



Pursuing Subrogation Claims for Property and
Casualty Insurers in
New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

www.GwertzmanLaw.com



ABOUT THE FIRM

Gwertzman Lefkowitz Smith & Sullivan LLP is a boutique subrogation law firm with a core focus of pursuing subrogation recovery claims on behalf of property and casualty insurers.

With its main office located on Wall Street in the Financial District of lower Manhattan, the firm has a long continuous history of serving insurance clients since it was founded in 1929.

The firm pursues subrogation of a wide variety of claims - both large and small - arising out of casualties such as fire, water, and construction losses.

The firm represents its insurer clients in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, routinely litigating in state and federal courts in these jurisdictions.

The firm pursues subrogation for a wide variety claims including:

- Personal lines claims such as homeowner and tenant claims
- Commercial insured claims for businesses large and small including real estate investment companies, property management companies, landlords, manufacturers, and other businesses
- Condominium Associations
- Cooperatives
- High net worth individuals



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SMITH & SULLIVAN LLP

ABOUT THE FIRM

Gwertzman Lefkowitz Smith & Sullivan LLP is a long-established law firm dedicated to pursuing subrogation recoveries on behalf of insurance company clients.

The firm's subrogation attorneys are able to confidently manage all aspects of recovery pursuits and are knowledgeable in the issues that are unique to subrogation - from identifying potentially responsible parties, coordinating scene inspections, evidence preservation, retention of specialized experts, managing multi-party evidence inspections, litigation, settlement negotiations and alternative dispute resolution.

The firm pursues claims primarily in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and also in other jurisdictions with the assistance of trusted local counsel partners.



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Adriatic Insurance Company

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Meet the Team



Melissa Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan brings over 20 years of subrogation industry experience to the firm. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Sullivan served as in-house legal counsel for Travelers as Subrogation Line Lead. Prior to Travelers, Ms. Sullivan was a litigation partner at a regional firm pursuing subrogation and defending manufacturers. Ms. Sullivan has been an active member of the National Assoc. of Subrogation Professionals since 2004. Ms. Sullivan is admitted to practice in the State and Federal Courts of NY and CT.

David Smith

Mr. Smith has been with the firm since 1988 and has over 35 years experience pursuing subrogation and defending first and third-party claims for insurers, self-insurers and third-party administrators.

Mr. Smith has tried numerous cases to verdict, including subrogation, personal injury defense and first-party property coverage disputes. Mr. Smith has extensive experience with alternative dispute resolution, including binding arbitrations.



Mr. Smith is Admitted to State and Federal Courts in NY and NJ.

Meet the Team

Robert Finn

Mr. Finn brings over thirty years of subrogation experience in the New York City area. Mr. Finn has pursued subrogation claims on behalf of clients of the firm since 2006. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Finn was Regional Subrogation Counsel for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and Subrogation Unit Manager for Chubb Insurance Company. Mr. Finn is admitted to practice in State and Federal Courts of New York.



Jeffrey Greenberg

Mr. Greenberg is an experienced property subrogation attorney. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Greenberg served as staff counsel at Chubb & Son's New York Subrogation Unit at Eustace, Marquez, Epstein, Prezioso & Yapchanyk. Prior to Chubb, Mr. Greenberg litigated claims in private practice in New York City. Mr. Greenberg is admitted to practice in State and Federal Courts in NY and NJ.



Meet the Team

Christian Sedereas



Mr. Sedereas has litigated a broad range of insurance cases and has extensive experience with alternative dispute resolution. Mr. Sedereas brings to the firm both in-house and private practice experience. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Sedereas was a member of Berkley Luxury Group's NY staff counsel office and assisted in developing its in-house subrogation practice.

Mr. Sedereas is admitted in the state and federal courts of NJ, and the District Courts for the Southern, Eastern and Northern Districts of NY. Mr. Sedereas is a member of the NY State Bar Assoc. and the National Assoc. of Subrogation Professionals.

Paul Lazzaro

Mr. Lazzaro is a newly admitted attorney. Prior to his admission, while pursuing a legal education at New York Law School, Mr. Lazzaro worked as a litigation paralegal and law clerk at our office. Paul is admitted to the State Courts of New York and Connecticut.



REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

The firm provides a flexible approach to best support client needs. We investigate and pursue claims of all sizes and types to support our clients' unique presence in the marketplace. Following are just some examples of the types of claims that we handle for our clients:

CONSTRUCTION LOSSES

The firm routinely handles complicated legal issues surrounding construction losses, including litigating issues such as waivers of subrogation and other legal challenges based on builder's risk policies, trade contracts and insurance schemes.

PERSONAL INSUREDS

The firm pursues subrogation on behalf of carriers who represent tenants, condominium owners and co-operatives, routinely analyzing recovery potential and defenses raised in leases, by-laws and proprietary leases.

COMMERCIAL INSUREDS

The firm pursues subrogation arising out of losses to commercial insureds of all types of industries, including manufacturers both large and small, restaurants, financial institutions, and religious and educational institutions.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

SUBROGATING CATASTROPHIC LOSSES

The firm's representation of carriers has placed it at the center of high-profile litigations, including the litigation arising out of the crane collapses at 91st Street and 51st Street, the Grand Central steam explosion case, as well as more recently, litigation arising out of a massive water main break at Lincoln Center impacting multiple carriers. The firm's attorneys have participated in steering committees, representing multiple interests, and work routinely with co-claimant's counsel in pursuit of subrogation recovery against common recovery targets.

REAL ESTATE OWNERS & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

The firm represents a client that insures condominiums, co-operatives and commercial strip malls in New York and Connecticut. Our team is well-versed in the legal landscape in these areas of the law to provide experienced analysis to maximize cost-effective recovery.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY OF NEW YORK & CON EDISON

With our long history of pursuing subrogation in New York City, the firm has routinely pursued these entities, building a reputation as a strong and effective local plaintiff's presence.

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO SUBROGATION CLAIMS

The firm's team understands the importance of a timely and practical approach to subrogation necessary to support a successful recovery claim organization. The firm offers a unique perspective as several of its lawyers and support personnel have served in a variety of in-house roles at large insurance companies supporting sophisticated subrogation organizations. The firm has an in-depth understanding of subrogation from the internal perspective, resulting in the delivery of effective legal support to clients.

Additionally, our attorneys all have experience as defense counsel, providing the necessary perspective to effectively communicate with liability adjusters and defense counsel, and to counsel clients on potential legal defenses and strategies.



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