

# NEWS

INSURANCE PRACTICE GROUP

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WIGGIN AND DANA

*Counsellors at Law*



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## Joseph G. Grasso Joins Wiggin and Dana's Insurance Practice Group

Wiggin and Dana announced today that it has expanded its national and international insurance practice with the addition of former Thacher Proffitt & Wood partner Joseph Grasso. He is the second partner this year to join the firm's Philadelphia office.

Grasso, a litigator who concentrates his practice on insurance-related disputes, started with Thacher Proffitt in 1986, and became a partner with the firm in 1995. He regularly represents major insurers in the United States, as well as Great Britain, Europe, Latin America and Japan, on a wide range of complex insurance and reinsurance matters. From October 2005 to April 2006, he worked in the General Counsel's office of Amlin Underwriting Ltd, one of the premier syndicates at Lloyd's of London. Grasso serves as counsel to the Inland Marine Underwriters Association and has filed amicus briefs on their behalf with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He has also represented the American Institute of Marine Underwriters and filed amicus briefs on their behalf with the United States Supreme Court.

"Joe has over 20 years working with clients in the insurance industry, and we are pleased that he decided to join Wiggin and Dana," said firm Chair, Maureen Weaver. Grasso will be joining a group of seasoned insurance litigators in the Insurance Practice Group, led by Charles Platto. Over the last decade, members of the group have represented clients on many significant matters involving the insurance industry, including Hurricane Katrina, the events of 9/11, the Northridge California earthquake, and State Attorney General broker commission investigations. According to Platto, "Joe brings a wonderful added dimension to our insurance practice group, particularly with his international and inland marine insurance background in addition to a broad range of domestic commercial insurance experience."

Grasso's arrival furthers Wiggin and Dana's strategy to expand in the Philadelphia market. Earlier this year, former Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll partner Dean Fournaris, joined the Philadelphia office as a member of the firm's national Franchise and Distribution practice group. According to Weaver, "the addition of Joe Grasso and Dean Fournaris not only enhances our capabilities in important practice areas, but also advances our strategy of expanding the firm's presence in Philadelphia through the addition of first-rate lawyers who complement the firm's existing strengths."

Grasso writes and speaks frequently on a wide range of insurance-related issues, including coverage disputes, contract wordings, industry regulation, EBusiness, and terrorism. His

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practice encompasses a variety of insurance and reinsurance coverages, including aviation, marine, energy, professional liability, comprehensive general liability, and various property and casualty claims. He has tried and arbitrated numerous insurance disputes to a conclusion, in jurisdictions across the country.

Grasso obtained his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1986 and his BA, cum laude, from Yale University in 1983. He has been recognized in the 2007 Edition of *Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys*, and *Legal 500*, in the section of Shipping Insurance and Reinsurance.

### ***About Wiggin and Dana's Insurance Practice Group***

The Wiggin and Dana Insurance Practice Group represents insurance companies, brokers and professionals in a broad range of complex and sophisticated, as well as routine, commercial and personal lines insurance and reinsurance matters. The group provides advisory, coverage, defense and general litigation/arbitration/dispute resolution services in individual and class actions, as well as investigative, appellate, and expert witness representation. It provides advice and representation on regional, national and international matters.

Wiggin and Dana LLP is a full service firm serving clients domestically and abroad from offices in Philadelphia, New York and Connecticut. For more information on the firm, visit its website at [www.wiggin.com](http://www.wiggin.com).