



CLARISSA M. COLLIER

Partner

collier@wtotrial.com | P 303.244.0155

EDUCATION

University of Wyoming College of Law, J.D., 2008, *cum laude*, Order of the Coif

University of Wyoming, B.A., 2005, Criminal Justice, *cum laude*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Extern for The Honorable Jeffrey Donnell of Albany County District Court, Wyoming

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Holland & Hart LLP

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Clarissa Collier defends her clients in high-stakes catastrophic injury cases, including medical malpractice, transportation, and products liability matters. She is a strategic and effective advocate for clients, including at trial, where she has established skills to lead at any phase. Clarissa also has an active appellate practice, having argued and briefed several appeals in the Colorado Court of Appeals, Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Wyoming Supreme Court.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Won an issue of first impression when the Utah Supreme Court reversed a three-decade-old decision related to damage caps for the University of Utah under the Governmental Immunity Act.
- Won a defense jury verdict for Toyota in a \$33M case.
- Won case-ending summary judgment for the largest and busiest hospital in the Washington D.C. area in a \$190 million medical malpractice case in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
- Served as lead trial counsel and won case ending summary judgment for one of the world's largest companies in a \$60 million catastrophic injury case.
- Won a \$30M medical malpractice appeal in Minnesota.
- Won summary judgment in a \$30 million birth injury case in Minnesota.
- Secured a zero-dollar walkaway settlement from a plaintiff in Boulder County who demanded \$10 million in a civil case following a high-profile alleged criminal assault.

INDUSTRIES

- Healthcare
- Automotive
- Oil & Gas
- Insurance

PRACTICE AREAS

- Healthcare Professional Liability
- Product Liability
- Catastrophic Injury Defense
- Commercial Litigation

CLARISSA M. COLLIER

BIOGRAPHY

Clarissa Collier defends her clients in high-stakes catastrophic injury cases, including medical malpractice, transportation, and products liability matters. She is a strategic and effective advocate for clients, including at trial, where she has established skills to lead at any phase. Clarissa also has an active appellate practice, having argued and briefed several appeals in the Colorado Court of Appeals, Minnesota Court of Appeals and the Wyoming Supreme Court.

In addition to her litigation practice, Clarissa brings extensive experience handling white collar cases and investigations. She has conducted independent internal investigations to minimize clients' legal exposure. She has also responded to federal and state government investigations, including investigations initiated by the U.S. Departments of State, Justice, and Treasury.

Clarissa is listed as a Colorado Rising Star and was the recipient of the prestigious Gary McPherson Award for Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year in 2016.

CASES

Catastrophic Injury

- Won an issue of first impression when the Utah Supreme Court reversed a three-decade-old decision related to damage caps for the University of Utah under the Governmental Immunity Act.
- Won a defense jury verdict for Toyota in a \$33M product liability case.
- Won case-ending summary judgment for the largest and busiest hospital in the Washington D.C. area in a \$190 million medical malpractice case in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.
- Served as lead trial counsel and won case ending summary judgment for one of the world's largest companies in a \$60 million catastrophic injury case.
- Won a precedent-setting appeal in Minnesota affirming WTO's summary judgment victory in a \$30 million alleged birth injury case involving cranial compression ischemic encephalopathy (CCIE), a heavily disputed causation theory agreed to be "junk science" by the scientific and medical communities.
- Won summary judgment for an obstetrician-gynecological practice in a high-exposure case in Minnesota involving an alleged birth injury and \$30 million in damages.
- Secured a zero-dollar walkaway settlement from a plaintiff in Boulder County who demanded \$10 million in a civil case following a high-profile alleged criminal assault.

CLARISSA M. COLLIER

- Called in two weeks before trial, won a defense verdict in a multimillion-dollar medical negligence trial in Utah for an orthopedic surgeon and physician's assistant accused of allowing a patient to slide off the operating table, allegedly leading to permanent brain and spine injuries. WTO demonstrated that the plaintiff's complaints were actually due to prescription drug overuse and that the plaintiff had lied under oath.
- Won a *Frye-Mack* hearing to exclude expert testimony and Cranial Compression Ischemic Encephalopathy (CCIE) causation theory in a Minnesota birth injury case involving issues of first impression. The resulting order will help defense attorneys nationwide against CCIE claims.
- Successfully represented a major nationwide health system as second chair in a negligence jury trial involving alleged patient-on-patient sexual assault in a mental health facility. The case settled favorably after close of the evidence and prior to closing statements.
- Defending a Washington state hospital in a high-exposure case involving the care and treatment of a stroke patient.
- Represented a franchisor of more than 350 restaurants in its premises liability litigation, favorably settling numerous cases for the client.
- Represented a ground shipping company in a slip and fall case and favorably settled the case for less than what was offered pre-litigation.
- Favorably settled several trucking accident lawsuits involving significant injury and death against a major brewing company.
- Successfully negotiated a *de minimis* settlements—prior to the client's deposition—for several automobile manufacturers facing a product liability claims.

