



## John C. Versnel III

Partner

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Seattle, WA – 206.709.5914

John Versnel is a seasoned litigator who represents clients in a broad range of complex litigation matters. His practice focuses on defending professionals in malpractice actions and licensing actions. Additionally, John has extensive experience representing employers and businesses in employment law litigation, including the defense of tort actions and claims involving breach of contract, discrimination, and retaliation. He also effectively defends clients in EEOC investigations. John advises clients throughout all stages of litigation with meticulous attention to detail, securing victories at the trial and appellate levels, as well as before regulatory boards.

Prior to joining Wilson Elser, John worked at a long-standing Seattle-based firm specializing in civil litigation and insurance defense.

### **Professional Liability / Lawyer's Liability**

John has successfully represented various healthcare professionals and attorneys in malpractice actions and licensing disputes.

### **Employment & Labor**

In the employment and labor area, John has successfully defended employers in multiple trials involving claims of wrongful termination, discrimination, breach of contract, and retaliation.

### **Complex Litigation / Toxic Tort**

In the area of complex litigation, John has successfully litigated matters for clients related to toxic torts, environmental claims, and wrongful death actions.

### **Education**

- Seattle University School of Law (J.D., 1988)

### **Services**

- Employment & Labor
- Medical Malpractice & Health Care
- Lawyers' Liability
- Professional Liability & Services

- University of Washington (B.A., 1983)

### **Bar Admissions**

- Washington

### **Court Admissions**

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

### **Professional Affiliations**

- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
- Claims and Litigation Management (CLM) Alliance
- Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys

## **Representative Matters**

### **Medical Malpractice and Health Care**

Obtained a defense verdict following a jury trial in which the plaintiffs claimed a foreign object was left in the left maxillary sinus during a tooth extraction. Alleged damages included chronic sinusitis, loss of smell, decreased taste, and increased respiratory sensitivity. Plaintiffs' final demand was \$572,000.

### **Employment & Labor**

Obtained a defense verdict in federal court where the plaintiff claimed wrongful withholding of wages and wrongful/retaliatory termination. At mediation, the plaintiff demanded \$1,000,000.

### **Professional Liability & Services**

Secured a Court of Appeals reversal of a Department of Health Order on behalf of a client following a three-day hearing. The Order found that the client engaged in unprofessional conduct, resulting in the suspension of his license. The dentist's license was reinstated, and his record was cleared of all wrongdoing.