

**Brandon B. Copeland**  
Principal



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**Practice Areas**

Arson-Fraud Litigation  
Construction Law  
Insurance Law  
Premises and Retail Liability

**Education**

Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., 2006)  
Murray State University (MBA, 2000)  
Murray State University (B.S., 1998)



Brandon Copeland joined Brown & James in 2006 and practices in the firm's St. Louis office. Prior to joining Brown & James, he worked for a national insurance company as a field claims adjuster for five years. During that time, he gained valuable experience in the proper handling of property and liability insurance claims. Mr. Copeland puts his field experience to work focusing his practice in the area of insurance law, including coverage disputes and arson-fraud litigation. He also practices in the areas of construction law and premises liability.

**Professional Affiliations**

Illinois State Bar Association  
Missouri Organization of Defense Lawyers  
Springfield Claims Association

**Bar Admissions**

Missouri  
Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri  
U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois  
U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas

**Achievements**

Best Lawyers - Insurance Law, *The Best Lawyers in America* (2019)  
Rising Stars - Civil Litigation Defense, *Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers* (2014-2016)

**Speaking Engagements**

- Presenter, "Can I Get a Lyft? Is Your Side-Hustle Covered?" Brown & James General Defense and Insurance Law Symposium, January 2019
- Presenter, "Evaluating Additional Insured Coverage and Contractual Indemnity Issues," Brown & James General Defense and Insurance Law Symposium, January 2018
- Presenter, "Stacking the Deck: Changes to Missouri's Collateral Source Rule," 2017 Brown & James Tort Reform Seminar: A New Day in Missouri, September 2017
- Presenter, "Is It High Noon? Premises Liability Claims Involving Conceal-Carry and Gun Rights," Brown & James General Defense & Insurance Law Symposium (January 2017)
- Presenter, "Are Condominium Claims the New Mold?" Brown & James Law Symposium (January 2016)
- Presenter, "Advanced Trial Tactics," National Business Institute (September 2015)
- Presenter, "The Ever-Evolving UM and UIM Law in Missouri - Where are We Now?" Brown & James Law Symposium (January 2014)
- Presenter, NBI Insurance Law Update Seminar (2012)

**Publications**

- Author, "The Missouri Court of Appeals Further Limits First-Party Tort Claims Against Insurers: Overcast v. Billings, Revisited," *The Firm Inquiry* (Winter 2008)
- Author, "Don't Rock the Boat: (But if You Do, You Might Not Have Liability Coverage under Your Homeowner's Policy)," *The Firm Inquiry* (Summer 2008)

**Academic Honors and Activities**

Academic Excellence Award - Civil Procedure

**Recent Trials**

*Bacon v. OJ Laughlin* - The plaintiffs alleged that defendants failed to construct a large addition to their home in a workmanlike manner, resulting in damage and mold throughout the home. As a result, the plaintiffs vacated the home for six months while remediation and repairs took place and discarded much of their personal property. After eight days of trial, and almost three days of deliberations, the jury returned with a full defense verdict for the client.

*Collins v. Rader* - Plaintiff was injured as he exited from the emergency exit of a school bus used for transportation from defendant's restaurant to University of Missouri home football games when the front door of the bus "jammed" causing passengers to exit from the back. He alleged the defendant was responsible for the bus driver's negligent actions and the defendant's failure to hire a competent transportation company to operate the shuttle. Plaintiff sustained \$153,000 in medical bills (\$51,000 after adjustments) as a result of treatment for his injury. The jury returned an 11-1 verdict in favor of the defendant.

*Meyer v. Rehnquist Design and Build* - Plaintiff alleged that our client, a builder of large homes, unreasonably diverted storm water on to their property. Plaintiff's claimed \$350,000.00 in damages. After a week-long jury trial, the jury awarded plaintiffs 10 percent of their claimed damages.

*Cima v. Heartland Credit Union* - Plaintiff alleged that our client withheld a portion of her

checking account withdrawal. The court found for our client and against plaintiff on all claims.

**Recent Appeals**

*Eisenmann v. Podhorn* (Mo. App. E.D. 2017) – The court granted our cross-appeal and request for a new trial on damages based on the court’s prejudicial jury instruction that directed the jury to consider the original plaintiffs’ failure to mitigate against our client. Our client was a contractor with a third-party claim against the soils engineer it hired to ensure the lot our client was building on was suitable. We also tried the case in the circuit court where the jury returned a verdict in favor of our client with a finding of 100 percent fault on the part of the soils engineer.