



Michael L. O'Donnell
Chairman

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Education

University of Denver Sturm
College of Law, J.D., 1979
Intern to the Honorable
Sherman Finesilver, United
States District Court for the
District of Colorado

University of Notre Dame, B.A.,
English, 1976

Practice Areas

Class Actions
Commercial
Personal Injury Defense
Product Liability
Professional Liability
Toxic Torts

Industries

Automotive
Construction & Engineering
Energy
Financial Services
Health Care
Industrial Equipment
Insurance
Legal Services
Manufacturing
Medical - Devices &
Pharmaceuticals
Professional Services
Telecommunications

Mike O'Donnell is a founder and the chairman of Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell. His national litigation practice focuses on complex civil litigation involving product liability, professional liability, tort, class action, commercial, and bet-the-company litigation matters. Mike has appeared as lead counsel in state and federal courts in 25 states. He has served as national and regional counsel for a number of Fortune 500 companies, including Boston Scientific, CNA, General Electric, and Pfizer.

Mike was elected a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and currently serves as the chairman of its Colorado chapter. He was also elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates. Mike is a former chairman of The Network of Trial Law Firms, a 6,000-member lawyer organization that offers continuing legal education programs on litigation topics.

In a survey conducted by Law Week Colorado in 2010, Mike was selected by his peers as the Best Trial Lawyer in Colorado. Mike is listed in *Best Lawyers in America* in five litigation practice areas and has appeared on the *Colorado Super Lawyers* list since its inception, including making it onto its top-ten list three times. In 2008, Mike became only the seventh Colorado Defense Lawyers Association member to receive an award from the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association for the highest standards of competency, ethics, and professionalism.

Cases

Hannah v. Crown Equipment
Moore v. Bertuzzi, The Vancouver Canucks Hockey Club et al.
Vastano v. AT&T Wireless Class Action
California Appeals Court Affirms Preemption of Claims Against Guidant's Medical Device
Representation of Fortune 10 Company as National Resolution Counsel
Representation of Fortune 500 Manufacturer as National Coordinating Counsel for 3,000 Asbestos Cases
Representation of Fortune 500 Medical Device Company as National Trial Counsel for 400 Claims and Lawsuits
Representation of Medical Device Company as National Trial Counsel for 100 Claims and Lawsuits
Representation of Numerous Law Firms in United States in Legal Malpractice Cases



Clients

ACE USA
Advanced Bionics - National Trial Counsel
American International Group (AIG)
Boston Scientific - National Trial Counsel
CNA - National Trial Counsel
CoorsTek
Crown Equipment
GE Healthcare - National Resolution Counsel
Guidant - National Trial Counsel
High net-worth individuals
Lawyers and Law Firms
PepsiCo
Pfizer - National Trial Counsel
Wal-Mart

Admitted to Practice

Colorado
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois
U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado
U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming
U.S. Supreme Court
Wyoming

Teaching Positions

BAR-BRI Course on Professional Responsibility
National Institute for Trial Advocacy
University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Guest Lecturer
University of Colorado at Denver, MBA Program
Guest Lecturer
Numerous CLE Presentations

Legal Memberships

Fellow of American College of Trial Lawyers
Colorado State Committee, Chairman, 2008-2010
Chairman-Elect, 2007-2008, Vice Chairman, 2006-2007
Code of Conduct Committee, 2007-2008
Complex Litigation Committee 2004-2005
American Board of Trial Advocates
Member
Law Week Colorado "Barrister's Best"
Best Trial Lawyer, 2010
Best Lawyers
Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2005-2011
Commercial Litigation, 2005-2011
Legal Malpractice Law, 2005-2011
Personal Injury Litigation, 2005-2011

Product Liability Litigation, 2005-2011
Chambers USA
Commercial Litigation - Colorado, 2009-2010
The Legal 500 United States
Litigation: Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense, 2007, 2009, 2010
Colorado Super Lawyers
Class Action/Mass Torts, 2006-2008
Personal Injury Defense: Products, 2009-2010
Top 10, 2007
Top 50, 2008
Top 10, 2009
Top 10, 2010
Colorado Trial Lawyers Association
Award for Competency, Ethics, and Professionalism, 2008
The American Lawyer
Top Commercial Litigation Lawyers, 2006
Colorado Corporate Counsel Black Book
Class Action Lawsuits, 2007
Best of the Bar, *Denver Business Journal*
Colorado Bar Foundation
Fellow
The Network of Trial Law Firms
Chairman, 2005-2006
Denver Bar Association
Vice President, Board of Trustees
Colorado Bar Association
Member, Board of Governors
American Bar Association
Chairman, Issues Affecting the Legal Profession
Young Lawyers Section Liaison to Standing Committee on
Professional Discipline
International Association of Defense Counsel
Judge William E. Doyle American Inn of Court, Master
Denver Law Club
Faculty of Federal Advocates
Board of Directors, 2004-2005
Defense Research Institute
Member, Professional Liability Committee
Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
Who's Who in Law, Denver Business Journal
University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Co-Chair of Reunion Committee, 2004
Colorado Judicial Institute
Board of Directors, 2004-present
Judicial Awards Committee, 2006-present
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Community Memberships, Activities, and Honors

Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell Foundation

Founder and President, 2005-present

Archdiocese of Denver

Finance Council, 2008-present

Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Denver

Board Member

Denver Police Foundation

Board of Directors, 2004-present

Walking for Kids

Founding Member, Board of Directors, 2009-present

Trial.com Foundation, Inc.

President, 2005-2006

The Catholic Foundation

Board of Directors, Advancement Committee, 2004-2005

American Heart Association of Colorado and Wyoming

Chairman of the Board

American Heart Association of Colorado

Denver Metro Division, Chairman of the Board

Denver Tennis Club

Board of Directors

The Village Club

President

Personal Interests

Golf

Reading

Tennis

Travel

Articles and Presentations

Settlement Negotiation Strategies, Continuing Legal Education Seminar (May 2010)

Strategic Management, University of Colorado at Denver MBA Program (Feb. 2010)

Deposition Strategy 101, Colorado Defense Lawyers Association CLE Seminar (Dec. 4, 2009)

Leadership, University of Colorado at Denver MBA Program (Dec. 1, 2009)

Leadership and Strategic Management, presented to University of Colorado MBA Students (Dec. 1, 2009)

Preventing Legal Malpractice, Potential Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them, Colorado Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Seminar (Multiple dates 2009-2010)

Managing Product Liability in the Americas, quoted in *Financier Worldwide* (Sept. 2009)

Alternative Dispute Resolution, presented to CNA (Mar. 2008)

Appellate Update on Colorado Law, presented to All Colorado State Court Trial and Appellate Judges (Sept. 2007)

What In-House Counsel Want and How to Give It to Them, presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms (Apr. 20, 2007)

Selecting Outside Trial Counsel, presented to Association of Corporate Counsel Colorado Chapter (Mar. 21, 2007)

Selection of Outside Counsel, presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms (Apr. 29, 2006)

Pharmaceutical Torts Cases in Colorado, presented at Colorado Bar Association and Denver Bar Association CLE Ethical Consideration for Practitioners (Nov. 3, 2005)

Punitive Damages, presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms (Oct. 23, 2004)

Punitive Damages, presented at 27th Annual Conference of Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (Aug. 20, 2004)

Campbell v. State Farm, presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms' Meeting (Apr. 2003)

Colorado Civil Justice League Legislative Panel, presented in conjunction with the American Tort Reform Association Annual Legislative Conference for State Coalition Leaders and Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse (Nov. 14, 2002)

Non-Liability to Non-Participants: A Manufacturer's Duty Should End at the Playing Field, and Not Extend to Criminal Acts, *Mealey's Prod. Liab. & Risk*, Aug. 29, 2002

Behold the Future: Emerging Areas Including Mold, Cellular Phones, MTBE, Chromium 6, and More, presented at The Future of Mass Tort Litigation in America (Mar. 23, 2002)

Ethics and Professionalism in Client Relations, presented at University of Denver Law School (Nov. 12, 2001)

Challenging the Admissibility of Medical Causation Opinion Derived From 'Differential Diagnosis - Application of *Daubert* and Amended FRE 702', presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms (Oct. 26, 2001)

Winning by Disqualifying Plaintiff's Experts, presented at The Network of Trial Law Firms (Oct. 25, 2001)

Preventing Legal Malpractice, presented at Colorado Bar Association CLE Seminar and Torts Update (Oct. 9, 1998)

Colorado Legal Malpractice, presented to 1998 Colorado Bar Association Tort Law Update (1998)

Winning the Battle of the Experts, presented at Professional Education Systems Inc. (Dec. 16, 1996)

Discovery, presented at Colorado Defense Lawyers Association (Aug. 27, 1994)

Depositions: Strategies, Tactics and Mechanics, presented at Professional Education Systems Inc. (Nov. 11, 1992)

Discovery Tactics: Drawing the Line Between 'Clever' and 'Unfair', presented at Professional Education Systems Inc. (Feb. 7, 1992)

Deposition Program, presented at National Institute for Trial Advocacy (Dec. 4, 1991)

Course on Professional Responsibility, presented at BAR-BRI (Jan. 21, 1988)