

Michael H. Runyan

Shareholder
Co-chair, Trial Practice Group
General Counsel
206-223-7062



Areas of Practice

Mike Runyan is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and an Associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. During his 32 year practice at Lane Powell, he has tried more than 50 jury cases.

Mike's practice includes defense of professional malpractice, product liability, and insurance/bad faith coverage litigation. He has written and lectured extensively on product liability, trial tactics, tort reform, evidence, civil procedure, electronic discovery, legal ethics and insurance bad faith. In 2000-2008, he was selected as a Super Lawyer by his peers through *Washington Law & Politics* and one of the top 100 Super Lawyers. In July of 2001, he was awarded the Jack P. Scholfield Outstanding Achievement Award by the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers in recognition of his "outstanding loyalty, leadership, commitment and support of the goals and objectives of the civil defense trial bar." In October, 2002, WDTL members voted him "Outstanding Defense Trial Lawyer."

As his firm's General Counsel, Mike counsels Lane Powell and its attorneys on ethical issues and claims.

Professional Experience

Product Liability Experience

Mike has defended hundreds of product liability cases ranging from household appliances to commercial manufacturing machines. He has defended an aircraft parts manufacturer in a suit brought by fourteen Boeing workers. He has defended oil, shipping, and forest product companies in toxic tort cases. He has also testified before the Washington State Legislature on product liability and tort reform measures. He is a sustaining member of the Product Liability Advisory Council (PLAC), a select group of product sellers and manufacturers and defense attorneys regularly involved in product liability matters.

Professional Liability Experience

Mike has defended doctors, lawyers, hospitals and other professionals in a variety of professional liability cases. He has testified before the Washington State Legislature on Certificates of Merit.

Insurance Coverage Experience

Mike regularly counsels insurance companies on insurance coverage/bad faith issues. He has represented policy holders as well. He has been retained as an expert to testify in bad faith lawsuits.

Other Professional Experience

Defense Research Institute, Board of Directors, 1999 - 2002; State Representative, 1994 - 1999
Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, President, 1992; Trustee, 1988-1993; Ex officio Trustee 1993-

2001; Senior Board Advisor, 2001-2004; Past Presidents' Representative, 2004 - 2006
Arbitrator, King County Superior Court
American College of Trial Lawyers
American Board of Trial Advocates
Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
Federal Bar Association
Sustaining Member, Product Liability Advisory Council
Member of Litigation Section/TIPS, Professional Liability and Products Liability Committees,
ABA; ADR and Litigation Committees, WSBA; Product Liability, Toxic Torts and Professional
Liability Committees, DRI; Member, Past Presidents Committee, Strategic Planning Committee;
WDTL

Admitted to Practice

Washington (all courts, including Colville Tribal Court)
Alaska, Montana, Oregon, California (Pro Hac Vice)
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
Michigan (inactive)

Academics

University of Michigan (J.D., *cum laude*, 1975; B.A., 1972)
Law Clerk, Honorable Talbot S. Smith, Senior US District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan,
1975 -1976

Practice Group and Specialty Team Memberships

Co-Chair, Lane Powell Trial Practice Group
Healthcare
Insurance
Long Term Care and Seniors Housing Client Service Team
Premises Liability
White Collar Criminal Defense, Regulatory Compliance and Special Investigation Units

Representative Clients

SeaRiver Maritime, Exxon Mobil Corporation, Ashland Chemical Co., Chevron USA, Sunoco
(R&M), Inc., Ferro Corporation, Allied Signal Co., Texaco, Skil Corporation, Georgia-Pacific
Corporation, Les Schwab Tire Centers, Life Fitness, Brunswick Corporation, Nordstrom, CNA
Insurance, Hartford Insurance, Stonington Insurance Company

Representative Matters

Woo v. Fireman's Fund Ins. Co., 161 Wn. 2143, 164 P.3d 454 (2007).
Valley Furniture & Interiors, Inc. v. Transportation Ins. Co., 107 Wn. App. 104, 26 P.3d 952 (2001).
Rhoads v. Evergreen Utilities Contractors, Inc., 105 Wn. App. 419, 20 P.3d 460 (2001).
Marshall v. Bally's Pacwest, Inc., 94 Wn. App. 372, 972 P.2d 475 (1999).
Central Refrigeration v. Barbee, 133 Wn.2d 509, 946 P.2d 760 (1997).

