

**William C. O'Neill**

Partner
woneill@crowell.com

Washington

1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2595
Phone: 202.624.2950
Fax: 202.628.5116

Practice Areas

- Insurance/Reinsurance
- Health Care
- Arbitration
- Litigation
- Middle East & North Africa
- International Arbitration

William C. O'Neill is a partner in our Insurance/Reinsurance Group and heads the firm's reinsurance practice. His practice focuses on arbitrations and litigations on behalf of cedents, reinsurers, and brokers.

Bill has been involved in dozens of disputes involving issues in life, health, and property/casualty reinsurance matters. Recently, he has represented clients in disputes involving occupational disease exclusions, the reasonableness of reinsurance premiums charged to physician provider groups, maximum any one life warranties, sunset and commutation clauses, offset, Katrina losses, actuarial and agency issues, cedent insolvencies, follow the fortunes, late notice, contract interpretation, underwriting practices, 9/11 issues, fraud, misrepresentations, and allegations of misconduct by brokers, managing general underwriters, and third-party administrators. These disputes center on many types of underlying business, including, variable annuities, workers' compensation, asbestos, environmental, disability income, accident and health, and construction defect claims.

Bill also counsels clients regarding business, strategy and regulatory matters including reinsurance claims and notice issues, assumption reinsurance agreements, and commutations. He works closely with the firm's international trade attorneys advising reinsurers on OFAC compliance issues and with the firm's International Dispute Resolution practice. He also is involved in the firm's Climate Change practice.

In addition to his reinsurance work, Bill's practice also includes significant work on a variety of issues for health care companies, with a particular emphasis on Medicare preemption issues.

Bill has recently been recognized as a top insurance and reinsurance attorney in *Euromoney's Guide to the World's Leading Insurance & Reinsurance Attorneys* (2008 edition). He is a frequent speaker on reinsurance issues and

has served on the faculty at training seminars for reinsurance arbitrators. He is a member of the AIDA Reinsurance and Insurance Arbitration Society (ARIAS-US), a vice chair of the Excess, Surplus Lines and Reinsurance Committee of the Torts and Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association, and a member of the American Health Lawyers Association.

Bill is a graduate of Cornell Law School and Towson University where he was named outstanding graduate of the Economics Department for 1992. He is admitted to both the District of Columbia and Maryland Bars.

In The News

In August 2009, Bill was featured in *InsuranceLaw360* with a Q&A on his practice, the complexity of his cases, and his most notable accomplishments as a lawyer.

Education

- Cornell University School of Law, J.D.
- Towson University, B.S.

Affiliations

Admitted to Practice: District of Columbia, Maryland

Publications

- "Reference Handbook on Insurance Company Runoff and Receiverships Property/Casualty & Life/Health," *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section* (5th ed. June 2009). Contributing Editors (DC Circuit): William C. O'Neill and Matthew W. Cheney.
- "Coping with the CDS Crisis: Lessons Learned from the LMX Spiral," *Journal of Reinsurance*, Vol. 16, No. 2 (Spring 2009). Co-Authors: William O'Neill, Nilam Sharma, Michael Carolan and Zainab Charchafchi.
- "Recent Developments in Excess, Surplus Lines, and Reinsurance," *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal* (Spring 2008). Co-Authors: William C. O'Neill, Michelle A. Jones and Lori T. Hildebrand.
- "The Duty of Utmost Good Faith in Facultative and Treaty Reinsurance," *ABA Excess, Surplus Lines and Reinsurance Committee Newsletter* (Winter 2007). Co-Authors: William C. O'Neill and Stacy A. Puente.
- "Key Principles and Concepts: Utmost Good Faith and Rescission," *Mealey's Fundamentals of Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration* (2007). Co-Authors: William C. O'Neill and Michelle A. Jones.

- "Consolidation of Reinsurance Arbitrations," *Mealey's Fundamentals of Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration* (2006). Co-Authors: William C. O'Neill and Ryan Craig.

