

Stephen E. Oertle

Partner

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☎ 303.244.1959



Stephen Oertle represents physicians, healthcare providers, and institutions nationwide, especially in Arizona and New Mexico. He has additionally represented pharmaceutical companies in antidepressant and hormone therapy litigation, and automotive manufacturers in product liability litigation alleging personal injury and wrongful death.

Prior to joining Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell in 2009, Stephen served as a law clerk to the Honorable William F. Downes, United States District Court for the District of Wyoming. Stephen is a former captain in the United States Marine Corps and a veteran of the war in Iraq.

Credentials

Education

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 2007

Northwestern University, B.A., 1999, Majors in Political Science and Geography

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to The Honorable William F. Downes, United States District Court for the District of Wyoming

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

U.S. Marine Corps Captain (served in the war in Iraq)

RECOGNITION

The Best Lawyers in America

Product Liability Litigation, 2018-2027

Colorado Rising Stars

Personal Injury Defense, 2013-2019

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Arizona

Colorado

New Mexico

Practices

Catastrophic Injury

Commercial Litigation

Healthcare Litigation

Mass Torts

Product Liability

Cases

Tried an infant wrongful death case to verdict, obtaining a verdict and final judgment that was less than 10% of the last settlement demand.

Won a motion to dismiss for a nurse and staffing agency sued under New Mexico's Wrongful Death Act amid emerging abortion law in the U.S. The court dismissed the plaintiff's claim with prejudice, agreeing with our arguments and finding no cause of action existed under New Mexico law.

Defended multiple Rule 1-030(B)(6) depositions and obtained favorable settlement for a New Mexico hospital client after taking over a case just two months before trial.

Obtained withdrawal of plaintiff's counsel, after the plaintiff's deposition, in a New Mexico medical malpractice case by uncovering the plaintiff's prior felony convictions for crimes of dishonesty.

Won dismissal on summary judgment for an agricultural equipment manufacturer in a product liability case claiming that an allegedly defective combine header amputated the plaintiff's fingers during a routine inspection. WTO argued the briefing remotely.

Won favorable settlement for a foster care placement facility in a case involving allegations that improper placement resulted in the homicide of a foster parent.

Won favorable settlement for an international fast food company in a premises liability case involving allegations that poor training and supervision of employees and poor security resulted in the aggravated battery of a term pregnant woman, resulting in neurological injuries to her fetus.

Achieved favorable settlement for a ceiling fan manufacturer after the start of trial in a case involving a catastrophic residential fire that caused permanent, severe injuries to two occupants. We were retained just six-weeks ahead of trial and obtained admissions that one of the plaintiffs was likely intoxicated and smoking at the time of the fire.

Represent the corporate parent of over 50 hospitals, as well as individual hospitals, in cases involving medical negligence, wrongful termination, and unfair trade practices actions, often where extended life care plans or the possibility of punitive damages lead to high-exposure cases.

Defended an international fast food company in a premises liability case involving allegations that poor training and supervision of employees and poor security resulted in the aggravated battery of a term pregnant woman, causing neurological injuries to her fetus. Despite a demand of \$7.5 million a month before trial, we settled the case extremely favorably on the morning of jury selection.
