



SEIGER GFELLER LAURIE <sup>LLP</sup>  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

### Peter J. Vodola

Partner

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Pete Vodola practices primarily in commercial litigation, representing and advising clients in disputes that are litigated in state and federal courts throughout the country. He has represented businesses in a range of industries, and in a variety of matters. He has handled matters involving contract disputes, business torts, tax issues, trademark, telecommunications, municipal law, and Constitutional law.

In insurance matters, Pete has represented insurers in matters that have involved contract, bad faith, unfair insurance practice, and other claims on behalf of property and casualty, life insurance, and annuity companies. His experience representing the issuers of annuities includes matters involving bankruptcy, class action claims, and broker-rebating and short-changing claims. He advises insurers on insurance regulatory and business issues.

Pete has often represented insurers in matters involving structured settlements. Under various structured settlement protection statutes, he has won dispositive rulings for his clients in a number of states, including in the following matters: *Symetra Nat'l Life Ins. Co. v. Rapid Settlements, Ltd.*, 2009 WL 1057339 (Tex. App. Ct. Apr. 21, 2009); *Rapid Settlements, Ltd. v. Symetra Life Ins. Co.*, 2007 WL 1576437 (Cal. Ct. App. June 1, 2007); *Rapid Settlements, Ltd. v. Dickerson*, 941 So. 2d 1275 (Fla. Ct. App. 2006); *In Re DeWitt*, 2009 WL 3187571 (La. Dist. Ct. Sept. 18, 2009); *Lu v. Settlement Funding, LLC*, 2006 SD Wrk. Comp. Lexis 18 (S.D. Dep't of Labor Oct. 26, 2006); *In Re Pikula*, 2005 WL 3963777 (Minn. Dist. Ct. Nov. 3, 2005); *In Re Morey*, 71 Va. Cir. 435 (Va. Cir. Ct. 2005), pet. for appeal refused, 2006 WL 1584878 (Va. May 26, 2006); *In re Walker*, 2005 WL 3963830 (Tenn. Cir. Ct. Feb. 23, 2005); *J.G. Wentworth S.S.C. Ltd. P'ship v. Ortega*, 2002 Extra Lexis 672 (Fla. Cir. Ct. July 2, 2002).

In his appellate practice, Pete has represented clients in numerous appeals, in both state and federal courts, including the United States Courts of Appeals for the Sixth, Fifth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits, as well as state appellate courts in California, Connecticut, Florida, Virginia and Texas. He has represented appellants, appellees, and amicus curiae, in matters involving a variety of issues. His appeals have involved Constitutional law matters relating to, among other issues, Due Process, Contracts Clause, and First Amendment rights.

The *Connecticut Law Tribune* chose Pete as a recipient of its New Leaders of the Law Award for 2005, when he was honored with the Development of the Law award, given in recognition of attorneys whose efforts have substantially helped shape particular areas of the law.

After graduating law school, Pete was a law clerk at the Connecticut Appellate Court. He previously worked for several years as a newspaper reporter and editor in Connecticut. He also worked as a volunteer for VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) with an adult literacy organization in New Hampshire. Pete has been active in a number of civic and community organizations as a youth soccer coach, PTA vice-president, and charitable board member. He currently serves on the board of Isaiah 61:1, which provides community residential treatment services – including parent education, self-help support groups, case management, and family reunification support – for men and women under the supervision of the Connecticut Department of Correction.

#### Practice Areas

- Appellate Advocacy
- Complex Civil Litigation
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Regulation

#### Education

- Boston University, B.A. and B.S.
- University of Connecticut School of Law

#### Admitted to Practice

- Connecticut
- United States District Court, District of Connecticut
- United States District Court, District of Colorado
- United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

#### Professional Affiliations

- Connecticut Bar Association
- Associate member, National Structured Settlement Trade Association

#### Publications and Events

- Author, “Factoring In The ‘Best Interests’ Of Dependents,” Connecticut Law Tribune, May 25, 2009
- Author, “Connecticut’s Key Role In Structured Settlement Protection,” Connecticut Lawyer, Vol. 17, No. 4, December 2006/January 2007
- Author, “Connecticut’s Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure Law in Practice,” 29 Conn. L. Rev. 1235 (1997)

#### Civic Activities

- Board member, Isaiah 61:1, Bridgeport, Connecticut