INSURANCE COVERAGE ARBITRATOR

Paul J. Van Osselaer

Van Osselaer Dispute Resolution PLLC

2305 Cheswick Court
Austin, TX 78746-1935

Phone—(512) 593-5104
Fax—(512) 593-5106
Mobile—(512) 413-0452
Paul@VanOsselaerADR.com

www.VanOsselaerADR.com

Insurance Coverage Arbitrations

Paul is a full-time coverage arbitrator and mediator, who has arbitrated cases in many jurisdictions applying several jurisdictions' laws. As a coverage arbitrator, he:
- *Provides parties a neutral who understands the concepts well*
- *Assures the parties that positions are intelligently questioned when it counts*
- *Assures the parties of a useful, reasoned decision based on the evidence and law*

Coverage Arbitrator Experience

Although never seeking a listing with an arbitration service, Paul practice has included service as umpire-chair of a AAA-administered case. Most of his arbitrations though are non-administered where parties' contract either specified that AAA, JAMS or CDR Rules would govern or did not specify any particular set of rules.

Paul has served as a single arbitrator, a party-appointed one, and an umpire in about equal proportions. And "sides" of a coverage dispute appointing him are also about equal. He has arbitrated disputes involving coverage laws of numerous states from coast to coast and involving a wide range of policies. Paul's pending active panels in Fall 2017 provide a good sample: (i) an umpire/chair in NYC; (ii) a carrier-appointed arbitrator in Dallas; and (iii) a policyholder-appointed arbitrator in DC.

ADR Recognition and Publications

Member, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (invitation-only)

Co-Chair, ADR Sub-Committee, ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee

Distinguished Fellow, International Academy of Mediators (invitation-only)

Listing, Who's Who Legal in Mediation (1 of only 105 in US) (invitation-only)

Credentialed Distinguished Mediator, Texas Mediator Credentialing Association

Advanced Training at AAA: "*Managing Dynamics of a Multi-Party Case*"

Trainer on coverage ADR to legal, ADR, policyholder and carrier groups, including:
- *Mediation or Arbitration: Picking Your Show*, ABA Ins. Cov. Lit. Cmte. (2014)

Other Honors and Experience

Best Lawyers in America® in Insurance Law

Tier 1 Best Law Firm® in Insurance Law, Van Osselaer Dispute Resolution

Super Lawyers® Insurance Coverage, now ADR

Former Vice-Chair, ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee

Former Member of Editorial Board, *Coverage* (ABA publication)

Tried coverage, indemnity & bad faith cases (both seeking & opposing coverage)

Significant experience arbitrating or mediating wide range of coverage disputes of all sizes and involving many types of policies, including CGL, PL, D&O, excess, first-party, builders risk, marine, entertainment, terrorism and specialty policies

Judicial temperament and efficiency, based on years of trial experience, service as an arbitrator, and service as court-appointed member of the Civil Justice Reform Act's Advisory Committee for the Western District of Texas

Education and Pre-ADR Background

University of Texas (B.A., 1971; J.D. 1975; courses toward MBA)

Law Clerk, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston (1975-77)

Paul's law practice included being partner in a premier Texas law firm and later his own small firm. As coverage lawyers discovered his mediation skills, a part-time coverage mediation practice and became full-time and arbitrations quickly followed, leading him to start Van Osselaer Dispute Resolution in January 2014.

Paul has been lead counsel in all Texas federal districts and in eight other districts across the U.S. Before trying his first coverage case in 1991, he was lead counsel in major business cases, including antitrust, securities, banking, tax, real estate & IP, earning a *Best Lawyers*® listing in Business Litigation from 1987-92. That experience still provides insight into issues underlying many coverage disputes.

Nationwide references from both sides of the docket or from co-arbitrators available upon request

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