PARTNER

CHRISTOPHER E. KOZAK

T. 317-637-0700 x211 **E.** ckozak@psrb.com

Indianapolis

PRACTICES

BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENTAL

INSURANCE COVERAGE

LITIGATION

INDUSTRIES

ENERGY & UTILITIES

HEALTH CARE & LIFE SCIENCES

MANUFACTURING

MUNICIPALITIES & GOVERNMENT

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION

OVERVIEW

Chris is a top-flight insurance-coverage and appellate litigator. He has written briefs in over 20 appellate matters and has experience with CGL, D&O, EPL, Professional Liability, Homeowner's, Commercial Property, Business Income, Excess/Umbrella, and life insurance coverage. He is known for his ability to penetrate complex issues, identify and wrangle the relevant details, and present them to courts with clarity and wit. He uses those skills to his clients' advantage when disputes go to court, where providing a clear argument in a complicated case can be the difference between winning and losing. Chris's clients range from individual policyholders to multi-national companies, and he has assisted clients in disputes where hundreds of millions of insurance proceeds were at stake.

Chris is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law and comes to PSRB with experience in a broad range of legal subjects, including federal jurisdiction, civil procedure, e-discovery, administrative law, and evidence. He has also done extensive immigration work with the University of Michigan Law School's Human Trafficking Clinic. As a member and Editor of the law review, he has reviewed hundreds of articles on current legal subjects and determined which ones would contribute best to the development of the law. And while clerking for Judge David McKeague on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, he advised the Judge on 25% of the appeals assigned to the chambers, requiring him to learn about virtually every kind of law that surfaces in federal court. This broad knowledge base allows Chris to think about client problems creatively and pursue innovative legal strategies.

When he has time, Chris enjoys doing pro bono work, and is particularly interested in

©2026 Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. All Rights Reserved.

civil rights issues and in assisting survivors of human trafficking.

AWARDS

- 2026, Legal 500 Elite – Commercial Disputes, Indianapolis
- 2025- Present, Listed in *The Best Lawyers Ones to Watch in America*® – Commercial Litigation, Insurance Law, and Litigation – Environmental
- 2025-27, Selected for inclusion in *Indiana Super Lawyers* as a Rising Star

EDUCATION

- J.D., *summa cum laude,* 2017, Michigan State University College of Law
- B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2014, Legal Studies, Ball State University

BAR ADMISSIONS

- U.S Supreme Court, 2021
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2021
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 2019
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, 2019
- State of Indiana, 2019
- State of Michigan, 2017
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, 2018
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan, 2018
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, 2018
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Indiana, 2018
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, 2018

EXPERIENCE

- Counsel for Appellant/Cross-Appellee, *ClearPoint Federal Bank & Trust Co. v. Fed. Ins. Co.*, Nos. 24A-PL-123, 24A-PL-132 (Ind. Ct. App.) (pending)
- Counsel of Record for Appellant, *Crothersville Lighthouse Tabernacle Church v. Church Mut. Ins. Co., S.I.*, No. 22-1082 (7th Cir.) (pending)
- Counsel for Amicus Curiae on Transfer, *Starr Indem. & Liab. Co. v. NIBCO, Inc.*, No. 23A-PL-1343 (Ind. 2024)

©2026 Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. All Rights Reserved.

