

Scott Seaman Discusses “Beginning of the End” for Policyholder COVID-19 Business Interruption Claims

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**Update:* Seaman’s remarks were quoted in a *CAC Specialty* blog post titled “[Recent Court Decisions Affecting Insurers](#).”

Scott Seaman, the Chicago-based co-chair of Hinshaw’s global Insurance Services Practice Group, discussed in a recent *Law360* article a landmark insurance coverage ruling by the Massachusetts Supreme Court. In *Verveine Corp. et al. v. Strathmore Insurance Co. et al.*, the court ruled the insurer did not owe coverage to policyholder restaurants for business losses caused by government shutdown orders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seaman noted that in an environment in which it seems insurers are facing potentially higher liability claims, more plaintiff-friendly courts and contracts, the stack of court decisions rejecting coverage in pandemic cases is striking: “[t]he shutout by insurers at this point is somewhat remarkable in this age of social inflation on steroids,” he said.

A day after the *Strathmore* ruling, the Iowa Supreme Court [upheld a lower court ruling](#) that denied business interruption claims filed by a country club and restaurant.

[Read the full Law360 article](#) (subscription required)

“Mass. Virus Ruling Sounds Death Knell, Insurance Attys Say” was published by *Law360* on April 22, 2022.

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