



RAYMOND W. MARTIN

Partner

martin@wtotrial.com | P 303.244.1863

"A leading light in labor and employment litigation."

–Chambers USA

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 1977, with honors
Order of St. Ives

Pennsylvania State University
Dickinson School of Law, 1974-1975

Morningside College, B.A., 1974,
Political Science, *cum laude*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Colorado General Assembly Blue Ribbon Panel to address sexual harassment in the legislature (2018)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Freeborn & Peters

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Ray Martin continues to be recognized as one of Colorado’s premier employment litigators. Chambers USA has ranked Ray in Band 1 for Colorado Labor and Employment Litigation for 16 consecutive years. Benchmark Litigation recognizes Ray as a Litigation Star. In 2022 and 2018, The Best Lawyers in America named Ray the Colorado “Lawyer of the Year” for Labor and Employment Litigation. Ray routinely represents Fortune 500 and other sophisticated clients in whistleblower, discrimination, wrongful discharge, trade secret, non-compete and FLSA litigation across a range of highly regulated industries including aviation, telecommunications, and healthcare.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won an appeal in the 10th Circuit for two mortgage brokers in a noncompete case against a leading financial institution, affirming a district court's prior denial of preliminary injunction.
- Won a defense jury verdict in federal court for a Fortune 500 telecommunications client facing age discrimination and retaliation claims.
- Obtained complete dismissal of claims under the Federal False Claims Act for CollegeAmerica (aka The Center for Excellence in Higher Education).
- Won a complete defense verdict for CollegeAmerica against the EEOC.
- Won determination of no discriminatory conduct following a two-and-a-half-year investigation of our client by the EEOC.
- Won for AT&T before the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in an ERISA case.
- Won dismissal of two key claims against CollegeAmerica in an EEOC lawsuit involving separation agreements.

INDUSTRIES

- Construction & Engineering
- Consumer Products & Services
- Energy
- Healthcare
- Professional Services
- Telecommunications
- Oil & Gas
- Trucking

PRACTICE AREAS

- Employment
- Class Actions
- Investigations & Compliance
- Commercial Litigation
- Antitrust & Competition

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BIOGRAPHY

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Ray is a zealous representative of his clients and takes pride in the open and interactive relationships he develops with both in-house counsel and the management teams whose decisions are challenged in litigation.

Chambers has written, "Raymond Martin enjoys a distinguished reputation as an employment litigator, handling a broad spectrum of matters including discrimination and FLSA issues. A source says: 'Ray is a superb counselor, a known expert to judges and opponents, and a joy to work with. His enthusiastic defense coupled with deep mastery of all issues convinced us we'd chosen wisely.'"

A peer told Best Lawyers, "I have met and worked with a small number [of attorneys] who are 'the best of the best,' and Ray Martin is one of them . . . Ray is driven by the details and never misses a fact that impacts the case. He is relentless in his pursuit of the case and is a fearless advocate. He possesses a rare combination of tenacity and pragmatism. With his vast experience, he can cut through the issues to understand and properly value a case."

In 2016, the editorial board of Law Week Colorado named Ray the Barrister's Best Employment Lawyer for Defendants. Ray has twice been listed in the International Who's Who of Business Lawyers, which recognizes just four to five Colorado lawyers in its management labor and employment listing each year. He has also been recognized by the Denver Business Journal as one of the top three employment lawyers in Colorado based on voting by practicing attorneys in the state.

Ray is an elected Fellow of the Colorado Bar Foundation, an honor bestowed upon no more than five percent of Colorado lawyers for outstanding dedication to the welfare of the community, the traditions of the profession, and the maintenance and advancement of the objectives of the Colorado Bar Association.

