfully Defending Depositions of Corporate Representatives, Former Employees and Current Employees
Charlotte, NC

September 29, 2016

Expert Deposition Training
Chicago, IL

May 2, 2016

Hot Topics in Fire Investigations
NCIAAI Annual Conference

April 26, 2016

Subrogation Confidential: How Protected Are Your Claims Communications in Litigation?

Webinar

April 7, 2016

Economic Loss Doctrine: Current Trends and Where We Are Going

Fort Lauderdale, FL

March 31, 2016

Feel the Burn of the Revised NFPA 1033 and 921

Camden, SC

February 18, 2016

Confidentiality Speaking: How Protected Are Your Claim Communications, Investigative Documents, Internal Procedures & Settlement Agreements?

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Charlotte, NC

News

August 20, 2020

More Than 200 Fox Attorneys Selected to the List of "Best Lawyers in America"

June 19, 2020

Top 50 Construction Law Firms

August 15, 2019

176 Fox Attorneys Selected to the 2020 List of Best Lawyers in America

June 4, 2019

Top 50 Construction Law Firms

Publications

[UPDATED January 6, 2022]

North Carolina Paves the Way for Remote Depositions: Some Practical Considerations

January 15, 2019

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