



SCOTT S. BARKER

Senior Counsel

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Before starting his trial practice, Scott Barker served in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years—including four as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy—with tours of duty in Southeast Asia and the Pentagon. In his 40-year legal career, he has tried nearly 80 cases and handled scores of evidentiary hearings, ranging from complex class action jury trials to pro bono proceedings for domestic violence survivors.

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, J.D., 1981, *cum laude*

Oxford University, M.Phil., 1973
Rhodes Scholar

United States Air Force Academy, B.S., 1970

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Holland & Hart LLP
Partner, 1987-2010
Management Committee
Chair, 1997-2003

Associate, 1981-1987
United States Air Force
Active duty, including
assignments in Southeast Asia
and

The Pentagon, 1970-1978
Honorably discharged as
Captain, 1978

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won a pro bono disability claim for a 79-year old veteran.
- Served as panel chair in a complex, multimillion-dollar dispute involving gas properties in Wyoming.
- Successfully opposed plaintiffs' certiorari petition to Colorado Supreme Court, eliminating \$750 million exposure to BP.
- Served as lead class action defense counsel for BP America Production Company in six class actions, including two jury trials to verdict against certified classes of royalty claimants.
- Headed a team of hundreds of lawyers providing pro bono representation to five Algerian nationals detained in Guantanamo Bay
- Defeated class certification for Nash Finch (now SpartanNash) against alleged violations of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act and won summary judgment against the 55 named plaintiffs.
- Served as lead counsel to Computer Associates in a complex business tort jury trial in federal court in Utah.

INDUSTRIES

- Oil & Gas
- Energy
- Real Estate
- Construction & Engineering
- Financial Services

PRACTICE AREAS

- Environmental Litigation
- Mass Torts
- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Catastrophic Injury Defense
- Product Liability
- Antitrust & Competition
- Pro Bono

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BIOGRAPHY

Before starting his trial practice, Scott Barker served in the U.S. Air Force for 12 years—including four as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy—with tours of duty in Southeast Asia and the Pentagon. In his 40-year legal career, he has tried nearly 80 cases and handled scores of evidentiary hearings, ranging from complex class action jury trials to pro bono proceedings for domestic violence survivors.

Scott has earned the respect of clients, judges, and lawyers wherever he has appeared in the United States, as reflected in his numerous professional accolades. Most prominently, he was selected as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2001. In addition, he is a skilled leader of sophisticated practitioners. Scott served as the Chair of the Management Committee of the largest Denver-based law firm for six years before joining WTO in 2010 as a partner and member of the firm's Executive Committee.

Now, as Senior Counsel, Scott's passion is serving clients by helping the firm's lawyers to hone their trial presentations and appellate arguments. Given the depth and breadth of his trial experience, Scott is also an effective mediator and arbitrator. Finally, he is an avid student of the Constitution. Since 2018, Scott has authored three published books and several articles and op-eds about our founding document and its impact on current events.

CASES

- Won a pro bono appeal and military disability benefits for a 79-year-old veteran whose claim had previously been denied.
- Served as panel chair in a complex, multimillion-dollar dispute involving gas properties in Wyoming.
- Successfully opposed plaintiffs' certiorari petition to the Colorado Supreme Court, leaving in place a Court of Appeals ruling in favor of BP and eliminating a \$750,000,000 exposure threat in alleged moratory interest.
- Served as lead class action defense counsel for BP America Production Company in six class actions, including two jury trials to verdict against certified classes of royalty claimants.
- From 2005 to 2011, headed a team of hundreds of lawyers providing pro bono representation to five Algerian nationals detained in Guantanamo Bay in their habeas corpus proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.
- Defeated class certification for Nash Finch (now SpartanNash), a Fortune 500 food distribution company, in claims involving common law fraud, civil theft, and violations of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act stemming from complaints about a specific pricing program in various grocery stores. WTO then obtained summary judgment against the 55 named plaintiffs.

