



JOHN R. (JACK) TRIGG

Counsel Emeritus

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Jack Trigg is known for a long career of high-stakes product liability defense nationwide. Throughout his career, he has served as trial counsel to companies including Ford, Motor Coach Industries, and Volvo. Jack has represented Ford in two certified class action jury trials in California, one lasting four months and the other spanning 10 months.

"Impressive expertise in the defense of large-scale product liability cases."

—Client comment to Chambers USA

EDUCATION

University of Denver Sturm College of Law, J.D., 1963

University of Colorado, B.S., 1961, Finance

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won an "extraordinary remedy" from the Colorado Supreme Court involving the law of implied waiver of the attorney-client privilege.
- Represented a major commercial insurer in nationwide concussion and traumatic brain injury class action litigation involving the National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Hockey League, and U.S. Soccer Federation.
- Defended a major motorcoach manufacturer in a multiple-fatality rollover crash litigation involving extensive document production.
- Won appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court representing Granite State Insurance Company in a commercial insurance coverage dispute
- WTO successfully defends Ford in four-month, certified class action trial.
- Represented footwear manufacturer Crocs in nationwide litigation involving allegations of defectively designed footwear and failure to warn with respect to alleged risks associated with wearing the shoes on escalators.
- Won a jury defense verdict in a wrongful death product liability suit for an international automobile manufacturer.

INDUSTRIES

- Automotive
- Construction & Engineering
- Consumer Products & Services
- Medical Devices & Pharmaceuticals
- Professional Services
- Trucking
- Insurance

PRACTICE AREAS

- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Product Liability
- Professional Liability
- Catastrophic Injury Defense
- Environmental Litigation
- Mass Torts

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BIOGRAPHY

Jack Trigg is known for a long career of high-stakes product liability defense nationwide. Throughout his career, he has served as trial counsel to companies including Ford, Motor Coach Industries, and Volvo. Jack has represented Ford in two certified class action jury trials in California, one lasting four months and the other spanning 10 months.

Jack's national litigation practice focuses on complex business litigation, product liability, and class actions. He represents major corporate defendants as national trial counsel and has tried cases to juries in many state and federal courts during his career. He also focuses on risk-management and design and analysis of document retention and control programs. Additionally, Jack handles large and frequent claims arising out of alleged recurrent design, manufacturing defects, or recall problems.

Active in numerous bar organizations, Jack is past president of Lawyers for Civil Justice and past president and chairman of the board of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Defense Research Institute. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. In 2001 he was awarded the Outstanding Alumnus Award by the University of Denver College of Law. In 2003 he received the first Lifetime Achievement award from the *Denver Business Journal's* Best of the Bar. Jack is consistently included in lawyer ranking directories such as *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and *Colorado Super Lawyers*.

CASES

- Won an "extraordinary remedy" from the Colorado Supreme Court for an insurance company to reverse a trial-court order implying a waiver of the attorney-client privilege. The unanimous opinion establishes that the mere "fact that privileged information might become relevant in a given lawsuit could not alone be enough to establish an implied waiver."
- Represented a major commercial insurer in nationwide concussion and traumatic brain injury class action litigation involving the National Collegiate Athletic Association, National Hockey League, and U.S. Soccer Federation.
- Defended a major motorcoach manufacturer in a multiple-fatality rollover crash litigation involving extensive document production.
- Successfully appealed to the Colorado Supreme Court a case WTO won at the trial court level, but which was reversed by the Colorado Court of Appeals. Following arguments, the Colorado Supreme Court's published opinion restored the complete victory for the insurer in this precedent-setting case of first impression and made it easier for commercial property insurers to understand and follow Colorado's statutory notice requirements.

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- Defended Ford Motor Co. in a four-month certified class action trial involving \$2 billion in consumer fraud claims. On the day set for closing arguments, the plaintiffs agreed to a no-cash, coupon-based settlement for the California class and classes in three other states with pending parallel actions.
- Represented footwear manufacturer Crocs in nationwide litigation involving allegations of defectively designed footwear and failure to warn with respect to alleged risks associated with wearing the shoes on escalators.
- Won a jury defense verdict in U.S.D.C. for the District of Colorado for an automobile manufacturer in a wrongful death crashworthiness case.
- Represented Ford Motor Co. in a 10-month, nationwide class action jury trial in California involving thick film ignition modules in 12 million vehicles. The trial ended in a hung jury.
- Defended Ford Motor Co. in a Missouri class action involving automobile transmissions.
- Won dismissal for Ford Motor Co. in an Alabama class action involving the Bronco II.
- Represented defendants in the Dupont Plaza Hotel fire that killed 97 people in Puerto Rico.
- Represented defendants in claims relating to the Beverly Hills Supper Club fire, which killed 168 people in Southgate, Kentucky.
- Defended Mobay Chemical Company (then a subsidiary of Bayer) against claims arising from the Sunshine Mine disaster. The catastrophic fire in the Idaho silver mine killed more than 90 miners. After a four-month trial, all claims against Mobay were dismissed.

