

Steve M. Vorbrodt

Partner

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Steve Vorbrodt is a Partner at Singleton Urquhart Reynolds Vogel LLP with a practice focused on the areas of commercial litigation, insurance defence and construction law. His clients include international, national, and regional insurance companies and their clients as well as self-insureds.

Steve has represented both corporate and individual clients in a wide variety of matters including the defence of:

- professional liability claims against accountants, financial planners, health care and other professionals
- engineers and engineering firms in complex construction disputes
- directors and officers (including civil fraud and conspiracy claims)
- coverage disputes against insurers (including breach of contract and bad faith claims)
- personal injury and property damage claims (including fire loss)
- manufacturers and distributors in product liability claims

Steve has acted for clients at all levels of court in British Columbia as well as various administrative tribunals, including the *Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia*, the *Insurance Institute of British Columbia*, the *Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal* and the *Human Rights Tribunal*.

RANKINGS + RECOGNITION

- Ranked in the area of Insurance Law by *Best Lawyers Canada®*.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Canadian Elevator Contractors Association
- Member, Canadian-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Member, BC Bar Association (Construction Law, Insurance Law and Product Liability subsections)
- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Canadian Bar Association

EXPERIENCE

- Successfully defended appeal of judgment on behalf of insurer at the Court of Appeal (*Hamman v. ICBC*, CA).
- Obtained a 50% reduction in the damage award to account for Plaintiff's contributory negligence in a failure to warn case (*Yang v. Duralia*, BCSC).
- Obtained judgment in a counterclaim against the Plaintiff who was found to have breached his insurance policy as a result of being incapable of operating a motor vehicle due to the influence of alcohol (*Hamman v. ICBC*, BCSC).
- Obtained dismissal of personal injury claims on summary trial application in products liability case against a Fortune 500 company (*Arellano v. Wong*, BCSC).
- Obtained judgment including punitive damages against two Defendants found liable for fraud and conspiracy to present a false witness in respect of a motor vehicle accident (*ICBC v. Panag*, BCSC).
- Obtained punitive damages and special costs in addition to special and general damages on a



Insurance
Commercial and Business
Litigation
Construction and Infrastructure
Law
Directors and Officers Liability
Professional Liability

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EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours),
University of Western Ontario:
1993
- Exchange Program, Heinrich
Heine University, Düsseldorf,
Germany: 1992
- Bachelor of Laws, University of
British Columbia: 2003
- Called to the British Columbia
Bar: 2004

summary trial application in respect of a fraudulent theft claim made to an insurer (*ICBC v. Kooner*, BCSC).

- Obtained judgment including punitive damages in a claim based on civil conspiracy relating to material misrepresentations in an application for insurance (*ICBC v. Thaci and Haliti*, BCPC).
- Successfully defended claims for a declaration of insurance coverage on the basis of willfully false statements (*Gotsutsov v. ICBC*, BCPC and *Prasad v. ICBC*, BCSC).
- Successfully defended application by plaintiff to add new causes of action in a professional negligence action (*Ewert v. Marshall*, BCSC).
- Obtained dismissal of discrimination claim against a professional from the Human Rights Tribunal (*Gallagher v. Henry*, BCHRT).
- Obtained dismissal of actions involving claims of professional negligence (*Swityk v. Priest*, BCPC and *Leung v. Godley*, BCPC).
- Worked in conjunction with senior counsel in obtaining judgment for investment losses against a financial advisor and an investment firm (*Hawkenson v. Rogers*, BCSC).
- Obtained favorable damage awards in personal injury actions against corporate defendant (*Hansen v. Overwaitea Foods*, BCPC and *Schoenke v. Overwaitea Foods*, BCPC).

PUBLICATIONS

- "Contractual hurdles: Professionals Looking to Limit their Liability through Contractual Wording have to Overcome a few Obstacles First," Canadian Underwriter
- "Who Do You Represent: Vicarious Liability And Agency Issues In The Insurance Context," IBABC HyperArticle, BC Broker Magazine
- Co-author, "Faulty Workmanship or Resulting Damage: *Ledcor v. Northbridge*," IBABC HyperArticle (with Brendan Ward), BC Broker Magazine
- "The Fine Art of Limiting Liability," IBABC HyperArticle, BC Broker Magazine
- Co-author, "When Directors May Be Liable For Misrepresentations Made by Other Directors," (with Peter Mennie), Letter of the Law
- "Ledcor Construction: Supreme Court Of Canada Clarifies Meaning Of "Faulty Workmanship" And "Resultant Damage" To Expand Coverage In A Builder's Risk Policy," Letter of the Law
- "Objecting to Expert Evidence Based on Novel Science," Letter of the Law
- "Commercial Litigation for Junior Lawyers and Legal Support Staff," co-chair and contribution author (CLE)
- "Auto Insurance Clause Narrowed," Letter of the Law
- "Recent Criminal and Quasi-Criminal Developments in Securities Litigation," co-authored with Rod Anderson (CLE)
- "Barbarians Looking for the Gate," co-authored with Mark Tweedy, Pacific Law Institute
- Author of a variety of additional published articles and commentaries regarding various insurance issues

PRESENTATIONS

- Speaker, "Dealing with Ungovernable Registrants," Seminar, RegPro2018 - Professional Regulation & Discipline
- Speaker, "D&O Liability & Coverage Issues for BC Brokers," Seminar, IBABC
- Speaker, "Insurance Parties at Odds - Cases, Coverages and Opportunities," 69th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Insurance Brokers Association of British Columbia, Whistler, British Columbia
- Speaker, "Oops ... I did it again - Liability Issues for Insurance Brokers," Webinar, IBABC
- Speaker, "Beyond CGL - Coverage Issues for BC Brokers," Webinar, IBABC
- Speaker, "Anatomy of Investment Advisors' Litigation," Seminar, SU
- Speaker, "Vicarious Liability and Agency: An Overview," Seminar, SU
- Speaker, "Litigation, Arbitration, Mediation: Choosing the Right Approach to Dispute Resolution in Canada," Canadian-German Lawyers' Association, Montreal

NEWS + INSIGHTS

- [A Whole New World during and post COVID? Virtual Examination Discovery in B.C.](#) - Jul 21, 2020 • Co-authored
- [Powering fair procurement](#) - Dec 8, 2017 • Co-authored
- [Keeping things on track](#) - Nov 29, 2017 • Co-authored
- [US at SU - Spring 2012](#) - Jul 4, 2017 • Co-authored
- [Supreme Court of Canada Expands Coverage Under Builders Risk Policy](#) - Dec 7, 2016
- [Misrepresentations by Other Directors Can Be Costly](#) - Oct 18, 2016

COMMUNITY + VOLUNTEERING

- Member of Board of Directors of Turning Point Recovery Society
- Vice-President and member of Board of Directors of Vancouver Westside German School
- Moot Court Judge, Professional Legal Training Course