

William D. Hauptman

Partner

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Will Hauptman defends lawyers and law firms in complex legal professional liability matters and represents other sophisticated clients in commercial and constitutional litigation. He has won cases at trial and on appeal for clients nationwide.

Will has achieved numerous victories in the courtroom, including as lead trial counsel. His courtroom experience includes delivering opening statements and a closing argument at trial, successfully arguing an appeal and dispositive motions, and examining witnesses. Additionally, he has taken and defended numerous fact and expert witness depositions, drafted complex

dispositive motions, briefed several appeals, and argued other motions in federal and state court and in arbitration proceedings.

Credentials

Education

University of Colorado Law School, J.D., Order of the Coif, 2017; *University of Colorado Law Review*, Vol. 88, Production Editor

University of Colorado, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2014; Economics and Political Science, Phi Beta Kappa

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to The Honorable Brian D. Boatright of the Colorado Supreme Court

Law Clerk at the United States Attorney's Office, District of Colorado

OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Intern to The Honorable Christine M. Arguello of the United States District Court, District of Colorado

Intern at the Colorado Department of Law (Attorney General), Criminal Justice Section

Intern to The Honorable Brian D. Boatright of the Colorado Supreme Court

Assistant to the Rules, Policies, and Records Administrator, Colorado Department of Transportation

RECOGNITION

Benchmark Litigation

Future Star, 2026

Colorado Super Lawyers

Rising Stars, Professional Liability: Defense, 2023-2026

University of Colorado Law Review, Vol. 88

"Outstanding Board Member"

University of Colorado Law School Student Bar Association

David M. Sutcliffe Distinguished Student Award Recipient, 2017

University of Colorado Law School Public Service Pledge

Most Hours of Pro Bono Work from the Class of 2017

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers'

Professional Liability Fellow, August 2025 - Present

Colorado Supreme Court, Committee on Pattern Civil Jury Instructions

Member

Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee

Member

Minoru Yasui Inn of Court

Treasurer

Colorado Bar Association

Member

American Bar Association

Member

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

Constitution Day Volunteer, Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Co-Author, "The Duty of Competence in the New Normal," Colorado Lawyer.

Co-Author, "Practical Considerations for Rule 21 Proceedings in the Colorado Supreme Court," Denver Law Review.

Moderator, "When the Client's License Is on the Line: Defending Attorney Disciplinary Complaints," ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability Spring 2024 National Legal Malpractice Conference.

Co-presenter, "I Didn't Know That! Little Known Facts and Common Misperceptions About Ethics," American Bar Association CLE webinar.

Co-presenter, "The Duty of Competence in the New Normal," 2022 Business Law Institute.

What Remains of the Exclusionary Rule?, 88 U. Colo L. Rev. Online.

Practices

Appellate

Commercial Litigation

Cases

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Secured dismissal of claims against an AmLaw 50 law firm for breach of fiduciary duty, aiding and abetting breaches of contract, and tortious interference in a lawsuit arising from a dispute over the ownership of a renewable energy company.

Won a permanent injunction for an AmLaw 200 law firm following a bench trial. Delivered the opening statement for the plaintiff group and conducted direct examinations of two witnesses at trial.

Won a motion to dismiss \$20 million malpractice claims brought in Connecticut against an AmLaw 200 firm. The allegations involved the firm's representation of a client in a bankruptcy proceeding. Drafted the motion and supporting briefs and coordinated the defense strategy for all co-defendants.

Successfully argued an appeal, resulting in a judgment confirming an arbitration award for a law firm in a malpractice case arising out of a construction-defect lawsuit.

Briefed a successful appeal in the Tenth Circuit for an AmLaw 100 firm reversing the denial of a motion to dismiss an adversary proceeding. The appeal involved a statutory construction issue of first impression.

Argued and won a motion to strike an expert's testimony at an evidentiary hearing at which the plaintiffs unsuccessfully sought reconsideration of an order compelling arbitration of the plaintiffs' malpractice claims against a law firm.

Briefed, argued, and won a motion to compel production of plaintiffs' communications with a law firm that represented the plaintiffs in an underlying matter which became the subject of the subsequent malpractice claims against our clients.

Won a motion to dismiss \$150 million malpractice claims brought in Nevada against an AmLaw 200 firm. The allegations involved the accuracy of an underlying tax opinion.

CONSTITUTIONAL LITIGATION

Representing an artificial-intelligence company in a constitutional challenge to state legislation regulating companies that develop and deploy artificial-intelligence systems.

Appointed to act as a Special Assistant Attorney General in multiple matters to represent a state agency and elected officials in constitutional litigation.

Coordinated and won a motion to dismiss for approximately 20 defendants in a civil rights case against Colorado law enforcement officials.

OTHER

As lead trial counsel, won a bench trial in a matter concerning violations of campaign finance law by a gubernatorial candidate. Delivered the opening statement and closing argument and conduct the direct and cross-examinations of multiple witnesses.
