



Mary C. Butler

Partner

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Seattle, WA – 206.508.5666

Mary Butler is a civil litigator and trial lawyer who defends clients, including individuals, organizations, and government agencies, at all stages of litigation. She has tried cases in state and federal courts in Washington. Her cases have involved claims of negligence, sexual abuse, professional malpractice, wrongful death, and catastrophic injury, as well as employment-based harassment and discrimination disputes, among others.

Complex Tort & General Casualty

Mary has built a diverse civil litigation practice defending clients across many industries. She prides herself in providing a high level of responsiveness and attention to each claim and case to ensure her clients are offered as much information as possible to participate in the process. Mary also appreciates the need to bring empathy and compassion to more difficult and challenging cases including those involving childhood sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

Sports & Recreational

Mary defends sports organizations and recreational activity providers against injury-related litigation and premises liability litigation. Those organizations include gyms, water-park facilities, and professional and youth sports organizations, among others. She is proactive in helping those same entities develop policies and practices to avoid future claims. Mary recognizes the inherent risks and responsibilities that organizations are accountable for when facilitating sporting activities. She is General Counsel for the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association, which oversees athletics and fine arts in Washington state and hosts 120 state championship events for more than 20 sports and activities.

Medical Malpractice & Health Care

Mary has had the honor to defend medical practitioners and facilities in lawsuits alleging malpractice, and she has defended those professionals in disciplinary actions before professional boards.

Services

- Admiralty & Marine
- Employment & Labor
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Medical Malpractice & Health Care

Education

- Seattle University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2011)
 - Editor in Chief, Seattle Journal for Social Justice
 - Study abroad at the Mandela Institute of the University of the Witwatersrand Law School in South Africa
- Loyola University Chicago (B.S. Psychology, 2003)

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- Oregon

Court Admissions

- 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

- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Board of Directors, 2024–Present
- Washington Health Care Risk Management Society, Member, 2024–Present
- Puget Sound Marine Claims Association, President 2023, Vice President 2022, Secretary/Treasurer 2021
- Marine Insurance Association of Seattle, Committee Member, 2015–2022
- Legal Voice, Violence Against Women Policy Workgroup, 2011–2016
- Operation Nightwatch (Seattle homeless services), 2012–2014

Awards & Honors

Selected for inclusion in Washington Super Lawyers® – Civil Litigation Defense, 2025

Representative Matters

Secured defense verdict as lead trial counsel defending a podiatrist in two-week medical malpractice trial involving an amputation.

Secured summary judgment dismissal of product liability, CPA, negligence, breach of warranty, and fraud claims against an engineering company in a suit alleging \$37 million in damages related to an allegedly faulty device used as part of a gas system in pulp and paper mills. Also obtained full award of attorneys' fees and costs for client pursuant to Washington's frivolous claims statute, RCW 4.84.185.

Secured summary judgment dismissal of breach of contract and negligence claims on behalf of yacht dealership in a case involving total loss of boat after delivery.

Secured voluntary dismissal of claims against excavation subcontractor in construction defect case involving damage to newly constructed residence.

Secured voluntary dismissal of claims against delivery and installation company in case involving damage following a water leak at customer's residence.

Secured voluntary dismissal of claims against property management company in a premises liability case involving claims of improper snow and ice remediation allegedly causing slip-and-fall accident.