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Insurance Group Of The Year: Rivkin Radler

By **Hope Patti**

Law360 (February 5, 2026, 4:03 PM EST) -- Rivkin Radler LLP scored precedent-setting wins for Allianz in opioid coverage litigation before the Delaware Supreme Court and in an Ohio Supreme Court case over coverage for Sherwin-Williams' lead paint abatement fund payments, earning the firm a spot among the 2025 Law360 Insurance Groups of the Year.

With 90 attorneys throughout New York, New Jersey and Florida, Rivkin Radler's insurance coverage practice has an advantage in cases that require a significant amount of lawyer time, partner and department head Alan Rutkin told Law360.

"We emphasize client service, and we are committed to acting promptly, efficiently and clearly," Rutkin said.

The group's commitment to serving its clients is bolstered by a team of lawyers who are dedicated to their work in insurance coverage and a culture built on collaboration and mutual respect for one another, according to Rutkin.

"We're proud that our insurance company clients have trusted us to handle new issues and expensive claims," Rutkin said. "And we're very proud that we have been able to reach successful results for these companies."

One of the firm's notable achievements came in August 2025, when the Delaware Supreme Court unanimously affirmed a lower court decision rejecting CVS Corp.'s coverage bid for government, hospital and third-party payor claims over economic losses related to the company's opioid dispensing practices.

The state high court held that the underlying suits, which CVS settled for approximately \$6.5 billion, did not seek "damages because of bodily injury or property damage," and thus were not covered under the policies at issue.

"While these costs were surely incurred, and they are substantial, insurance policies, or at least the policies that were at issue in this case, are limited to damages because of bodily injury or property damage," Rutkin said.

Rivkin Radler represented Allianz Insurance Co., Fireman's Fund Insurance Co., Interstate Indemnity Co.



and National Surety Corp.

The firm also represented several Allianz units in a dispute against Sherwin-Williams Co. concerning coverage for the paint-maker's \$101.7 million portion of a \$305 million settlement to abate lead paint in California homes.

In December 2024, the Ohio Supreme Court reversed a lower court's decision finding Sherwin-Williams was entitled to coverage. Because the abatement fund payment was intended to prevent future harm, not compensate for past harm, the payment did not constitute damages because of bodily injury or property damage under the policies, the Ohio justices held.

"The CVS and Sherwin-Williams cases were very important victories, and they were not isolated victories, because these are issues that we see a lot in insurance coverage cases — where a policyholder is seeking to recover for some kind of generalized harm," partner Greg Mann said.

The victories in Delaware and Ohio are precedent-setting decisions that insurers will be able to rely on nationwide and in future coverage actions, Mann added.

When it comes to crafting a winning argument, Rutkin emphasized that clarity is key.

"We always try to be very clear and present our position in terms that can be reduced to just a few words so that they can be captured and persuaded," he said. "Arguments that are more complicated tend to be, in many of our views, less successful."

In both the CVS case and Sherwin-Williams' case, Rutkin said the coverage defense can be reduced to a sentence.

That approach also proved successful when the firm represented Associated Electric and Gas Insurance Services Ltd. against Sempra Energy's suit seeking more than \$200 million in defense costs related to hundreds of suits over a gas storage facility blowout, according to Rutkin.

"In the Sempra case, while there were various defenses, I emphasized that this was a claim that the insurance company had already paid," Rutkin said.

According to court filings, AEGIS paid Sempra the full \$35 million limit of its policies that it issued in 2015, when the blowout occurred. The court ultimately granted summary judgment to AEGIS in March 2025, finding that policies the insurer issued to Sempra's predecessor in the 1980s did not potentially cover the underlying litigation.

--Additional reporting by Jeff Montgomery. Editing by Linda Voorhis.