

Marissa S. Ronk

Partner

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Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP



Featured in ALM's
"How I Made
Management"

Marissa Ronk represents sophisticated clients in complex commercial litigation and class and mass actions. She is a strategic leader, setting the direction and development of major cases to

establish priorities, challenge and frustrate opponents, and create opportunities. Marissa builds case strategies that align with clients' business goals and values. Rather than react to opponents' moves, she designs litigation plans that exploit pain points and increase leverage for her clients, whether as a plaintiff or defendant. For example, she often develops counterclaims and pursues aggressive discovery to take an upper hand.

Marissa serves on WTO's management committee and chairs the firm's attorney review committee. Prior to joining WTO in 2015, she worked in the litigation department of Winston & Strawn in Chicago.

Credentials

Education

Harvard Law School, J.D., 2011, *Journal of Law and Technology*, Articles Editor

Northwestern University, B.A., *cum laude*, 2008; English and Political Science

CLERKSHIPS

Judicial Clerk to The Honorable William C. Griesbach, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

Law Clerk, Department of Justice, Civil Division

RECOGNITION

Chambers USA

Colorado Commercial Litigation, 2026

Benchmark Litigation

Future Star, 2021-2026

40 & Under Hot List, 2023-2026

The Best Lawyers in America

Ones to Watch - Commercial Litigation, 2021-2022, 2024-2025

Ones to Watch - Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions - Defendants, 2021-2023

Ones to Watch - Product Liability Litigation - Defendants, 2021-2022, 2024-2025

Ones to Watch - Litigation - Labor and Employment, 2024-2025

Colorado Super Lawyers

Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2023-2026

Rising Stars, Business Litigation - 2021

Rising Stars, Personal Injury - Products Defense, 2018-2020

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado

Illinois

Wisconsin

U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit

U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

U.S. District Court, N.D. Illinois

U.S. District Court, W.D. Wisconsin

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

Colorado Women's Bar Association Foundation

Board of Directors, present

Leadership Council on Legal Diversity

Mentor, 2022 - present

Fellow, 2022

Colorado General Counsel Mentoring Program

2018-2020

International Association of Defense Counsel

Member

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Co-Author, "Trial by Webcam: Tips From a Firsthand Experience," Law360.

Author, "Colorado Supreme Court, following US Supreme Court's 'Bauman,' Rejects Broad General-Jurisdiction Theory," Washington Legal Foundation's *The Legal Pulse*.

Co-Author, "The Affordable Care Act and Colorado's Collateral Source Rule," *Denver Law Journal*.

Presenter, "How to Safely Use AI to Excel in Law," Faculty of Federal Advocates.

Presenter, "Artificial Intelligence Will Be a Litigator's Best Friend," The Trial Network.

Presenter, "How the Plaintiffs' Bar is Moving Away from Reptile Theory Toward Strict Compliance," The Trial Network.

Presenter, "Practical Considerations to the Reasonable Alternative Design Test," In-house counsel.

Presenter, "WTO WILLS: Taking Ownership of Your Career."

Practices

Class Actions

Commercial Litigation

Product Liability

Cases

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Serving as national counsel for a major international company in commercial litigation involving indemnity claims for more than 200 cases of alleged PCB contamination/exposure.

Secured complete indemnification and no future liability for a green energy manufacturer in a supplier dispute involving a recall of the client's products.

Achieved favorable resolution of a multibillion-dollar commercial dispute for an oil and gas company in an asset purchase dispute.

Represented a client in a business ownership dispute resulting in our client winning total control of the company without litigation.

Favorably resolved a multimillion-dollar commercial litigation involving breach of contract issues for a CBD manufacturer.

Served as co-counsel to an oil and gas company in an \$80 million dispute. During mediation, we helped effect a buyout solution resulting in valuable land rights and resolving the lawsuit for a small fraction of what it would have cost to settle.

Won a \$1.25 billion exit fee dispute for an electric distributor against its generation and transmission provider.

Obtained financial and other relief for a manufacturer in business and trade secrets matters.

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."

Recovered all funds claimed in a breach of contract dispute between two Fortune 20 companies.

Represented General Electric Co. in an international arbitration hearing that resulted in a settlement, after the hearing concluded, for more than 90% of our client's claim.

Won a Rule 21 petition (an "extraordinary remedy") for Ford to the Colorado Supreme Court in a case involving general jurisdiction and venue claims. The opinion makes it harder for companies with no connection to Colorado to be sued in the state.

CLASS & MASS ACTIONS

Serving as lead national trial counsel to a major U.S. distributor of vaping products in federal multidistrict litigation in California. We are liaison counsel to all of the distributor defendants in the litigation.

After prevailing on a motion to dismiss all of plaintiffs' nationwide class claims, settled all claims individually for a major appliance manufacturer in a class action involving the doors in all of its microwave ovens.

Served as co-counsel in an oil and gas putative class action alleging violation of royalty rights. An early and aggressive discovery strategy persuaded the plaintiff to walk away from the matter.

Won a motion to dismiss with prejudice a putative class action in federal court in California. The plaintiff alleged violations of the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) and California's Rosenthal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act.

Represented a major Colorado manufacturer in its winning motion to dismiss class action litigation alleging illegal pesticide use.

Defended several manufacturers of high fructose corn syrup in a multimillion dollar dispute in which the plaintiff alleged her consumption of the product caused her diabetes. The Western District of New York dismissed the complaint with prejudice and that dismissal was upheld by the Second Circuit.

Represented multiple corporations in various class action matters alleging recording of calls in violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act. Negotiated dismissal of them all for a nuisance fee.

Defended a national automobile manufacturer in a putative class action alleging economic damage resulting from repairs to the driver's seat. Plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their case without payment.
