



Steven G. Wraith

Partner

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Steven Wraith is a seasoned litigator with nearly four decades of experience representing individuals, businesses, and professionals in a broad range of civil litigation matters. Over the course of his career, Steve has successfully resolved hundreds of cases and tried more than 30 cases to jury verdict. His practice focuses on commercial and contract disputes, as well as the defense of claims related to serious personal injury and wrongful death actions. It also encompasses construction litigation related to building and design defects and jobsite accidents, as well as the defense of complex claims involving product liability, premises liability, professional liability, and transportation disputes. Additionally, Steve has significant experience handling toxic tort claims and brings considerable insight to insurance coverage issues. In addition to his trial work, Steve has successfully argued more than 40 cases before the Washington Supreme Court and the Washington State Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining Wilson Elser, Steve practiced for more than 37 years at a large established Seattle litigation firm, where he served as President for twelve years.

Commercial Litigation

Steve has extensive experience handling commercial and contract matters. For more than thirty years, he has represented corporations in breach of contract cases, as well as defended owners, developers, general contractors, subcontractors, and materials suppliers in complex construction litigation and against claims related to construction defect, directors and officers liability, and breach of fiduciary duty.

Product Liability, Toxic Tort & Construction

In the product liability area, Steve has defended numerous companies in wrongful death actions and against personal injury claims involving construction products, heavy agricultural machinery, industrial equipment, toxic torts, and consumer products. Additionally, Steve has defended owners and contractors in litigation arising from worksite

Services

- Transportation
- Construction

accidents resulting in catastrophic personal injury and death.

Transportation

Steve has experience with the full range of transportation matters, including bodily injury, employment, premises liability, contractual, product liability, and regulatory matters. He is well-versed in defending operators, owners, and carriers in the transportation industry in catastrophic highway accident litigation.

Premises Liability

Steve's premises liability experience includes defending a wide range of commercial and retail businesses, state and local governmental entities, and homeowners in various premises liability cases brought before state and federal courts. These matters range from minor slip/trip and fall cases to complex and catastrophic injuries sustained while present on privately and commercially owned properties.

Design Professionals

Steve's professional liability defense experience includes the effective management of design professional liability matters. He has successfully defended professionals in various cases brought against architects, engineers, and surveyors in standard of care lawsuits.

Education

- Seattle University School of Law (J.D., 1987)
- Washington State University (B.A., 1982)

Bar Admissions

- Washington
- Oregon

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims

Professional Affiliations

- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
- Defense Research Institute

Representative Matters

Commercial Litigation

Represented various clients in commercial disputes.

Represented builders, developers, and contractors in construction defect litigation.

Obtained voluntary dismissal of an excavation subcontractor in a construction defect case involving condominiums.

Obtained dismissal for an electrical subcontractor client against claims arising out of alleged defects in a multi-unit condominium complex.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal for a roofing subcontractor in a construction defect case involving a multi-building condominium complex.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal for a roofing subcontractor client in a construction defect case related to a large, multi-building apartment complex.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal of a second-tier siding subcontractor in a large, multi-building condominium complex matter.

Product Liability, Toxic Tort, Construction & Personal Injury

Obtained a defense verdict for a large Washington County in a road design case involving serious personal injuries.

Represented numerous commercial entities in various dram shop cases.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal of a material supplier client in a construction defect case brought by the owner of a single-family residence.

Obtained dismissal for a window manufacturer client against product liability claims by a homeowner.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal of a supplier of a concrete repair product in a product liability case arising out of property damage and economic loss by a water and sewer district.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal of a power saw-blade manufacturer client in a product liability wrongful death case.

Obtained dismissal of a vendor in a dram shop case.

Successfully handled hundreds of asbestos cases.

Transportation

Handled numerous investigations of commercial motor vehicle fatality accidents.

Handled numerous emergency response investigations related to commercial vehicle fatality and serious personal injury cases.

Obtained summary judgment dismissal for the City in a wrongful death lawsuit involving a 16-year-old struck by a truck and killed by a vehicle.

Design Professionals

Successfully represented architects, engineers, and surveyors in various commercial and casualty matters.

Obtained a defense verdict for a geotechnical engineer in a retaining wall failure case.

Successfully represented the Washington State Department of Transportation in a road project design case.

Premises Liability

Successfully represented numerous businesses in various premises cases.

Obtained a defense verdict in a restaurant slip and fall case.