



Ryan A. Williams

Partner

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Denver, CO – 303.572.5307

Ryan Williams represents clients in complex premises liability and high-exposure general liability cases, construction defect matters, trucking and transportation matters, professional liability on behalf of architects and engineers, and nursing home and elder law matters. In addition, Ryan handles real estate litigation; commercial disputes in federal and state courts; and employment litigation, representing employers in cases arising under state and federal fair employment practices statutes. He has prevailed in numerous jury and court trials, and has extensive appellate experience before the Colorado Court of Appeals and Colorado Supreme Court. This wide-ranging experience enables Ryan to effectively represent clients at all stages of litigation. He partners with national and regional insurers to achieve effective defense strategies and resolution of claims in these areas.

Ryan clerked for the Honorable JoAnn L. Vogt of the Colorado Court of Appeals, where he researched and wrote on a broad range of legal topics, including commercial and real estate disputes, insurance law, and corporate, shareholder and fiduciary responsibilities. He then moved to a prominent Denver business firm, where he specialized in construction and real estate litigation. The son of a contractor, Ryan understands the unique needs of construction professionals and the legal issues they and their insurers face.

Insurance Defense

Claims and litigation management, particularly in the areas of premises liability and catastrophic personal injury, is a mainstay of Ryan's practice. Recognized for his involvement in high-exposure cases, he also handles more modest and less far-reaching matters with the same levels of rigor and discipline. Ryan's experience in both trial and appellate courts, combined with pragmatism and a willingness to work toward outcomes in his clients' best interest, provides tailored resolutions to their most complex problems. Often engaged as monitoring counsel, Ryan provides prompt analysis and evaluation of the claim exposure, manages the progress and cost of the defense, and assists in

Services

- Design Professionals
- Commercial Contracts & Agreements
- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Construction
- Employment & Labor
- Environmental
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- Insurance & Reinsurance Defense
- National Trial Team
- Professional Liability & Services
- Real Estate Professionals
- Transportation

negotiating the insurer's settlement contribution.

Construction

With a broad perspective on statutory requirements and case law in jurisdictions throughout the country, Ryan provides experienced counsel in managing liability resulting from construction defects and accidents. Throughout the project development continuum – from planning, to design, to construction, to the efficacy of completed projects – he analyzes and handles complex construction defect and delay claims under typical general liability and payment and performance bonds, as well as subcontractor default insurance and consolidated insurance programs. Ryan also has extensive experience in construction accident claims, including claims for property damage and personal injury arising out of crane and equipment failures, and construction product liability. Among Ryan's notable accomplishments is a published decision by the Colorado Supreme Court concerning the applicability to construction professionals of certain provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act of Colorado.

Commercial Transportation

Ryan offers a "cross-practice" approach to commercial transportation clients, frequently collaborating with colleagues throughout the firm in litigated, regulatory and administrative matters. He engages with the firm's 24/7 emergency response team for catastrophic events, and is a trusted adviser to insurers and self-insureds or point of contact counsel for litigation needs.

Professional Liability/Architects & Engineers

Ryan serves as co-chair of the firm's Design Professionals Practice. In defending malpractice suits and providing pre-claim counsel to architects and engineers, Ryan boasts an enviable record of helping clients contain or avoid financial damages from the claims that increasingly characterize this area of law. He represents design professionals through all phases of construction litigation and counsel and, given Wilson Elser's national footprint, he can obtain on-the-ground resources to serve them in different geographies. The firm's attorneys work seamlessly across practices and jurisdictions, aligning the firm's resources with each client's individual requirements.

Commercial Litigation

Ryan's practice includes commercial and breach of contract lawsuits as well as a background in corporate transactional matters, and reviewing, drafting and negotiating contracts, leases and credit and security agreements.

Education

- Chapman University School of Law (J.D., 2002)
 - technology editor, Chapman Law Review; American Jurisprudence Award, Torts and Civil Procedure; Chapman Award for Ethical Character
- Point Loma Nazarene University (B.A., 1996)

Bar Admissions

- California

- Colorado

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Central District of California
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California
- U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- Colorado Bar Association, Construction Law Section Executive Council, 2018-Present
- Denver Bar Association
- Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)
- Colorado Lawyers' Committee, Board of Directors
- Colorado Defense Lawyers Association

Awards & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America®*, 2023-2026
- AV® Preeminent™ Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Selected for inclusion by *Super Lawyers Rising Star®*, 2013, 2014
- Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scout