Bresina v. Ace Paving Co., 89 Wn. App. 277, 948 P.2d 870 (1997).
In re Firestorm 1991, 129 Wn.2d 130, 916 P.2d 411 (1996). (amicus)
Birkliid v. The Boeing Co., 127 Wn.2d 853, 904 P.2d 278 (1995). (trial level only)
Sollitt Corp. v. Chapman Plumbing, 67 Wn. App. 468, 836 P.2d 851 (1992).
Scott v. Pacific West Mt. Resort, 119 Wn.2d 484, 834 P.2d 6, (1992). (amicus)
Cunningham v. State, 61 Wn. App. 562, 811 P.2d 225 (1991).
Purchase v. Meyer, 108 Wn.2d 220, 737 P.2d 661 (1987).
Villella v. Pemco, 106 Wn.2d 806, 725 P.2d 957 (1986).

Publications

Washington Legal Ethics Deskbook Supplement, WSBA, 2008 (Editor)
“How Birkliid v. Boeing Affects An Employee’s Mold Case Against His/Her Employee And Necessary Expert Witnesses,” WSBA, November 2007
“Understanding the Rights and Obligations of the Carrier: Insurance Coverage Disputes,” Product Liability Fall Conference, October 2006
“Proposed New Rules for Professional Conduct,” *Defense News*, June 2006
“Handbook for Preparing Experts,” Product Liability Advisory Council, April 2006 (Co-Author)
“Electronic Discovery and Records Management: Best Practices,” Product Liability Advisory Council, April 2005
“Washington Consumer Protection Act,” 50 State Survey of Consumer Fraud Statutes, Product Liability Advisory Council, October 2004
“Anatomy of a Motor Vehicle Case: Alcohol,” Washington State Bar Association, September 2004
“Insurance Bad Faith in the State of Washington,” The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, May 2003
“Ethical Issues in Liability Defense,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, November 2002
“The Need to Return to Basics,” March 1993; “DRI Leadership at the State Level,” May 1999, For the Defense, The Defense Research Institute (Editor and Author)
Washington Civil Procedure Deskbook, WSBA, 1997, 2002, 2005 (Editor and Author)
Civil Trial & Evidence Manual, Chapters 10-17, Washington State Bar Association, 1994, 2001 & 2004 (Editor and Author)
Joint Statement on Professionalism, WDTL/WSTLA, 1993 (with Kelby Fletcher) (Co-Author)
Chapter on “Damages,” *Washington Practice Manual*, Seattle King County Bar Association (Editor)
Digest of Insurance Law for Washington, Best’s Digest of Recommended Insurance Attorneys (Editor)

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Speaking Engagements

“Masters in Trial,” ABOTA, November 14, 2008
“Mold, Mildew & Moisture: Views from Plaintiff, Defense, Expert, and ADR Professionals,” WSBA, November 15, 2007
“Understanding the Rights and Obligations of the Carrier: Insurance Coverage Disputes,” Product Liability Advisory Council Fall Conference, October 19, 2006

“Opening a New Client Matter and When to Consult General Counsel,” Lane Powell PC, June 21, 2006

“Advance Waivers and Arbitration Clauses in Retainer Letters,” US Law Firm Group General Counsel Committee, May 4, 2006

“Preparing Expert Witnesses,” Product Liability Advisory Council Spring Conference, April 6, 2006

“Electronic Discovery and Records Management: Best Practices,” Product Liability Advisory Council Spring Conference, April 28, 2005

“Annual Ethics Seminar,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, December 9, 2004; December 1, 2005, December 7, 2006, December 6, 2007, December 4, 2008

“Bad Faith in Washington,” Northwest Aviation Insurance Association, November 17, 2004

“Mini-FTC Acts,” Product Liability Advisory Council Fall Conference, October 28, 2004

“Anatomy of A Motor Vehicle Accident Case: Alcohol,” WSBA, September 23, 2004

“Insurance Bad Faith Law and Reservation of Rights Letters,” Cambridge Integrated Services, June 23, 2004

“Connecting with Modern Juries,” 2004 Litigation Section Midyear, WSBA, June 18, 2004

“Insurance Bad Faith Law in Washington,” Third Annual Insurance Conference, The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia, May 1, 2003

“Juror Research Seminar,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers and Tsongas Litigation Consulting, April 25, 2003 (co-chair and panelist)

“Trends in DRI,” Sunbreak Seminar, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, March 20-22, 2003

“What DRI & SLDOs Need From Each Other,” Northwest/Pacific Defense Leaders Conference, March 21, 2003

“Ethical Issues in Liability Defense: How Do Insurers and Defense Counsel Properly Meet Their Obligations to the Insured Client,” Annual Update on Insurance Law, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, November 15, 2002

“Ethical Dilemmas in the Practice of Law,” Annual Convention, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, July 26, 2002