RAYMOND W. MARTIN

CASES

- Won an appeal in the 10th Circuit for two mortgage brokers in a noncompete case against a leading financial institution, affirming a district court's prior denial of preliminary injunction. The plaintiffs had alleged that their former employees—WTO's clients—had breached noncompete and trade secret agreements when they left the company.
- Won a defense jury verdict in federal court for a Fortune 500 telecommunications client facing age discrimination and retaliation claims.
- Obtained complete dismissal of claims under the Federal False Claims Act for CollegeAmerica (aka The Center for Excellence in Higher Education).
- Won a complete defense verdict for CollegeAmerica (aka The Center for Excellence in Higher Education) in a lawsuit brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. WTO attorneys won dismissal of two claims relating to severance provisions in 2014. A federal jury decided for CollegeAmerica on the final claim of retaliation in 2016.
- Prevailed against allegations of racial discrimination against a tech industry employer in Nevada. Following a two-and-a-half-year investigation, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission concluded that no discriminatory conduct had occurred.
- Won Tenth Circuit affirmance of a lower court ruling for AT&T in an ERISA dispute.
- Obtained dismissal of key claims brought by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) of alleged violations of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) and involving the EEOC's national campaign to limit employers' language in separation agreements. Two claims brought by the EEOC were dismissed outright for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. A third claim continues to be litigated.
- Represented a range of clients in seven recent noncompete cases, resulting in five preliminary injunctions enforcing the clients' noncompete agreements and, in two cases, defeating plaintiffs' attempts to enforce noncompete agreements against our clients.
- Obtained dismissal with prejudice of a race discrimination case brought against FedEx Freight in federal court in Colorado. The case was dismissed based on the plaintiff's discovery misconduct.
- Successfully defended a nonprofit organization in a pro bono matter involving claims of national origin and religious discrimination filed by a former employee. The Colorado Civil Rights Division rejected all of the plaintiff's claims and dismissed her charges of discrimination. The organization assists refugees to establish economic self-sufficiency in the U.S. after fleeing persecution in foreign countries.

RAYMOND W. MARTIN

- Obtained a preliminary injunction following a full-day evidentiary hearing in a Colorado district court for a large Ohio-based commercial painting company in a case involving trade secrets and a noncompete agreement.
- Defended the appeal to the Tenth Circuit of a 2010 jury verdict WTO won for AT&T in a high-profile whistleblower case. *Law Week Colorado* called the underlying trial court victory one of the "Top Defense Verdicts of 2010."
- Obtained a preliminary injunction enforcing WTO's client's non-competition agreement with a former employee after a two-day hearing in Jefferson County, Colorado.
- Won a Colorado Supreme Court decision favorable to WTO's client, Allstate, and all Colorado auto insurers in a purported class action involving disclosures associated with underinsured and uninsured motorist policies.
- Successfully defended a major engineering firm against an FLSA class action.
- Represented FMC Corp. in ERISA class actions brought by FMC retirees in Idaho and Indiana, respectively, who asserted that they were entitled to lifetime healthcare based on terms of various collective bargaining agreements. In the Idaho case, plaintiffs stipulated to the dismissal of the litigation with prejudice following discovery and filing of WTO's motion for summary judgment. In Indiana, following the completion of discovery, the Court entered summary judgment in favor of FMC on all claims.
- Successfully defended a class action lawsuit filed in federal court in Colorado against a national financial institution accused of discriminating in its lending practices based on national origin.
- Won a defense ruling in a week-long arbitration involving seven-figure damage claims and punitive damages brought by a former CEO and chairman of WTO's client, a securities broker-dealer.
- Obtained a temporary restraining order to stop the former employee of a healthcare third party administrator (TPA) and his new employer from contacting the TPA's customers. WTO also obtained a declaratory judgment that the TPA's noncompete agreement was enforceable under Colorado law.
- Obtained injunctive relief in Colorado state court for an international payroll services company, enforcing the company's rights under a nonsolicitation agreement against a former employee who had gone to work for a competitor.

