



Michael Belisle

Partner

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Portland, OR – 971.352.3023

Michael Belisle focuses his practice on medical malpractice and professional liability matters. He also has extensive experience in the areas of personal injury, real estate, products liability, construction defect and general insurance defense. Mike has successfully represented a variety of Oregon and Washington health care providers, physicians, real estate agencies, design professionals, product suppliers, contractors, individuals and insurance companies in a wide array of cases and in all phases of litigation, including mediation, arbitration and trial.

Education

- University of Oregon School of Law (J.D., 2005)
- University of Oregon (B.A., 2002)

Bar Admissions

- Oregon
- Washington

Clerkships

- Law clerk and bailiff for the Hon. Jack Mattison and Hon. Lyle C. Velure in the State of Oregon Circuit Court, 2nd Judicial District

Professional Affiliations

- DRI: The Voice of the Defense Bar
- Oregon Association of Defense Counsel
- Multnomah County Bar Association

Services

- Medical Malpractice & Health Care
- Professional Liability & Services
- Commercial Litigation

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*®, 2025-2026
- Best Lawyers in America® Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2023–2024

Client Wins

Belisle Obtains Defense Verdict for Dentist in Case Alleging Failure to Diagnose Tongue Cancer

Mike Belisle (Partner-Portland, OR) obtained a complete defense verdict in a dental malpractice case involving the alleged failure to diagnose squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue. After seven visits to our client's dental clinic in 2018, including three with our dentist client, the plaintiff, a 38-year-old high school track coach and math teacher with a newborn baby, was diagnosed with Stage 3 tongue cancer in 2020. He then had half his tongue removed, received radiation therapy and was given a poor future prognosis with a low survival rate. The plaintiff claimed he had reported a non-healing lesion on his tongue at every dental visit in 2018, but that his complaints were brushed off, and he was never given a referral to an oral surgeon or for a biopsy. The plaintiff and his wife asserted claims for dental negligence, loss of chance and loss of consortium. After a three-week trial, they asked the jury to award them \$25 million in damages. Following roughly five hours of deliberation over two days, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict. The jury found no negligence by our dentist client. They did find negligence by a later hygienist who saw the lesion in 2019, but found no causation, so the plaintiffs' were awarded \$0.