TEACHING POSITIONS

- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
Litigation Management College

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- AXIS Insurance
Ford Motor Company
Motor Coach Industries
Toyota Motor Sales, USA
Volvo Cars of North America

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BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Colorado
 - U.S. Supreme Court
 - U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
 - U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
 - U.S. District Court, D. Colorado
 - U.S. District Court, N.D. California

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LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

JOHN R. (JACK) TRIGG

- American College of Trial Lawyers
 - Fellow
 - Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
 - Past President and Chairman of the Board
 - The International Who's Who/Lexology Index of Product Liability Defense Lawyers, 1997-2011, 2014, 2016-2017, 2019, 2024
 - The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers: Commercial Litigation, 2013-2014, 2016
 - The International Who's Who/Lexology Index of Life Sciences Lawyers, 2011-2014, 2016-2017, 2024
 - Chambers USA
 - Product Liability - National, 2005-2020
 - The Best Lawyers in America
 - Commercial Litigation, 2008-2025
 - Product Liability Litigation, 2008-2025
 - The Legal 500 United States
 - Litigation: Product Liability and Mass Tort Defense, 2007-2013, 2015
 - Colorado Super Lawyers
 - Class Action/Mass Torts, 2006-2024
 - Top 100, 2012-2014, 2016-2017
 - Top 50, 2010-2011
 - Law Week Colorado
 - "People's Choice" Best Overall Litigator, 2010
 - Denver Business Journal
 - Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Who's Who in Law
 - University of Denver Sturm College of Law
 - Outstanding Alumni Award, 2001
 - Euromoney's Expert Guides - Litigation and Product Liability
 - Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated
 - Association of Defense Trial Attorneys
 - Trial Attorneys of America
 - Colorado Bar Association
 - Colorado Defense Lawyers Association
 - Secretary
 - University of Denver
 - Strategic Issues Panel on Legislative Accountability, 2015
 - Denver Bar Association
 - Defense Research Institute
 - Former Member, Board of Directors
 - Joint Project on Professionalism of the DRI/IADC/ADTA/FDCC

JOHN R. (JACK) TRIGG

Lawyers for Civil Justice
Past President
Former Member, Board of Directors
United States District Court for the District of Colorado
Committee on Conduct
Product Liability Advisory Council

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

- Colorado Prevention Center
Chairman of the Board
Cherry Hills Country Club
President

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

- "A Sensitive Accusation: Malingering in brain injury cases easy to claim, difficult to prove," *Law Week Colorado*, (January 21, 2019).
- Presenter, "Protecting Your Company in Global Product Litigation Concerning Foreign Imports: What Happens When the Attorney General Gets Involved?," Product Liability Advisory Council Spring Conference, (April 9, 2008).
- Presenter, "Overview and Psychology of a Personal Injury Damage Case," Trial Masters Program at Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel Winter meeting, (March 2007).
- Presenter, "Unfair Competition Laws and Attorney General Investigations," Product Liability Advisory Council, (April 2005).
- Presenter, "Privileges and Protections Under Assault," Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel's Corporate Counsel Symposium, (September 10, 2004).
- Presenter, "Truth v. Perception - Personal Litigation Experience: Media Influence on Litigation," Trial Attorneys of America, (June 2004).
- Presenter, "Product and Drug Liability in the European Economic Community," Joint International Conference, Barcelona, Spain, FDCC/IADC/DRI, (May 10, 2004).
- Presenter, "Litigation Theories of the Future," Defense Research Institute, (2004).
- Presenter, "Powerpoint in the Courtroom," Faculty of Federal Advocates, (September 20, 2002).
- Presenter, "Locating the Line Between Police Power and Regulatory Power: Judicial Authority to Issue Mandatory Recall Injunctions," Emerging Issues in Motor Vehicle Product Liability Litigation Conference, (March 21, 2002).

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- Presenter, "Erosion of Confidentiality Protective Orders and Its Impact on Corporations and Litigation," Joint presentation by the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel and the Lawyers for Civil Justice at the FDCC, (2002).
- Presenter, "Perils and Pitfalls of California's Unfair Competition Law Bus. and Prof. Code § 17200," International Association of Defense Counsel midyear meeting, (February 2001).
- Presenter, "Chairman; Opening Remarks," Lawyers for Civil Justice 2000 New York Conference and Meeting, (November 9, 2000).
- Presenter, "Ethics and Risks in Litigation," The Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel Conference, (1998).
- Presenter, "Common Discovery Tactics Used by Plaintiff's Attorneys and Methods to Combat Them," The Defense Research Institute Conference, (1998).
- Presenter, "Crime Fraud," Defense Research Institute, (October 11, 1996).
- Presenter, "Litigation Management: Whose Responsibility?," Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel Litigation Management College, (June 24, 1996).
- Presenter, "The Lawyer's Role is to Produce a Winner," American Bar Association Conference, (1995).
- Presenter, "Handling Comparative Fault in Enhanced Injury Cases," National Conference on Products Liability Law, (March 26, 1993).
- Presenter, "Ethical Considerations in Defending International Clients," Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel, (February 24, 1993).
- Presenter, "Product Liability in Colorado in 1988: A Look at the Statutes and Case Law," Hall & Evans Litigation Seminar, (1988).