“Assisting with Jury Trials,” Washington Advanced Litigation Skills for Paralegals, Half Moon LLC, July 12, 2002

“Understanding Medical Records and Working with Your Expert Witnesses,” Defense Practice Academy, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, April 25, 2002; March 6, 2003; February 25, 2004; April 6, 2005

“Allocation of Fault in Washington,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, July 11, 2001

“Litigation Ethics,” Lane Powell, July 5, 2001; November 1, 2001; December 6, 2001

“DRI Case Handling Guidelines,” DRI State Representative Meeting, March 8 - 10, 2001

“Trial Tactics from the Masters,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, September 21, 2000 (Seminar Chair)

“Closing Argument and Jury Instructions: Trial By Masters,” ABOTA, March 31, 2000

“Ethical Issues in Civil Litigation,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, April 29, 1999; December 10, 1999

Co-Chair, NW & Pacific Defense Leaders Seminar, August, 19 - 21, 1999

“Using Exhibits To Win Your Case in Washington,” National Business Institute, October 30, 1997

“Trying the Wrongful Death Case in Washington,” National Business Institute, April 29, 1997

“Trial Advocacy Judge,” National Institute for Trial Advocacy, June 28, 1996

Auto Defense Seminar, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, April 15, 1994
Changes to the Civil Rules and Newly Enacted “Rights to Know” Legislation: Things Aren’t What They Used to Be, SKCBA, October 15, 1993
“Winning in Court,” National Education Network, August 27, 1993
“Mischief in Olympia: Insurers and Self Insureds May Be Affected by Proposed Court Rule Changes and Tort “Deform” Legislation,” Annual Insurance Law Seminar, Lane Powell, April 13, 1993
“The Rules as Tools,” Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, April 1, 1993; June 3, 1994
Instructor, Skills Training Course, WSBA, September 25, 1991; September, 1989
Instructor, Northwest Deposition Skills Program, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, September 4 - 6, 1991
Panel Discussion, “Protective Orders,” Bench-Bar-Press Seminar, SKCBA, May 22, 1991
“Legal Issues and Liabilities,” King County Family Child Care Association, April 22, 1991
“Legislative Update,” Annual Insurance Law Seminar, Lane Powell, April 4, 1991
“Practical Aspects of Civil Litigation,” 1990, Washington Judicial Conference, August 1990
“The New King County Court Local Rules: Case Management by the Superior Court,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Annual Convention, July 1990
“Changes in the New King County Local Rules; An Overview,” Annual Insurance Law Seminar, Lane Powell Moss & Miller, February 21, 1990
“Changes in the New King County Local Rules: An Overview,” Seattle Claims Adjusters Association, January, 1990
“Use of a Trial Consultant in Voir/Dire and Witness Preparation,” Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Annual Convention, July, 1989
“Tort Reform,” Testimony before the Senate Committee on Law and Justice and House Judiciary Committee, 1988, 1989, 1990
“Civil Procedure,” Washington State Trial Lawyers Association, September 24, 1987
“Tort Reform,” Women Judges of Washington State, November, 1986
“Tort Reform,” 1986 Washington Judicial Conference, August, 1986
“Torts in Transition: The Impact of the Legislature,” Washington Association of Defense Counsel, May 2, 1986
“Personal Injury Trial Practice,” Washington State Trial Lawyers, March 14, 1986
“Tort and Products Liability Practice,” Washington State Bar Association, 1984

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Awards and Honors

Elected as Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, December 2003
Recipient, Outstanding Defense Trial Lawyer, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, October, 2002
Recipient, Jack P. Scholfield Outstanding Achievement Award, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, July 2001
Named as Washington “Super Lawyer,” 2000-2008, *Washington Law & Politics*, (Top 100 Super Lawyer, 2002-2008)
Recipient, Exceptional Performance Citation, 1993; State Leadership Award 1999, Service Award 2002, DRI
President’s Award 1995, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
Elected as an Associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates, March 1994

Professional and Community Activities

Member, Court Funding Task Force, Washington Courts

Co-Founder and Trustee, Foundation for Washington State Courts

Coach, Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, Eastside Soccer Federation

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center IRB Member

King County Bar Foundation, Presidents Council Member

Landmark Donor, Bellevue Art Museum

Landmark Donor Committee, Bellevue Art Museum 2000 Capital Campaign

Member, Bad Golfers Association

Organizer and Speaker, "Evils of Drinking and Not Wearing Seatbelts and Driving," before

High Schools in Washington as Chair of the DRI Seatbelt Committee

Red Feather Society, United Way

Past President, University of Michigan Club of Seattle