



# James B. Harper

## Associate

## Dallas

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### Practice Areas

- Insurance Coverage
- Bad Faith
- Professional Liability
- Commercial Litigation

### Education

- SMU Dedman School of Law, J.D., 2019
- University of Kentucky, B.A., 2016

### Bar Admissions

- Texas

### Court Admissions

- Texas Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. District Court -- Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court -- Eastern District of Texas

### Affiliations

Dallas Bar Association, Member of Labor and Employment Law and Litigation Sections

James concentrates his practice on insurance coverage and complex litigation. His experience includes representing insurance carriers and adjusters in coverage disputes and extracontractual bad faith litigation arising from first- and third-party claims, as well as consulting with claims professionals on policy interpretation and extracontractual matters including the Texas *Stowers* doctrine, evaluating coverage, and advising clients on first-party property and third-party liability claims. When not addressing coverage issues, James defends various insureds against claims involving professional duties, construction projects, transportation, product and premises defects, general negligence, and other causes of action. His litigation matters are primarily filed in Texas state and federal courts.

Additionally, James represents individuals and commercial clients in business litigation in state and federal courts. His experience includes defending and prosecuting claims for breach of contract, warranty, violations of consumer protection statutes, and other matters. His litigation experience includes large e-discovery projects, complex legal research and motion practice, numerous depositions and hearings, and trials.

James earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky, Gatton College of Business and Economics. In 2019, James received his law degree from Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. In law school he was a member and editor of the *Science and Technology Law Review*, and served as treasurer for the Sports and Entertainment Law Association. He also served as chief counsel at SMU's civil/consumer legal clinic, where he represented low-income clients in Dallas in matters involving consumer rights and deceptive trade practices, fair labor and housing, small business disputes, and administrative actions. James continues to devote a portion of his practice to representing clients pro bono.

### Experience

Assisted in obtaining summary judgment against a breach of contract and bad faith lawsuit brought by a commercial insured against its insurance carrier after the proper denial of a property insurance claim.

Defended a global travel service provider and obtained a defense verdict in a non-jury trial over claims involving alleged breach of contract and misrepresentations in violation of Texas consumer protection laws.

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