

## GARY GASSMAN

*Co-Chair, Professional Liability Practice Group, Cozen O'Connor*

Recently recognized as a notable Gen X leader in law, Gassman offers his insights into professional lines, trends, and characteristics that should define today's legal professionals.

—By Eric Gilkey, Executive Editor

### HOOKED ON COVERAGE

Soon after graduating law school, Gassman took a job with a small law firm where he tried his first case within a week of starting. Much of his work over the next few years involved insurance defense, and when a carrier asked for a couple of coverage opinions with respect to an E&O claim, he was hooked. He cut back on litigation and educated himself on D&O and other professional lines to focus on being a coverage attorney.



**“In light of what’s happening right now, I will not be surprised if we see other major pharmaceutical-related claims come to a head in the near future.”**

Gassman, on one trend he’s keeping an eye on.

### WHAT’S HOT IN D&O

In the public company D&O world, Gassman says he is seeing more high-value derivative actions; large nine-figure settlements; imposition of fines and penalties; increased shareholder appraisal and merger and acquisition actions; and more litigated coverage disputes. In the private sector, he’s seeing SEC and regulatory reviews of private companies; matters involving false claims; antitrust and professional services issues and exclusions; as well as matters implicating contract exclusions and bankruptcy-related issues.

**“From the moment you enter a room or conversation, observation is your greatest ally. Strive to be your personal, authentic best at all times and in everything you do.”**

Gassman, on advice he would give to millennials and other Gen X lawyers like himself.



**“It means doing whatever I can to ensure that service, civility, and respectability are reignited in our next generation of leaders and continue to play a significant role in our profession.”**

Gassman, on what being a leader means to him.

### RISKY BUSINESS

Gassman says he thinks the world is becoming riskier



because the global economy and exchange of and access to information both public and private exposes us all to risks most do not comprehend. He says emotional, economic, and political volatility at home and throughout the world leads to desperate people taking desperate measures, and that exposes us all to a variety of risks.

**“I am a major dog lover, and my partner and I currently have three. I love singing and enjoy karaoke with family and friends, and I am passionate about my pro bono work with the LGBTQ community.”**

Gassman, on life when the suit comes off.