

Joseph M. Junfola, CPCU

Insurance Claim Consultant



JUNFOLA CLAIM CONSULTING

<https://cdclaimresourceblog.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/junfola>

OVERVIEW

Formed in 2019, with offices in Norwood, PA and Cape May, NJ, Junfola Claim Consulting provides the following insurance consulting services:

Coverage and Claim Analysis
Claim Handling
Litigation Support
Attendance: mediations, settlement conferences, carrier meetings, trial monitoring
Webinars/Workshops
Policy Language Review
Expert Witness

My insurance claim career spans 43+ years, all of which have been spent managing, directly or in a supervisory capacity, commercial and personal lines insurance claims. For the last 29 years, I have specialized in commercial long-term exposure, or continuous property damage/bodily injury/toxic tort claims on a national basis, primarily, but not exclusively, construction defect, and product liability, and design professional liability claims. I frequently collaborate with underwriting professionals to draft and redraft policy language. My experience also includes construction accident claims, particularly third-party-over actions in New York.

During the first 14+ years of my career, I supervised personal lines claims, both on a primary and umbrella basis, in the State of New Jersey. It was during this time, in the early 1990s, that I qualified as an expert in the evaluation of automobile bodily injury claims in Federal Court. On behalf of the U.S., I testified as an expert in Newark Federal Court in two related automobile insurance fraud prosecutions of a fraud ring that included a physician, three attorneys, and their respective office staffs.

I am a staunch proponent of lifetime professional development as evidenced by my participation in formal programs as well as by my creation and delivery of webinars and workshops. Effective September 2020, I joined the Academy of Insurance as an instructor, <https://www.ijacademy.com/>.

I am licensed in Florida and Louisiana.

Experience

2019 – present Junfola Claim Consulting
Insurance Claim Consultant

1993 – 2019 Admiral Insurance Group, New Jersey
Assistant Secretary, Claims

Managed commercial long-term exposure and continuous damage/injury claims, and professional liability claims with strong emphasis on construction defect, architects and engineers, product defects, toxic tort, environmental, and personal/advertising injury on a primary and excess basis. Also handled construction accident claims.

Created and maintained an extensive Body of Knowledge (“BOK”) database, recognized, companywide, as an invaluable resource for both claims and underwriting. Developed over a 14-year period, the BOK housed thousands of entries including hundreds of key appellate decisions at the state and federal levels.

Conducted affiliate company and TPA audits.

Regularly consulted with underwriting on policy form drafting.

1992 – 1993 Reliance Insurance Co., Pennsylvania
Senior Claims Examiner

1977 – 1992 Allstate Insurance Co., New Jersey
Casualty Claim Manager (1990 – 1992)

Education

2017 Associate in Data Analytics AIDA
2015 Associate in Claims – Management AIC-M
2014 Certificate in Law and Legal Process, Southern New Hampshire University
2012 Registered Professional Liability Underwriter + RPLU+
2010 Management Liability Insurance Specialist MLIS
2010 Associate in Insurance Services AIS
2009 Home Inspection Certificate, Rutgers University/The National Institute of Building Inspectors
2008 Executive Certificate in Negotiation, Mendoza College of Business, University of Notre Dame
2007 Construction Risk Insurance Specialist CRIS
2006 Associate in Risk Management ARM
2004 Associate in Commercial Underwriting AU
2002 Associate in Reinsurance ARe
2000 Associate in Surplus Lines Insurance ASLI
1998 Registered Professional Liability Underwriter RPLU
1990 Associate in Claims AIC
1986 Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter CPCU
1983 Senior Claim Law Associate SCLA (Silver eff. June 2020)
1978 BA, La Salle College

Numerous technical and “soft skill” seminars and workshops including:

2016 Certificate of Completion, Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School
Negotiation and Leadership

Professional Memberships & Activities

Workshops/Webinars

Created/presented *“Cause and Effect: Managing the Construction Defect Claim”*, a multi-part series, conducted via on-site workshops and webinars. Topics included coverage issues such as the duty to defend, whether faulty workmanship constitutes an occurrence, and whether the consequences are property damage; trigger of coverage, known loss, number of occurrences; allocation; contractual indemnity; additional insured; business risk exclusions; liability, damages, and litigation management.

