



## WILLIAM E. COPLEY

William Copley has broad experience representing clients in complex commercial litigation in state and federal courts around the country. Mr. Copley has extensive experience representing individuals and companies that have suffered damages from theft of intellectual property, copyright and trademark infringement, conspiracy, fraud, unfair business practices, and breach of contract. In such matters, Mr. Copley has obtained verdicts in favor of seven corporate clients and three individuals in bench and jury trials before the United States District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia, the District of Connecticut and the Western District of Texas, as well as the Circuit Court for Fairfax County, Virginia.

### PARTNER

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### EDUCATION

- 1999 – J.D., University of Chicago
- 1996 – B.A., Vanderbilt University

### BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

- Virginia
- District of Columbia
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
- United States District Court for the District of Colorado

### PRACTICE AREAS

- Complex Litigation

Recently, Mr. Copley served as trial counsel in *In re Outsidewall Tire Litigation*, Case No. 09-cv-1217 (E.D. Va.), and obtained a \$26 million jury verdict on behalf of Alpha Mining Systems, a Florida-based tire designer and distributor. Mr. Copley filed the lawsuit on Alpha's behalf in October 2009 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia against a tire distributor from Dubai and a tire manufacturer from China for stealing Alpha's intellectual property, including blueprints, related to specialized underground mining tires that were designed and developed by the plaintiff. Just eight months later, a jury found that the defendants were liable for copyright and trademark infringement, conversion and civil conspiracy. The verdict was the largest verdict of any kind in Virginia in 2010, one of the top 100 verdicts in the country, and one of the largest individual copyright infringement awards in U.S. history.

Mr. Copley also frequently represents policyholders in complex insurance coverage disputes and bad faith litigation. He has represented clients at every stage of litigation – from pre-suit investigation and negotiations, through discovery and trial, and in appeals. Recent representations include:

- Representing a Fortune 500 food company in insurance negotiations and litigation, including before the Delaware Supreme Court, to secure coverage for claims arising from allegedly tainted peanut butter; and
- Representing one of the world's largest international law firms in insurance coverage disputes arising out of lawsuits and investigations involving allegations of malpractice and fraud.

At the appellate level, Mr. Copley has authored more than 50 appellate briefs to various state and federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court, and he has represented clients in oral arguments before the United States Courts of Appeals for the Third and Fourth Circuits. Mr. Copley's current appellate representations include:

- Representing the Plaintiffs-Appellees before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in *In re Outsidewall Tire Litigation, Consolidated Record Nos. 10-2271, 10-2273, 10-2321*, against a challenge to a \$26 million jury award;
- Obtaining from the Delaware Supreme Court a reversal of an unfavorable trial court ruling for a Fortune 500 food company in insurance litigation arising from allegedly tainted peanut butter;

## WILLIAM E. COPLEY (CONTINUED)

- Writing and filing on behalf of 24 civil rights, civic and bar associations a brief of *amici curiae* supporting the Log Cabin Republicans' constitutional challenge to the military's continued application of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in *Log Cabin Republicans v. United States*, currently pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit as Case Nos. 10-56634, 10-56813.

### NEWS

- *Virginia Lawyers Weekly Recognizes Gilbert LLP for Winning Largest 2010 Jury Verdict in the State*, January 20, 2011
- *\$26M Verdict by Virginia Jury is One of the Largest Individual Copyright Infringement Awards in U.S. History*, July 22, 2010
- *\$26M verdict returned in trade-secret case*, Virginia Lawyers Weekly, July 22, 2010
- *U.S. District Court Upholds \$26 Million Jury Award in International Espionage Case Involving Copyright Infringement of Tire Blueprints*, Intellirights, July 21, 2010

### ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

- *Closing Protection Letters: Important Tools for Protecting Mortgage-backed Assets*, March 2009