



The Law Offices of
METHFESSEL & WERBEL
A Professional Corporation

The Leading Insurance and Claims Attorneys

M&W NAMED INSURANCE LAW LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN SEVEN YEARS

The [New Jersey Law Journal](#) has named Methfessel & Werbel New Jersey's top insurance law firm of the year, making the firm a five time winner.

"To be recognized a fifth time as the winner of this award is an incredible feat for our firm," stated [Joel Werbel](#), co-founder of the firm. "48 years ago we founded Methfessel & Werbel with the idea that we would build relationships with our clients in the insurance and risk industry that would serve their needs over the long term. One of the things that makes me the most proud is that we have a number of clients who have been with us for that entire period – a fact that has confirmed our approach."

Methfessel & Werbel is one the longest standing firms and the preeminent insurance law firm in New Jersey. The firm serves clients ranging in size from mono-line program carriers and MGAs to Fortune 500 multi-line carriers and self-insureds. M&W has never strayed from its core mission to serve the needs of the insurance and managed risk industry since its founding in 1972.

No firm over the past 48 years has had a greater impact on the development of law affecting insurance carriers in New Jersey. Hundreds of cases litigated by Methfessel & Werbel have culminated in written opinions

at all levels, including trial and appellate courts and the New Jersey Supreme Court. The firm has participated in cases culminating in over 150 published appellate decisions in state and federal courts, as well as several hundred cases culminating in unpublished decisions. In 2019 alone, M&W represented parties in 29 Appellate Division decisions and a landmark Supreme Court decision; the firm handled over 70 appeals that year alone.

M&W attorneys have argued many insurance coverage cases before the Supreme Court of New Jersey, including the landmark New Jersey Supreme Court case of [Brill v. Guardian Life Insurance Company](#), which established the standards for the granting of summary judgment. Legal standards affecting the insurance industry, which the firm helped establish, are still relied upon today. For example, 26 years ago, the New Jersey Supreme Court decided [Pickett v. Lloyd's of London](#). The Supreme Court accepted the argument advanced by the firm that extra-contractual damages should not be available in a dispute over first-party coverage when the insurer's decision is "fairly debatable." In February of 2015, the New Jersey Supreme Court reiterated the continued validity of Pickett in [Badiali v. New Jersey Manufacturers' Insurance](#).

Methfessel & Werbel's most recent New Jersey Supreme Court decision was an Errors & Omissions case, [L.R. v. Camden City School District](#). In July 2019 the Supreme Court agreed with the firm, which argued on behalf of two school districts and their insurers, that confidential student records may not be redacted into discoverability under the Open Public Records Act. The decision safeguards sensitive student information and protects school districts and their insurers from exposure to large attorney fee awards in OPRA litigation.

Click [here](#) for the Law Journal's recent feature on M&W.

About Methfessel & Werbel

Methfessel & Werbel was established in 1972 to serve the needs of the Insurance and Managed Risk Industry. Our team of 47 attorneys and approximately 50 support staff pursues excellence with integrity in its mission to serve our clients every day. To learn more, visit the company's website at <http://njinslaw.com>.

Methfessel & Werbel

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