

## **Lewis F. Collins, Jr. a Founding Board Member of the American College of Coverage and Extracontractual Counsel**

*Group of Preeminent Lawyers Focuses on  
Ethics, Efficiency in Adjudication of Insurance Disputes*

(Tampa, Florida, November 1, 2012) — Lewis F. Collins Jr., a partner at Butler Pappas, was selected to be a founding member of the Board of Regents of the American College of Coverage and Extracontractual Counsel. The newly formed organization was created by leading lawyers in the United States and Canada to improve the quality of the practice of insurance law.

The College focuses on the creative, ethical, and efficient adjudication of disputes between policyholders and insurers over insurance coverage and extracontractual damages, which are a form of punitive damages awarded against an insurer in claims alleging bad faith or unfair claims-handling practices. Its members represent the interests of both insurers and policyholders.

The College's mission includes educating all sectors involved in insurance disputes — including the judiciary, legal and insurance professionals, and businesses — on critical topics such as best practices in policy formation and claims handling, developing trends in insurance law, and bad faith. Another important component of the work of the College is the drive to increase civility and professionalism in the field, thereby improving relations between insurer and policyholder counsel and resulting in better representation for all clients. The College will engage in a wide variety of activities, including seminars and the sharing of scholarship, in order to promote these goals.

“The time seemed right to bring together the finest lawyers from the United States and Canada, who represent some of the best minds practicing in a wide range of legal and insurance disciplines,” said Thomas F. Segalla, president of the College. “While our goals include providing education for the bench and bar as well as the insurance industry, we believe it's the dialogue among our diverse members that will lead to creative resolutions and improved representation for all parties in a dispute.”

Lewis has over 30 years of experience in jury trials lawsuits throughout Florida. He has been Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by both the Florida Bar and the National Board of Trial Advocacy since 1990. He is an "AV" rated Preeminent Lawyer and was recognized as a "Leading Florida Attorney" in the field of Products Liability Defense by Leading American Attorneys (an honor awarded to less than 2% of Florida Attorneys). Lewis has been named a "Florida Super Lawyer" and was selected as one of "Tampa Bay's Top Lawyers" by his peers.

Lewis specializes in the defense of coverage and extracontractual cases, complex commercial and catastrophic injury cases and has a vast array of experience in the areas of commercial litigation, products liability, automobile negligence, drug and medical device, wrongful death, employment law, and professional liability defense.

Lewis has proudly served the defense community as the President of three national defense organizations: Lawyers for Civil Justice (2009 – 2010); Federation of Defense & Corporate

Counsel (2006-07) and the Florida Defense Lawyers Association (1995-96). He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Defense Research Institute and was honored to serve as Dean of the Litigation Management College at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University (2001 - 2002).

In recognition of his innovative litigation style and success in the courtroom, he has authored numerous articles that have appeared in national peer-reviewed legal treatises and publications. He is a sought after lecturer on a variety of topics including: bad faith, trial tactics, persuasion, technology, legal malpractice, leadership, products liability, discovery, ethics and total quality management.

Lewis is admitted to practice in all state courts in Florida (1979); United States Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; United States District Courts for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Florida.

For more information, please visit [americancollegecec.org](http://americancollegecec.org) or [butlerpappas.com](http://butlerpappas.com).

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