RAYMOND W. MARTIN

- Successfully defended a Colorado college before the Colorado Civil Rights Division in one of the first complaints filed under the 2007 amendment to the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which extended state protection in the workplace to discrimination based on transgender status. WTO established that the plaintiff, a staff member and instructor at the college who had started a gender change from male to female, was terminated solely for her misconduct, not because she was transgender.
- Represented a major federal contractor in connection with a pattern and practice EEOC investigation relating to alleged gender discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, and glass ceiling issues.
- Won a temporary restraining order (TRO) and preliminary injunction (PI) for an international software developer in federal court in Colorado. The TRO and PI enjoined two of the clients' former employees from violating their non-compete and proprietary information agreements.
- Successfully argued that a judgment previously entered against WTO's client was improper. The new order vacated the \$500,000 judgment entered against the defendant by a Colorado state court in 2008 in an ERISA matter handled by another firm.

TEACHING POSITIONS

- National Employment Law Institute
Counsel on Education in Management

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Center for Excellence in Higher Education, Inc. (aka CollegeAmerica)
FedEx Freight, Inc.
FMC - Regional Trial Counsel
Hach Co., a Danaher Company
HSS Inc.
Marriott Hotel Services
MWH Global
Ritz-Carlton Hotels
Southern Ute Indian Tribe
TAG Restaurant Group
United States Olympic Committee
University of Northern Colorado

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BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Colorado
 - U.S. Supreme Court
 - U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
 - U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- Chambers USA
 - Labor & Employment - Colorado, 2006-2026
 - Ranked Band 1, 2010-2026
 - The Best Lawyers in America
 - Denver Litigation - Labor and Employment Lawyer of the Year, 2022
 - Denver Employment Law - Management Lawyer of the Year, 2018
 - Employment Law - Management, 2017-2026
 - Labor & Employment Litigation, 2008-2026
 - Colorado Super Lawyers
 - Employment Litigation: Defense, 2006-2023
 - Top 100, 2013-2016, 2018-2020
 - Law Week Colorado
 - 2016 Barrister's Best Employment Lawyer for Defendants
 - 2023 People's Choice Employment Lawyer for Defendants
 - International Who's Who of Management Labour & Employment Lawyers
 - 2010, 2012
 - Benchmark Litigation
 - Labor & Employment Star, 2020-2026
 - Litigation Star, 2020-2026
 - Best of the Bar, Denver Business Journal
 - Labor & Employment, 2004, Top-Three Finalist
 - Martindale-Hubbell AV[®] Peer Review Rated
 - Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
 - Colorado Bar Foundation
 - Fellow
 - Denver Bar Association
 - Colorado Bar Association
 - Labor Law Committee
 - American Bar Association
 - The Faculty of Federal Advocates

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COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church
Former Trustee
- Denver Post Charities
Former Chief Legal Counsel (*Pro Bono*)

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

Articles

- "ERISA Suit Against Colo. Tribe Over Bonus Program Tossed," Law360, (November 8, 2023).
- "She's Forgetful? Hope It's Just Stress: Using Compassion to Avoid Legal Pitfalls," (August 2012).
- "Employee Benefits and the 101st Congress," 19 Colo. Law. 1825, (September 1990).

Presentations

- Presenter, "Misconceptions About Employment Arbitration," Labor and Employment Relations Association's Labor and Employment Conference, (September 22, 2011).
- Presenter, "Emerging Trends and New Developments in Colorado Employment Law," Colorado Personnel Law Update 2003, (October 28, 2003).
- Presenter, "Handling Workplace Violence: A Collaborative Approach to Protecting Your Organization From Liability and Your Employees From Harm," Colorado Personnel Law Update 2001, (June 20, 2001).
- Presenter, "Terminating Employees on FMLA Leave: Protecting Your Business From Lawsuits and Sub-Standard Work Performance," FMLA Update 1999, (July 28, 1999).
- Presenter, "Personal Liability for Workplace Lawsuits," Public Sector Employment, (April 1999).
- Presenter, "Preventive Measures to Avoid Wrongful Discharge Claims," Disciplinary and Termination Law, (November 1998).
- Presenter, "Terminating Poor-Performing Disabled Employees: Protecting Your Business From Lawsuits and Sub-Standard Performers," ADA Update, (May 12, 1998).

PERSONAL INTERESTS

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