



Christopher D. Yvars

Partner

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Chris Yvars is a seasoned trial lawyer who applies early assessment techniques and a proactive defense strategy focused on achieving the best possible outcomes. His litigation and risk management experience consistently delivers early resolutions, pre-trial dismissals, and favorable outcomes at trial and in arbitration across a range of matters, including personal injury, product liability, premises liability, wrongful death actions, and commercial litigation, in addition to construction, trucking/transportation, and oil field-related claims.

With an eye toward cost containment, Chris handles trials, mediations, arbitrations, and appeals as well as insurance coverage, bad faith claims, medical and legal malpractice defense, and construction defense matters. He has successfully handled significant litigation through pro hac vice admissions in Montana, Utah, Nevada, and New Jersey and has overseen and consulted on cases for national insurance broker and carrier programs.

Prior to his legal career, Chris worked with the Vail Race Department as a ski racing coach and Nastar Racing Coordinator. He has contributed to World Cup skiing and mountain biking events and consulted on sports and recreation cases in a variety of jurisdictions. His insights have been published in the *National Ski Areas Association Journal*.

Sports / Ski Industry

In 2003, Chris combined his personal background as a ski racer, avid mountain biker, and outdoor enthusiast into a practice involving a wide variety of matters for numerous ski resorts and corporations nationwide. Since then, he has represented numerous recreational activity outfitters, sports product manufacturers, retailers, and insurers. In 2004, on behalf of Colorado's ski industry and in conjunction with local and national trade organizations, Chris assisted in drafting and revising the Colorado Ski Safety Act. This statute has served as a model for similar legislation enacted in other states.

Services

- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Construction
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- National Trial Team
- Transportation
- Intellectual Property & Technology
- Alternative Dispute Resolution

Risk Management

Chris regularly advises corporate risk management programs on claims handling, policies, procedures, and operations for private and publicly traded companies. He has developed and presented on crisis management and emergency response plans, served as counsel during crisis and emergency situations, and assisted with media communications, police investigations, and matters involving Colorado regulatory agencies and the National Park Service.

Commercial & Residential Construction | Contractors & Design Professionals

Chris has handled construction-related legal work for more than 25 years. He has represented a broad range of clients – from small businesses and governmental entities to large national contractors and builders – in matters spanning commercial HVAC, large multibuilding roofing and pre-engineered metal buildings, apartment design and construction, hydroelectric power entities, and airport construction.

Commercial Litigation

Chris has defended clients in a wide range of business disputes involving contract, statutory, and tort-based claims, including breach of contract, fraud, and trade secret theft. He is experienced in both courtroom litigation and alternative dispute resolution, including arbitration, and works closely with clients to identify practical litigation strategies that align with their commercial priorities, including cost-effective early resolution where appropriate.

Personal Injury / Wrongful Death Defense

Chris has handled catastrophic personal injury cases and wrongful death actions involving auto, truck, and motorcycle accidents, skiing and snowboarding accidents, construction site accidents, oil field incidents, premises liability, carbon monoxide exposure, natural gas and pipeline matters, and fire and explosion cases. His clients include national and international trucking companies, national hotel brands, storage facility companies, national retailers, ski and snowboard resorts, recycling facilities, and a range of product manufacturers. Chris has particular depth in managing multiparty, multimillion-dollar litigation, consistently driving cases toward resolution through targeted discovery and aggressive motion practice.

Transportation

In addition to defending clients in various transportation-related disputes, Chris serves as Business Line Manager on a Wilson Elser team representing a large logistics and delivery company, handling and coordinating transportation cases spanning multiple states.

Education

- Syracuse University College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 1998)
 - Syracuse Journal of Legislation and Policy
 - Trial Advocacy Best Lawyering Skills Award
- Boston College (B.A., 1993)
 - Varsity Alpine Ski Team, captain, 1993

Bar Admissions

- Colorado
- Wyoming

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
- U.S. District Court, District of Wyoming

Professional Affiliations

- Colorado Bar Association
- Colorado Defense Lawyers Association

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2023-2026