

Mark G. Beard

Shareholder
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Areas of Practice

An accomplished trial lawyer, Mark Beard represents defendants in maritime personal injury, wrongful death and complex catastrophic loss cases. His experience ranges from multimillion dollar international commercial transactions, wrongful death, sexual assault and harassment, products liability, medical, legal and accounting malpractice, insurance coverage and the defense of bad faith insurance claims. Mark has taken more than 35 substantive cases to verdict in Washington Superior Court and in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. He is a member of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association, the Defense Research Institute, and a proctor in the Maritime Law Association of the United States since 1989. Mark has written and lectured internationally, nationally, and statewide on civil trial practice, maritime personal injury, limitation of liability, products liability, and catastrophic losses.

Professional Experience

Associate, Schwabe, Williamson, Wyatt, Moore & Roberts, Seattle, Wash. (1983-1984)
Law Clerk, Honorable William T. Beeks, U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington (1982-1983)
Deputy Prosecutor, Snohomish County (1981-1982)

Admitted to Practice

Washington
U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
U.S. Supreme Court

Academics

University of Puget Sound (J.D., 1981)
University of Washington (B.S. and B.A., 1977)

Practice Group and Specialty Team Memberships

Admiralty and Maritime
Construction
Insurance
International Business
Litigation
London
Products Liability
Professional Liability

Certified

National Board of Trial Advocacy (1995, 2000)

Representative Matters and Clients

- Cell Therapeutics, Inc. v. The LASH Group, Inc. et. al* (W.D. Wash.) (represent excess insurer in Federal False Claim Act) (pharmaceutical)
- McCarthy Building Co. v. Ohio Casualty Insurance et. al* (King County Superior Court) (defend Underwriters in \$120 million construction defect/bad faith claim)
- Taylor v. Sentry Group* (W.D. Wash.) (defend bad faith insurance claim)
- In re MARJORIE MORNINGSTAR* (represent owners' interest in total loss mega-yacht fire)
- Ralston v. San Juan Excursions* (W.D. Wash.) (defend vessel in 33 USC § 905(b) suit) (quadriplegic)
- Newcomb v. Electrolux* (Whatcom County Superior Court) (defend manufacturer) (product liability/traumatic amputation)
- Pacific Whale Foundation v. Alcoa, et al.* (W.D. Wash.) (prosecute defective vessel construction)
- All Alaskan v. Raychem* (W.D. Wash.) (represent London Underwriters in \$100 million subrogation/fire loss action)
- Richardson v. White Consolidated* (Thurston County Superior Court) (products liability/wrongful death)
- In Re FV PACESETTER* (W.D. Wash.) (limitation action/loss of all hands wrongful death claims)
- In Re DISCOVERY* (W.D. Wash.) (limitation action, defend vessel sinking/PTSD claims)

Speaking Engagements

- "What's Truth Got to Do With it?" Ethical Considerations in Expert Depositions, NBI Seminar (2010)
- "You Want How Much?" Ethical Considerations in Defending Excess and Policy Limits Demands, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association Annual Insurance Law Update (2006)
- "The Bad Faith Nightmare; Keeping the Monster in the Closet," Lloyd's of London (2004)
- "Toxic Mold Litigation in the Pacific Northwest," Lloyd's of London (2003)
- "Defending the Catastrophic Loss, 14th Annual Product Liability Conference," University of Wisconsin, Madison (2002)
- "Limitation Actions and Other Shoals of Admiralty Law, the Defense Perspective," ATLA National Convention (1998)
- "Federal Practice in W.D. Wash. The View from Defense," WSTLA Seminar (1998)
- "American Jurisprudence and Personal Injury Litigation in the United States," Reykjavik, Iceland (1996)
- "Maritime Sexual Harassment Claims Law & Practice," International Maritime Conference (1996)
- "Maritime Personal Injury Litigation in Washington," NBI Seminar (1992)

Awards and Honors

Peer Review Rated “AV” in Martindale-Hubbell

Named as a “Washington Super Lawyer,” *Super Lawyers* magazine, Transportation/Maritime
(2007-2011)

Professional and Community Activities

The Maritime Law Association of the United States, Proctor in Admiralty

Defense Research Institute

Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association

American Bar Association