

Insurance Fraud Attorney Tapped to Lead Coalition's Government Affairs Efforts

Nationally known insurance-fraud attorney and insurance law expert Matthew J. Smith has been named director of government affairs and general counsel for the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud.

Smith oversees the Coalition's extensive work in enacting stronger state anti-fraud laws across the U.S.

Smith also advises government and regulatory groups on anti-fraud strategy. He advises the NAIC's Antifraud Task Force, and sits on the task forces of numerous state organizations such as the Virginia State Police. Smith also advises National Council of Insurance Legislators and National Conference of State Legislatures.

He also directs the Coalition's longtime program of filing amicus "friend-of-the-court" legal briefs. They give anti-fraud legal guidance to courts overseeing major cases that set national precedents on insurance fraud.

A frequent lecturer, panelist and noted insurance-fraud expert, Smith advises fraud fighters on how to balance use of technology while protecting privacy rights of consumers.

Smith founded a national insurance services law firm specializing in insurance-fraud investigation and bad-faith defense litigation. Cincinnati-based Smith, Rolfes & Skavdahl has eight offices throughout the midwest and Florida. The firm broke new ground by specializing in all aspects of insurer defense against insurance fraud, from investigations to civil actions.

He has won more than 100 civil actions — including cases against home and commercial insurance arsonists, chiropractors, pill mill operators, MRI clinics and other insurance swindlers. Many of Smith's appellate victories have set significant court precedents. Last year, he oversaw an amicus filing in Kentucky that helped to overturn a lower court's ruling prohibiting insurers from using examinations under oath.

Smith pioneered using data from cell towers as evidence in civil insurance-fraud cases — now standard practice around the U.S. — and helped popularize searches of social-media to gather fraud evidence.