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NEW YORK

INSURANCE

Insurance: Dispute Resolution: Insurer
Leading Firms
Band 2
Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 2
Maher William Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP
Band 3
Abrams Marc Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP

Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP

THE FIRM Litigation is a cornerstone of this New York firm's practice and the insurance and reinsurance disputes division a key component of the litigation department. The team is active on an international as well as a local level, having represented UK reinsurers in defense of a series of complex reinsurance arbitrations involving large asbestos claims by a major US insurer. Domestically, the firm has represented prominent insurance companies such as AIG and Hanover.

Sources say: "Lawyers who treat attorney-client relations as a long-term relationship rather than a one-time deal."

KEY INDIVIDUALS William Maher has a broad general commercial litigation practice but dedicates the majority of his time to insurance and reinsurance dispute resolution. "He's smart, creative, visionary and always well-prepared," say clients. Full-time insurance litigator Marc Abrams is rated by clients as a "highly effective communicator and negotiator."

Leaders

MAHER, William

Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP, New York
212 382 3300
wmaher@wmd-law.com

Featured in Insurance (New York)

Practice Areas: William A Maher is a Founding Member of Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP, is Head of the firm's Litigation Department and its Insurance and Reinsurance Dispute Resolution Practice. Mr Maher has broad experience in arbitration and litigation proceedings arising from commercial contracts, corporate transactions and reinsurance/insurance disputes. He has tried numerous arbitrations and litigations to award or decision, and has represented clients in disputes involving very significant amounts in controversy.

Professional Memberships: Member, Council on Judicial Administration, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, 2001-04; Firm Representative, ARIAS-US, 2003-present;

Member, Publications Committee, Association of Insurance and Reinsurance Run-Off Companies, 2006-11; Member, New York State Appellate Division, First Department, Disciplinary Committee, 2009-present.

Personal: The College of William & Mary, BA, 1982; The University of Virginia School of Law, JD, 1985; Managing Editor, The Virginia Law Review, 1984-85; Member, Order of the Coif; law clerk to Hon Milton Pollack (US District Judge SDNY), 1985-86.

ABRAMS, Marc

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Featured in Insurance (New York)

Practice Areas: Marc Abrams concentrates his practice in commercial litigation and arbitration with extensive experience in the areas of insurance and reinsurance dispute resolution. Over the course of his career, Marc has litigated

and arbitrated a wide range of disputes affecting the insurance and reinsurance industry including matters involving coverage, rescission, allocation, aggregation, notice, follow the fortunes, security, payment of interest, set-offs, employment practices liability, insolvency, claims handling practices, underwriting intent, and consolidation, among other issues. These disputes have provided Marc with broad experience in a diverse range of business classes and insurance and reinsurance vehicles and products.

Publications: Mr Abrams has co-authored and edited several published articles on insurance and reinsurance issues and has spoken at conferences on reinsurance issues.

Personal: Northwestern University, BA cum laude, 1994; University of Virginia School of Law, JD, 1998.

WOLLMUTH MAHER & DEUTSCH LLP

THE FIRM

Managing Partners: David H Wollmuth, William A Maher

Number of attorneys: 30

FIRM OVERVIEW: For over 13 years, Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP has provided sophisticated legal advice in a responsive, efficient and cost-effective manner. Because the firm is based in Manhattan, a significant focus of its practice involves financial services, including representing clients involved in insurance and reinsurance, banking, investment banking, private equity, venture capital and the hedge fund industry.

MAIN AREAS OF PRACTICE: Commercial litigation and arbitration; corporate, mergers and acquisitions and securities; bankruptcy and reorganization.

INTERNATIONAL WORK: On the dispute resolution side, the firm has represented many international companies and entities, typically on matters pending in US courts or arbitrations. For example, in the last several years, the firm has represented a large multinational insurer against various prominent European reinsurers in a matter venued in the domestic court system and has also represented multinational insurers and reinsurers based in Switzerland and Bermuda in complex litigation disputes venued in various US jurisdictions. The firm also has considerable expertise in reinsurance arbitrations involving international clients headquartered in the UK, France, Switzerland and in other Western European countries. Because these matters are typically confidential, the firm cannot describe them in greater detail, except to say that the firm represents both ceding companies and reinsurers across all lines of business and has successfully handled numerous disputes involving issues such as contractual interpretation, coverage, late notice, rescission, fraud, allocation, aggregation, follow the fortunes, security, declaratory judgment expenses, loss adjustment expenses, underwriting practices and agency issues.

Wollmuth Maher & Deutsch LLP is pleased that its clients in this field range from some of the most prominent insurance and reinsurance companies in the world to start-up entities who have recently entered the market. The firm's attorneys speak at leading industry seminars and conferences and have written articles on contemporary reinsurance and insurance issues.

Other recent representative matters include: (i) litigating and obtaining a large settlement for a *Fortune* 500 manufacturer in a dispute arising out of a global supply agreement that also resulted in tortious interference claims against a French competitor of the client; (ii) representing a group of international hedge fund clients arising out of fraud claims against a UK fund manager; (iii) representing a South American company in an ICC arbitration; and (iv) representing various French clients in a litigation arising out of an Enron off-balance sheet partnership.

The firm has been very active in sub-prime mortgage related disputes, principally surrounding reinsurance and financial guarantees of obligations of issuers of sub-prime mortgage-backed securities, but also concerning the rights and obligations of parties to derivatives, CDOs and SIVs tied to the market for such securities. Such representations have had substantial interaction with European and Asian reinsurers and financial institutions entangled in or impacted by such transactions.

On the transactional side, the firm has represented clients in a wide variety of cross-border acquisitions, joint ventures, securities offerings and private financings. Examples of recent cross-border transactions include: (i) representing AIG Global Investment Group in connection with its sale of securities in the Mexican IPO and 144A sale of securities of Axtel, SA, a corporation formed under the laws of Mexico; (ii) representing Brasoil Corporation, a Brazilian corporation with US affiliates, in connection with a \$100,000,000 financing led by Goldman Sachs; (iii) representing GSO Capital Partners LP in the acquisition of the assets of the thermal processing division of Gibraltar Industries, Inc, comprising 17 heat treatment plants in multiple jurisdictions in the US and Canada; (iv) representing GSO Capital Partners LP in the acquisition of 100% of the common stock of Flex Elektrowerkzeuge GmbH, the premium European power tool manufacturing subsidiary of The Black & Decker Corporation and the subsequent sale of Flex Elektrowerkzeuge GmbH to AXA Private Equity; and (v) representing IPC Systems Holdings, Inc in the acquisition of US and Canadian operations of Positron Public Safety Systems, Inc from Positron Inc. In addition, the firm has represented placement

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agents and investor groups in private placement transactions involving foreign issuers in a variety of industries, including nanotechnology, oil and gas and biotechnology.

CLIENTS

Representative clients include American International Group, Inc; Assured Guaranty Corporation; The Blackstone Group LP; Centre Insurance Company; Chartis Insurance; General Reinsurance Corporation; GSO Capital Partners LP; Hanover Insurance Group; Lehman Brothers; Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd; Morgan Stanley & Co Inc; ORIX Capital Markets LLC; and TD Securities (USA) LLC.



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