Alerts & Newsletters

- "OFAC Continues Focus on the Reinsurance Industry: General Re and Iran," *Reinsurance Alert* (June 30, 2011). Contacts: William C. O'Neill, Deirdre G. Johnson, Jeffrey L. Snyder.
- "OFAC Continues Iran Insurance Penalty Focus," *Reinsurance Alert* (April 29, 2011). Contacts: Jeffrey L. Snyder, William C. O'Neill, Deirdre G. Johnson.
- "Iran Sanctions Enforcement and Reinsurance," *Reinsurance Alert* (February 3, 2011). Contacts: Deirdre G. Johnson, William C. O'Neill, Jeffrey L. Snyder.
- "U.S. Supreme Court Refuses to Overturn Decision Permitting International Arbitration Where State Law Prohibited Arbitration Provisions in Insurance Contracts," *Reinsurance Alert* (October 20, 2010). Contacts: Christa S. Thorpe, William C. O'Neill, Deirdre G. Johnson.
- "Ninth Circuit Addresses Medicare Preemption in New *Uhm v. Humana* Opinion," *Health Law 'In The News'* (September 1, 2010). Contacts: Arthur N. Lerner, Christopher Flynn, William C. O'Neill, Michael L. Cypers, Michelle A. Jones.
- "*Gard Marine*: Another UK Decision Reiterates the Importance of Choice of Law," *Reinsurance Alert* (November 16, 2009). Contacts: William C. O'Neill, Deirdre G. Johnson, Michelle A. Jones.
- "U.S. House of Representatives Passes Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act, Encouraging Consistency in the Regulation of Surplus Lines Insurance and Reinsurance," *Reinsurance Alert* (September 17, 2009). Contacts: William C. O'Neill, Deirdre G. Johnson, Jennifer R. Devery, Michael T. Carolan, Harry P. Cohen.
- "*Lexington v. Wasa*: The House of Lords Redefines Concurrent Reinsurance Coverage," *Reinsurance Alert* (August 3, 2009). Contacts: Deirdre G. Johnson, Jennifer R. Devery, William C. O'Neill.

Speaking Engagements

- "Avoiding the Coin Toss: Proven Methods of Streamlining the Arbitration Process and Its Alternatives," ACI's Forum: Reinsurance Disputes in Litigation and Arbitration, New York, NY (April 30, 2012). Participant: William C. O'Neill.
- St. John's SRM, Insurance Leader of the Year Annual Award Dinner Honoring Evan G. Greenberg, New York, NY (January 18, 2012).

Attendees: Paul W. Kalish, William C. O'Neill, Clifford B. Hendler, Harry P. Cohen, Michael K. Robles, Jennifer R. Devery.

- "Discussion of Extrinsic Evidence in Arbitration Proceedings (The Role of Underwriting Intent in Arbitration Proceedings)," ARIAS 2011 Spring Conference (May 2011). Presenter: William C. O'Neill.
- "Utmost Good Faith: The Guiding Principle of Reinsurance," HB Litigation Conferences: 17th Annual Insurance Insolvency and Reinsurance Roundtable (June 24, 2010). Presenter: Bill O'Neill.
- "Organizing The Arbitration," ARIAS-U.S. Arbitrator Continuing Education Series, New York, NY (2009). Faculty: William C. O'Neill.
- "Investors Panel: Lessons from the Fall," Intermediaries & Reinsurance Underwriters Association Fall Conference, Galloway, NJ (2009). Panelist: William C. O'Neill.
- "Credit Default Swaps: Where Are We Going?" Crowell & Moring's Credit Default Swaps: Exploring The Controversy--Market Forces, Litigation, Regulation, Accounting and Tax Conference, New York, NY (2008). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- Mealey's Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration Conference, Washington, DC (2008). Co-Chair: William C. O'Neill.
- "Hot Topics in Reinsurance - Dispute Resolution: Arbitration vs. Litigation," RAA's Demystifying Reinsurance: A Basics of Reinsurance Course, Chicago, IL (2008). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- "Cost-Centric Approaches to Arbitration, Mediation and Other ADR Options," American Conference Institute's Reinsurance Claims and Arbitration Conference, New York, NY (2008). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- "Preemption - It's Not Just for ERISA Anymore: A Primer on MMA Preemption," Crowell & Moring's 2008 Healthcare Ounce Of Prevention Seminar (HOOPS) (October 2008). Co-Presenters: William C. O'Neill and Michelle A. Jones.
- "Annuity Reinsurance: Overcoming the Challenges Associated With Variable Annuities and Guaranteed Benefits," American Conference Institute's Legal and Strategic Forum on Life Reinsurance, New York, NY (2008). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- "Stop Loss Coverage and Other Current Topics in Health Law," Annual TIPS Midwinter Symposium on Insurance, Employment and Benefits, Fort Lauderdale, FL (2008). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- RAA's Re claims: Reinsurance Claims Management for Claims Professionals By Claims Professionals, Philadelphia, PA (2007). Moderator: William C. O'Neill.
- "Key Principles and Concepts: Utmost Good Faith and Rescission," Mealey's Fundamentals of Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration Conference, New Orleans, LA (2007). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.

- "Consolidation of Reinsurance Arbitrations," Mealey's Fundamentals of Reinsurance Litigation and Arbitration Conference, Boston, MA (2006). Speaker: William C. O'Neill.
- ARIAS Reinsurance Arbitration Workshop - Tarrytown, N.Y. (2004). Faculty Member: William C. O'Neill.
- ARIAS-U.S. Intensive Arbitrator Training Workshop, Washington, D.C. (2003). Faculty Members: William C. O'Neill, Jennifer R. Devery and Michelle A. Jones.