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- Served as lead counsel to Amoco Production Co. in a major groundwater contamination case in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. Plaintiffs alleged Amoco's gas production operations had contaminated domestic water supplies across an area the size of Rhode Island. The putative class action, if certified, would have produced exposure in the billions of dollars. Scott's team defeated class certification and successfully tried the named plaintiffs' cases to a jury.
- Obtained a defense verdict for ARCO/Thunder Basin Coal Company in an antitrust case involving real estate development incident to a client's coal mining operations in Campbell County, Wyoming.
- Served as lead trial counsel to Asarco, Inc., in a six-week class action jury trial in Denver District Court involving allegations of heavy metals contamination in the area surrounding Asarco's cadmium refinery.
- Represented Aspen Skiing Company as lead trial counsel for over a decade, handling more than 30 cases, including 10 defense verdicts.
- Represented AT&T as lead counsel in a complex telecommunications dispute in federal court in Colorado.
- Served as lead counsel to Computer Associates in a complex business tort jury trial in federal court in Utah.
- Headed up Exxon's Underground Storage Tank litigation team, trying one case successfully to verdict and supervising the litigation of approximately 12 other cases.
- Served as lead counsel to International Paper in a family of insurance coverage cases, including bench and jury trials in state court in San Francisco.
- Represented Kerr-McGee/Anadarko as lead trial counsel in a federal False Claims Act jury trial involving oil royalties on offshore federal leases and in a federal jury trial involving allegations of misappropriation of seismic data.
- Obtained summary judgment for Lockheed Martin with regard to the majority of potentially \$2 billion in exposure in a major federal False Claims Act case in Idaho. Allegations included false claims associated with a contract for management of the U.S. Department of Energy facility in Idaho Falls, ID. Following summary judgment, the remainder of the case settled favorably.
- Served as lead counsel to Valero in a series of four arbitrations involving cost-sharing disputes over environmental cleanup at a gasoline refinery in Denver, CO.

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

BHP Billiton

BP America Production

SpartanNash



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USAA
Valero

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado
U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Arbitrator, Denver ADR Panel, CPR Panels of Distinguished Neutrals
American College of Trial Lawyers
Fellow
American Board of Trial Advocates
Member
The Best Lawyers in America
Denver Environmental Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2020
Denver Mass Tort/Class Action Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2018
Denver Bet-the-Company Litigation Lawyer of the Year, 2013
Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2006-2024
Commercial Litigation, 2006-2024
Environmental Litigation, 2016-2024
Mass Tort/Class Action Litigation, 2006-2024
Chambers USA
Commercial Litigation - Colorado, 2005-2019
Colorado Super Lawyers
Business Litigation, 2006-2024
Top 100, 2012-2018
Top 10, 2008, 2010
Top 50, 2006-2011
Denver Business Journal
Who's Who in Energy Law, 2012-2014
Best Business Litigator in Denver, 2003
Benchmark Litigation
Commercial Litigation - Colorado, 2011-2018
Litigation Counsel of America
Member
American Bar Association
Colorado Bar Association
Denver Bar Association
Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated*

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COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Panel Coach, Constitutional Scholars Program, Denver East High School

Past President, Board of Trustees, Denver Christian Schools

Lay Assessor, Ecclesiastical Proceeding for the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

Articles

- Author, "The Reality of Policing the Supreme Court," The Messenger Opinion (November 24, 2023).
- Author, "Reflections on Trial Lawyer Leadership," Colorado Lawyer (October 2023).
- "America Must Accept the Limitations of Its Military Power," The Hill, (September 13, 2021).
- Presenter, "Reforming The War Powers Relationship Between Congress and the President in the Post-Trump Era," Denver University Law Forum, (March, 2021).
- "History Cautions Against Rash Decisions in Iranian Conflict," Detroit Free Press, (January 6, 2020).
- "Trump is Getting His Constitutional Rights in House Impeachment Inquiry," The Hill, (October 31, 2019).
- "Opinion: Politics Aside, Legal Precedents don't Favor Trump in an Impeachment Inquiry," Los Angeles Times, (September 26, 2019).
- "Political Arithmetic and Impeachment," Law Week Colorado, (August 5, 2019).
- "An Overview of Presidential Impeachment," The Colorado Lawyer, (August/September 2018).

Books

- "The Kings of War – How Our Modern Presidents Hijacked Congress's War-Making Powers and What To Do About It" (Outskirts Press, 2021).
- "The Impeachment Quagmire," History Publishing Co., (2019).
- "Impeachment," A Political Sword, History Publishing Co., (2018).

Presentations

- "War Powers and the Constitution," Academy of Life Long Learning, (August 31, 2020).
- "Presidential Impeachment," Academy of Life Long Learning, (February 3, 2020).
- Presenter, "Practical Tips for Preparing and Trying an Oil and Gas Case," The Institute for Energy Law's 63rd Annual Oil & Gas Law Conference, (February 16, 2012).

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Other Articles/Presentations

- "The Constitution and Conflict with Iran," Boulder Daily Camera, (September 21, 2019).