Published Articles

(Note: some of these articles can no longer be accessed. For copies, please contact me.)

Allocation in Continuous Damage Claims”, CPCU eJournal, February 2011,
<http://www.cpcusociety.org/index.v3page?p=49513>

“Apples and Oranges: Policy Provisions Related, But Distinct”, Property Casualty 360°, November 7, 2011, <http://www.propertycasualty360.com/>

“Perspectives on the Mediation Process and Its Participants: How and Why People Mediate – The Claims Professional’s Perspective”, FDCC Quarterly, 62 Fed’n Def. & Corp. Couns. Q. 194 (2012), <http://www.thefederation.org/process.cfm?pageid=2054>

“Cause and Effect: Managing the Construction Defect Claim”, Part 1, Property Casualty 360°, January 8, 2013
<http://www.propertycasualty360.com/>

“Cause and Effect: Managing the Construction Defect Claim”, Part 2a, Property Casualty 360°, January 30, 2013
<http://www.propertycasualty360.com/>

“The Duty to Defend – Part I: The Anomaly of the Duty to Indemnify Without a Corresponding Duty to Defend”, Coverage Opinions, Vol. 2, Iss.9, April 24, 2103
<http://www.coverageopinions.info/Downloads.html>

“The Duty to Defend – Part II: Two’s Company and Sometimes Three’s a Crowd”, Coverage Opinions, Vol. 2, Iss. 14, July 10, 2013
<http://www.coverageopinions.info/Downloads.html>

“The Duty to Defend – Part III: The (Insurance) Legacy of Jerry Buss”, Coverage Opinions, Vol. 2, Iss. 21, November 13, 2013
<http://coverageopinions.info/Vol2Issue21/GuestCommentary.html>

“The Duty to Defend”, Claims

“Montrose: Gift That Keeps on Giving”, June 29, 2020
<https://www.insurancethoughtleadership.com/montrose-gift-that-keeps-on-giving/>

“Coverage Triggers for Construction Defect Claims”, July 2020
<https://www.irmi.com/articles/expert-commentary/coverage-triggers-for-construction-defect-claims>

“Other Insurance and Allocation in Construction Defect Claims”, November 2020
<https://www.irmi.com/articles/expert-commentary/other-insurance-and-allocation-in-construction-defect-claims>

“Defining and Fixing Construction Defect Claims”, February 2021
<https://www.irmi.com/articles/expert-commentary/defining-and-fixing-construction-defects>

Published Book

Construction Defect Claims: A Handbook for Insurance, Risk Management, Construction, & Design Professionals, December 2014,
<http://my.bookbaby.com/book/construction-defect-claims>

Memberships

Associate Member, American Association of Insurance Management Consultants

Member, Insurance Expert Network

Fellow, Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (formerly Council on Litigation Management)

Member, Professional Liability Defense Federation

Speaking Engagements

Panel: Construction Coverage Questions: Thorny Problems, Recent Developments, and Practical Solutions, CLM Construction Conference, September 26-28, 2018.

Panel: Mixed Up About Mixed Use? Understanding and Handling Mixed Use Development Claims from an Underwriting, Claims, and Defense Counsel Perspective, West Coast Casualty’s Construction Defect Seminar, May 18-19, 2017.

Panel: David and Goliath: Successfully litigating a construction defect case for both the subcontractor and general contractor from AI (additional insured) to Z flashing, CLM 2016 Construction Conference, September 28-30, 2016.

Panel: Additional Insured and Contractual Indemnity Issues: How To Get Them Right, Beware Tort of Another and other exceptions, VEADR 2015 Annual Event, June 3-5, 2015.

Panel: Construction Defect Insurance Issues, 2010 East Region Construction Defect and Insurance Coverage Conference, June 2-4, 2010.

Past Activities

Grader, CPCU/IIA exams

Expert Witness, NJ Federal Court, Evaluation of automobile bodily injury claims in New Jersey

Speakers Bureau, NJ Insurance News Service

Faculty, Insurance Society of Philadelphia

Past-President of a small condominium association (2001-2010). Primary duties included preparation/implementation of operating and capital projects budgets, and risk management.