

Pioneering Cincinnati Lawyer chases tougher fraud laws

By: James Quiggle, Coalition Against Insurance Fraud

A longtime Cincinnati attorney will push for stronger insurance-fraud laws around the U.S. after years of pursuing fraudsters in civil court.

Matthew Smith will help guide legislative efforts of a prominent national nonprofit watchdog — the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud. Consumer groups, insurers and government all work through the Coalition to combat every form of insurance fraud. Smith was named associate director of government affairs for the D.C.-based alliance.

Smith founded a Cincinnati law firm that tapped an unmet need to focus on pursuing elusive insurance scammers in civil court. Smith Rolfes & Skavdahl specializes in insurer defense against insurance fraud — from investigations to civil actions.

The firm started small. Yet insurance fraud was widespread and costly in Ohio and other states, driving up premiums. Smith Rolfes grew to eight offices in the midwest and Florida. Smith now is Of Counsel to the firm.

Smith personally has won more than 100 civil actions. They include insurance arsonists ... chiropractors who inflate billings ... pill mills ... MRI clinics and other swindlers. Many appellate decisions have set significant court precedents against fraudsters.

Smith is a University of Cincinnati grad, the College Conservancy of Music — early skills for later teaching insurance fraudsters to sing the blues.



Matthew J. Smith, Of Counsel at Smith Rolfes & Skavdahl