



CHRISTOPHER D. PETERSEN

Staff Counsel

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Christopher Petersen brings strong experience to bear for clients facing commercial disputes. Chris has gained particular experience across industries including natural resources, real estate, and land use. He also handles professional liability matters and maintains an active pro bono practice.

EDUCATION

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, J.D., 2012, Articles Editor, *Utah Law Review*

Shepherd University, B.S., 2008, *cum laude*

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Law Clerk to the Honorable Clark Waddoups of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

Law Clerk, Appellate Division, Salt Lake City Legal Defenders Association

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Kay, Casto & Chaney, PLLC Associate

Bowles Rice, LLP Associate

Jackson Kelly, PLLC Associate

ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Virginia (inactive)

West Virginia (Inactive)

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 jury verdict in a \$40 million medical malpractice trial.
- Won a groundbreaking appeal vacating a \$150 million arbitration award.
- Prevailed on pretrial motions limiting and excluding expert testimony in numerous medical malpractice cases.
- Won a plaintiff's jury verdict for an investor in a breach of contract trial.
- Served as court-appointed counsel in a *habeas corpus* case brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, representing a state-court prisoner who received a life sentence and was asserting that he received ineffective assistance of counsel. The matter culminated in a favorable ruling from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

INDUSTRIES

- Professional Services
- Healthcare
- Insurance
- Energy

PRACTICE AREAS

- Commercial Litigation
- Appellate
- Healthcare Professional Liability

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BIOGRAPHY

Christopher Petersen brings strong experience to bear for clients facing commercial disputes. Chris has gained particular experience across industries including natural resources, real estate, and land use. He also handles professional liability matters and maintains an active pro bono practice.

Throughout his career, Chris has represented property owners, landowners, developers, and municipalities in litigation involving construction, real property, land use, and zoning disputes. In all of these matters, he works carefully and efficiently to provide the most relevant information to the clients and attorney teams he serves to help make informed litigation strategy.

Prior to joining WTO, Chris served as an associate in the litigation departments of multiple law firms, where he gained valuable experience developing case strategy and taking individual responsibility for client matters. Most recently, Chris served as a judicial clerk for the Hon. Clark Waddoups of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah.

CASES

- 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 jury verdict for a healthcare team in a \$40 million medical malpractice trial in Des Moines, Iowa.
- Won a groundbreaking appeal successfully arguing a motion to vacate a \$150 million arbitration award on behalf of the majority owner of Colorado cannabis corporation.
- Prevailed on pretrial motions limiting and excluding expert testimony in numerous medical malpractice cases.
- Won a plaintiff's jury verdict in Denver District Court for an investor in a multimillion dollar breach of contract trial. The case arose out of a mismanaged real estate development project.
- Served as court-appointed counsel in a *habeas corpus* case brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, representing a state-court prisoner who received a life sentence and was asserting that he received ineffective assistance of counsel. The matter culminated in a favorable ruling from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Colorado
Virginia (inactive)
West Virginia (Inactive)