



Peder A. Rigsby

Partner

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Portland, OR – 971.717.2760

Peder Rigsby leads a multidisciplinary team of accomplished attorneys in defense of businesses, entities, and individuals facing complex casualty, commercial litigation, and discrimination claims in state and federal courts in the Pacific Northwest. He performs national counsel work for large clients based in the area, providing innovative and timely strategic counsel to help them make better-informed decisions, resolve complex legal challenges and achieve specific business goals. Peder draws on Wilson Elser's deep resources and national footprint to handle high-value, multijurisdictional, and complex cases.

Peder makes a deliberate effort to understand his clients' businesses and develops a strategy to address their goals cost-effectively. Peder is often called upon for his ability to successfully handle first-party insurance defense cases. He has built a strong practice defending clients in litigation involving wrongful death and catastrophic injury, professional malpractice, discrimination issues, products liability, and multi-party construction defects.

Before becoming an attorney, Peder worked for more than a decade with Costco in various management roles. While engaging with attorneys on litigating workers' compensation claims, he was inspired to pursue a career in law. His time in the private sector instilled the importance of the client service experience and shaped his client-centric approach. Peder's later roles as a judicial extern for Michigan Supreme Court Justice Stephen Markman and law clerk to Hon. Christopher Yates and Hon. Kathleen Feeney, 17th Circuit Court of Kent County provided him with a sound foundation and a broad range of legal experience.

Education

- Thomas M. Cooley Law School (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2010)

Services

- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Directors & Officers Liability
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Professional Liability & Services

- Portland State University (B.S. Business Management, *cum laude*, 2006)
 - Departmental Honors

Bar Admissions

- Oregon
- Washington

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington

Professional Affiliations

Oregon Association of Defense Counsel

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America®, Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2026; Commercial Litigation, 2025–2026; Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, 2024–present; Product Liability Litigation, 2024–present
- Selected for inclusion in Oregon Super Lawyers®, Rising Stars™, 2016–2020

Representative Matters

Commercial Litigation. Defended large greenhouse manufacturer against contract and warranty claims. Successfully briefed and argued motion for partial summary judgement, resulting in dismissal of \$5.4 million lost profit claim.

Premises Liability. Defended company operating regional gas stations against personal injury claim. Early motion practice resulted in dismissal of lawsuit.

Insurance Coverage. Defended national insurer in contentious coverage and bad faith UIM claim, resulting in favorable settlement despite opposing counsel's aggressive litigation tactics.

Products Liability & Commercial Litigation. Defended large HVAC manufacturer in state court from various tort and contract claims. Successfully defeated claims alleged at over \$6 million at the pleading stage by motion to dismiss.

Employment. Defended masonry contractor in discrimination and wrongful termination claims. Nominal settlement immediately following the plaintiff's poor performance during deposition.

Product Liability & Commercial Litigation. Defended seller of concrete patching repair compound against claims for the defective product, indemnity, breach of contract, and breach of warranties. Successfully briefed and argued a motion to dismiss and a motion for summary judgment, resulting in the dismissal of numerous claims and, ultimately, resulted in a favorable settlement.

Premises Liability. Defended national clothing retailer in a premises liability matter. The plaintiff alleged significant personal injuries for an alleged slip and fall in the client's store. Established that there was no evidence of the incident occurring and that the plaintiff's injuries were unrelated, which resulted in a nominal settlement.

Property Damage. Successfully defended a towing company in arbitration involving a claim that the tow operator negligently damaged a vehicle during a tow operation.

Workplace Injury. Represented asbestos remediation company against a claim for negligence and a claim under Oregon's Employer Liability Law. Persuaded the plaintiff's counsel to drop the case after filing a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that the claims were barred under Oregon's workers' compensation "exclusive remedy" statute.

Sexual Abuse. Successfully briefed an extensive motion for summary judgment dismissing claims for sexual abuse allegedly committed by the client's teacher at a private, religious school. The plaintiff was seeking several million dollars, including punitive damages.

Commercial Litigation & Consumer Protection. Defended warranty company against claims for fraud, financial abuse of a vulnerable person, and breach of contract. Successfully defeated fraud and financial abuse claims in arbitration, resulting in a modest award against the warranty company, including persuading the arbitration panel to limit the claimant's fee petition to less than 25 percent of the requested amount.

Commercial Litigation. Represented Christmas tree seller against buyer involving claims for breach of contract, action to pierce the corporate veil, and unjust enrichment. Successfully briefed and argued motion for sanctions arising out of the defendant committing various discovery violations, resulting in the court striking the defendant's motion for summary judgment and awarding monetary sanctions in the client's favor. Successfully assisted with briefing in opposition to the defendant's petition before the Oregon Supreme Court that challenged the trial court's ruling.

Client Wins

Rigsby, Mooney and Carley Achieve Favorable Jury Award in Especially Difficult Venue

Peder Rigsby (Partner-Portland, OR), Dan Mooney (Partner-Seattle, WA) and John Carley (Of Counsel-Portland, OR) secured a highly favorable jury award on behalf of their client, a large resource recovery company. The trial was held in King County, WA, a notoriously difficult venue for defendants recently included on the "Judicial Hellhole Top 10" list. This was an admitted liability case that was vigorously contested.

The client's garbage truck driver backed into the plaintiff's vehicle, causing it minor damage. Plaintiff was standing in the truck bed and either jumped or fell out. Plaintiff claimed numerous catastrophic injuries, including multiple surgeries and a concussion diagnosed nearly five years after the accident. The alleged economic damages were \$1.2 million. During jury selection, Plaintiff's counsel anchored at \$30 million. In closing, Plaintiff asked for \$11.8 million. The defense strategy focused on causation and the plaintiff's credibility, which included presenting numerous experts, a private investigator, and hours of video surveillance showing the plaintiff engaging in activities that he claimed he could not perform. Following a three-week trial, the jury returned a verdict of \$500,000 or \$100,000 less than our last offer.