- Counsel for Appellant, *Trs. of Purdue University v. Am. Home Assur. Co.*, No. 23A-PL-1413 (Ind. Ct. App. 2024)
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Mallory v. Norfolk S. Ry. Co.*, 600 U.S. 122 (2023)
- Counsel for Appellant, *Ind. Repertory Theatre v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, No. 21A-CP-2848 (Ind. Ct. App. 2023)
- Counsel for Appellant, *Tom James Co. v. Zurich Am. Ins. Co.*, No. 23A-PL-106 (Ind. Ct. App. 2023).
- Counsel of Record for Appellant (Argued), *United States v. Rentas*, No. 22-3274 (6th Cir. 2023)
- Counsel for Amicus Curiae, *Stant USA Corp. v. Factory Mut. Ins. Co.*, 22-1336 (7th Cir. 2023)
- Counsel for Amicus Curiae, *First & Stewart Hotel Owner, LLC v. Fireman's Fund Ins. Co.*, No. 21-35637 (9th Cir. 2023)
- Counsel for Appellee, *USA Gymnastics v. Liberty Ins. Underwriters, Inc.*, 46 F. 4th 571 (7th Cir. 2022)
- Counsel for Appellee, *USA Gymnastics v. Liberty Ins. Underwriters*, 46 F.4th 499 (7th Cir. 2022)
- Counsel for Appellant, *Ind. Repertory Theatre v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, No. 21A-PL-628 (Ind. Ct. App. 2022)
- Counsel for Amicus Curiae Purdue University, *Circle Block Partners, LLC v. Fireman's Fund Ins. Co.*, No. 21-2459 (7th Cir. 2022)
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Wild Eggs Holdings, Inc. v. State Auto Prop. & Cas. Co.*, 48 F.4th 645 (6th Cir. 2022)
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Mikmar, Inc. v. Westfield Ins. Co.*, No. 21-3230 (6th Cir. 2022)
- Counsel of Record for Respondents, *State ex rel. Zurich Am. Ins. Co. v. Tom James Co., et al.*, No. 21S-OR-482 (Ind. 2021).
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Kirsch v. Aspen Am. Ins. Co.*, No. 21-1038 (6th Cir. 2021)
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Santo's Italian Café v. Acuity Ins. Co.*, No. 21-3068 (6th Cir. 2021)
- Counsel of Record for Amicus Curiae, *Dakota Girls, LLC v. Phila. Indem. Ins. Co.*, No. 21-3245 (6th Cir. 2021)
- Counsel for Amicus Curiae, *TJBC, Inc. v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, No. 21-1203; *Sandy Point Dental v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, No. 21-1186; *Crescent Plaza Hotel Owner v. Zurich Am. Ins. Co.*, No. 21-1316 (7th Cir. 2021)
- Counsel of Record for Appellant (Argued), *United States v. Stokes*, No. 19-5934 (6th Cir. 2020)
- Counsel for Appellant, *Clark-Floyd Landfill, LLC v. Gonzalez*, No. 19A-CT-2680 (Ind. Ct.

©2026 Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. All Rights Reserved.

App. 2020)

- Counsel for Amicus Curiae Supporting Rehearing, *Emmis Communs. Corp. v. Ill. Nat'l Ins. Co.*, 929 F.3d 411, *reh'g granted*, 937 F.3d 836 (7th Cir. 2019)
- Co-Counsel for Appellants, *In re Syngenta AG MIR 162 Corn Litig.*, No. 18-3253 (10th Cir. 2019)

ARTICLES & EVENTS

- 2026 | Presenter
  Personal Jurisdiction and Insurance Coverage: Time to Break Out of Your 1L Civ Pro Outline, ABA Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee CLE Seminar

- 2023 | Author
  The Original Thirteenth Amendment: A Rule of Liberty, 53 Cumb. L. Rev. 291 (2024)

- 2023 | Co-Author
  COVID-19 *and Business-Income Insurance: The History of "Physical Loss" and What Insurers Intended it to Mean*, 57 Tort Trial & Ins. Prac. L.J. 675 (2023)

- 2023 | CLE Co-Presenter
  Insurance Coverage for Employment Claims, *in* ICLEF Seminar: Recent Developments in Employment Law, ICLEF (December 7, 2023)

- 2023 | CLE Co-Presenter
  How to Navigate Employment Litigation Covered by Insurance, IndyBar (September 27, 2023)

- 2023 | Pro Bono Presenter
  Landlord-Tenant Law 101 & Renter's Rights, Damien Center (August 31, 2023)

- 2022 | Co-Author
  Couch's "Physical Alteration" Fallacy: Its Origins and Consequences, 56 Tort Trial & Ins. Prac. L.J.

- 2021 | CLE Co-Presenter
  Covid-19 Insurance Law Update—How Courts Around the Country are Treating Business Interruption Claims, IndyBar (April 20, 2021)

- 2020 | Co-Author
  No One Knows What "Physical Loss" Means: All-Risk Insurance and the Coronavirus, 13:4 Mich. J. Ins. & Indem. L. 9 (Oct. 2020)

©2026 Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. All Rights Reserved.

- 2019 | Author
  Michigan Insurance and Indemnity Law Journal, *Who Says I'm a Criminal? Marijuana Cultivation and the Criminal-Act Exclusion*

- 2019 | Co-Author
  Law360, *7th Circ. Decision Creates Minefield for Insurance Industry*

- 2018 | Author
  Private Habeas 13 Intercultural Hum. Rts. L. Rev. 261 (2018)

- 2017 | Author
  Originalism, Human Trafficking, and the Thirteenth Amendment, 11 S.J. Pol'y & Just. 62 (2017)

©2026 Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP. All Rights Reserved.