Commercial Litigation

- Won a directed verdict in a \$100 million insurance coverage arbitration involving a novel rectification coverage claim.
- Won a published opinion for Crestone Peak Resources, protecting strategically important aspects of the company's original \$900M investment and affirming the trial court's summary judgment rulings for WTO's client after Boulder County sought to invalidate several of the company's oil and gas leases.
- Successfully negotiated *de minimis* settlements—prior to clients' depositions—for insurance companies facing bad faith denial and unreasonable delay of payment claims.

CLARISSA M. COLLIER

- Won summary judgment for Crestone Peak Resources against Boulder County in a case involving an attempt to invalidate a key oil and gas lease that would have materially impacted Crestone's \$900 million investment, thereby clearing a major hurdle to significant future development.
- Obtained \$2.3 million summary judgment in federal court in Utah for a Fortune 500 financial institution enforcing its rights as a creditor against a corporate debtor.
- Solo-chaired a fraud and negligent misrepresentation jury trial in federal court in Colorado arising from a business dispute.

Investigations & Compliance

- Represented an oil and gas developer in responding to a multi-agency securities investigation involving the Securities Exchange Commission and several state securities boards and divisions.
- Conducted an internal investigation for a Fortune 500 holding company for various life insurance companies and investment firms relating to a former employee's allegations of retaliation, discrimination and violations of the Securities Exchange Act.
- Represented a major defense service contractor in voluntarily disclosing potential export controls and trade sanctions violations to the Departments of State, Commerce, and Treasury.
- Represented a defense service contractor in response to a Department of Justice investigation involving alleged Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations.

Pro Bono

- Obtained a significant excessive force settlement payment for a pro bono client who survived an assault by police.
- Successfully represented a terminally ill client in guardianship proceedings by obtaining appointment of guardians for the client's four minor children before his death.
- Favorably settled a negligence case for nuisance value for a state sanctioned rodeo. The settlement allowed the rodeo to remain in business.
- Represented a school district on a pro bono basis in a high-profile lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the Colorado school finance system.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit

CLARISSA M. COLLIER

U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

U.S. District Court, D. Columbia

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Colorado Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice Defense, 2022-2023

Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2019-2021

Rising Stars, International, 2018

Gary McPherson Award for Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year, 2016

Colorado General Counsel Mentoring Program, 2015 and 2017

Colorado Lawyers Committee Team of the Year Award

Lobato Litigation, 2012

American Bar Association

Former Delegate to the ABA House of Delegates

Litigation Section

Colorado Bar Association, Board of Governors, 2013-2019

Denver Bar Association

Faculty of Federal Advocates

Legal Aid Foundation of Colorado

Board of Trustees, 2017-2018

Associates Advisory Board, Co-Chair, 2015-2017

5280 Magazine

Top Lawyer

Personal Injury: Defense, 2024

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS, ACTIVITIES & HONORS

Colorado Lawyer Trust Account Foundation

Member of Board of Directors

Ray of Hope Cancer Foundation

Ex Officio Member of Board of Directors

Downtown Denver Leadership Program

Alumni Association

Participant, 2012

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

Articles

- "2014 Associates Campaign for Justice—"May I See Your ID?," The Colorado Lawyer, Vol. 43, No. 4, (April 2014).
- "Exploring the Limits of the In Pari Delicto Defense," ABI Young and New Members Committee eNewsletter, Vol. 10, No. 2, (March 2012).

CLARISSA M. COLLIER

Presentations

- Presenter, "From the Trenches: Fighting Junk Medicine," Claims and Panel Attorneys of American Excess Insurance Exchange, (April 11, 2023).
- Co-presenter, "National Counsel, National Solutions," Medical Professional Liability Association's Claims Defense Forum, (October 2022).
- Presenter, "The Unwavering Collateral Source Rule," Colorado Defense Lawyers Association's Annual Conference, (August 5, 2022).
- Presenter, "Living With & Mitigating the Threat of Medical Malpractice," University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing, (December 2, 2021).
- Presenter, "An Examination of the Collateral Source Rule," MedStar Defense Counsel's Virtual Retreat, (June 24, 2021).

PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Spending time with family, enjoying the great outdoors, traveling, and watching the Denver Broncos