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Insurance Group Of The Year: Cohen Ziffer

By **Eli Flesch**

Law360 (February 6, 2026, 4:00 PM EST) -- Policyholder attorneys at Cohen Ziffer Frenchman & McKenna secured wins for AMC Theatres in a novel directors and officers coverage matter and for a life insurer in a suit against its own carriers, making the firm a 2025 Law360 Insurance Group of the Year.

Other wins for the New York-based firm included a February ruling from the Delaware Supreme Court affirming the reversal of a jury verdict in a \$236 million coverage case between AIG and Conduent State Healthcare, and a Delaware trial court ruling finding insurers for Frontier Communications had a duty to defend the telecommunications company against secondary copyright infringement claims that were ultimately settled.

"Our firm is really not only a litigation boutique, but a real trial firm," said Robin Cohen, chair of the firm. "I truly believe that a lot of the success that we've had in the last year, a lot of the wins and a lot of the settlements, is due to our trial prowess in the sense that the industry knows that we not only go to trial — we love going to trial."

The firm is now up to 35 attorneys, with plans to bring on more associates to help account for a growing workload, Cohen said. There's been particular interest in the firm among BigLaw associates who want to try cases at a litigation boutique, she said.

As far as subject-area growth, Cohen said the firm is doing more coverage work in bankruptcy and sexual abuse matters. That's in addition to several arbitrations over representations and warranties coverage — an increasingly popular type of insurance meant to protect businesses against risks associated with mergers and acquisitions.

Kenneth H. Frenchman, the managing partner of the firm, told Law360: "It may be industry trends, it may be one case leads to another — but there are certain areas that we've started to get really busy in, that we've always done, but maybe we were less busy."

For Cohen, the AMC matter stood out as one instance in which the firm's strategy helped create a settlement opportunity — garnering resolutions with all but one of 17 involved carriers in a dispute over coverage for shareholder litigation against AMC.



Cohen said the big question at issue in that matter concerned whether the shareholder litigation was settled with stock rather than actual money, and whether the stock constituted a loss under the policies. The carriers took the narrow position that only a monetary settlement — actual currency — could be a loss under the policy, she said.

The issue had never been dealt with in Delaware or most jurisdictions, she added.

In December, the Delaware Supreme Court upheld a trial court's ruling that AMC could seek D&O insurance for its \$99.3 million share-based settlement of the stockholder lawsuit, rejecting Midvale Indemnity Co.'s attempt to block recovery tied to the company's preferred-equity conversion and reverse stock split.

Now, Fortune 500 companies, and especially those incorporated in Delaware, "know they have the flexibility that they can work out underlying settlements in a lot of different ways — in creative ways — without jeopardizing their insurance coverage," Cohen said.

A notable case for Frenchman involved the firm's representation of an insurance company, Genworth, in a \$100 million battle for coverage from its own carriers. The life and retirement insurer was seeking coverage for litigation accusing it of making material misrepresentations about premium increases to long-term-care policyholders.

In February last year, a Delaware trial court found that an exclusion barring coverage for losses involving premium payments being returned to policyholders did not apply to Genworth's defense costs and some of the insurer's settlement payments.

"It's a little bit unique for us, because Genworth is an insurer," Frenchman said. "But it's not the type of insurer that we'll generally litigate against."

The Delaware matters complemented other victories in the last year around the country, including in California and New York, Cohen said. She added that in many cases, the firm deals with complicated and difficult matters in which there is little law, requiring new law to be formed out of policy language. But that motivates the firm, Cohen said.

"We wanted to do this work exclusively, and we wanted to do it on a very high level," she said. "It's been five years, and we feel very fortunate that our clients came with us."

--Additional reporting by Jarek Rutz. Editing by Patrick Reagan.