



Brian L. Smith

PARTNER

EXPERIENCE

Attorney Brian L. Smith is one of only 48 Board Certified Specialists in Workers' Compensation in the state of Connecticut, and has held that distinction since 2005. Brian focuses his practice on counseling and defending employers, municipalities, insurers and third-party administrators, appearing regularly before the Workers' Compensation Commission and the Compensation Review Board as well as the Connecticut Appellate Courts and the Connecticut Supreme Court. Having represented both claimants and respondents during his 30+ year legal career, he has a unique understanding of the issues facing all litigants in workers' compensation matters.

Combining his knowledge of the law with conflict resolution skills, Brian's practice also includes Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). He serves as a mediator for both workers' compensation and general civil matters, and has mediated landlord-tenant disputes for the Connecticut Eviction Intervention program. In addition, he has conducted arbitration hearings in multiple matters involving motor vehicle accidents.

Sharing his expertise with the legal community, Brian has served on the Connecticut Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Executive Committee for 10 years. He chaired the Connecticut Bar Association Standing Committee on Certification of Workers' Compensation Specialists – the committee that certifies workers' compensation specialists – from 2014 to 2022. In addition, Brian served as president of the Waterbury Bar Association from 2002 to 2004.

HONORS & AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America*
 - Workers' Compensation Law – Employers, 2025
- Connecticut *Super Lawyers*, Workers' Compensation, 2009-11
- Waterbury Bar Association Community Service Award, 2007

BACKGROUND

ADMISSIONS

- Connecticut, 1991
- U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, 1993

EDUCATION

- Quinnipiac University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1991
 - *Quinnipiac University Law Review*, Academic Invitee
 - Hartwick College, B.A. Political Science, *magna cum laude*, 1985
 - Best Senior Thesis
 - Faculty Scholar
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PRACTICES

Workers' Compensation

Alternative Dispute Resolution
(ADR)

Brian L. Smith

PARTNER

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Connecticut Bar Association
 - Workers' Compensation Executive Committee, 2005-22
 - Standing Committee on Specialization, 2014-22
 - Continuing Legal Education Committee, 2012-16
 - Waterbury Bar Association
 - President, 2002-04
 - Treasurer, 1998-2002
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Waterbury Schools, Mentor, 1995-2000
- United Way of Naugatuck Valley, Member Appropriations Committee, 1995-99
- Public Interest Law Forum, Treasurer, 1990-91
- 70,001 Corporation, Member Advisory Board, 1987-88
- Connecticut Eviction Intervention Program, Bridgeport, CT, Mediator, 1990-91

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS

- "Workers' Compensation Specialization Certification – Why Would I Subject Myself to This?" Connecticut Bar Association Compensation Quarterly, Volume 27, No. 3, Fall 2017
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WEBINARS

- "Recent Amendments to Connecticut's Workers' Compensation Act: A Response to *Gardner v. State*," (Co-Presenter), GS Webinar Series, June 25, 2025