

Clarissa M. Collier

Partner

✉ COLLIER@WTOTRIAL.COM

☎ 303.244.0155



Clarissa Collier is a first-chair trial lawyer and litigator who defends her clients in high-stakes catastrophic injury cases, including in the transportation, healthcare, and automobile manufacturing industries. Clarissa has won multiple jury verdicts and played key roles in numerous trials and arbitrations. She is well equipped to guide clients through every critical strategic decision before and during trial in order to achieve successful results for her clients.

Clarissa has also argued and briefed several appeals in the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, 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.

Credentials

Education

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

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

RECOGNITION

Benchmark Litigation

Litigation Star, 2026

The Best Lawyers in America

Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, 2026-2027

Colorado Super Lawyers

Super Lawyer, Personal Injury: Defense, 2026

Rising Stars, Personal Injury - Medical

Malpractice Defense, 2022-2023

Rising Stars, Business Litigation, 2019-2021

Rising Stars, International, 2018

5280 Magazine

Top Lawyer - Personal Injury: Defense, 2024

Colorado Lawyers Committee Team of the Year Award

Lobato Litigation, 2012

BAR AND ADMISSIONS

Colorado

U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit

U.S. District Court, D. Colorado

U.S. District Court, D. Columbia

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Colorado General Counsel Mentoring Program, 2015 and 2017

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

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

PRESENTATIONS

"From the Trenches: Fighting Junk Medicine," Claims and Panel Attorneys of American Excess Insurance Exchange.

"National Counsel, National Solutions," Medical Professional Liability Association's Claims Defense Forum.

"The Unwavering Collateral Source Rule," Colorado Defense Lawyers Association's Annual Conference.

"Living With & Mitigating the Threat of Medical Malpractice," University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing.

"An Examination of the Collateral Source Rule," MedStar Defense Counsel's Virtual Retreat.

Practices

Catastrophic Injury

Commercial Litigation

Healthcare Litigation

Product Liability

Cases

Won a defense jury verdict for Toyota in a \$33 million case.

Having been 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. We demonstrated that the plaintiff's complaints were actually due to prescription drug overuse and that the plaintiff had lied under oath.

Won a directed verdict in a \$100 million insurance coverage arbitration involving a novel rectification coverage claim.

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 for one of the world's largest companies and won case-ending summary judgment in a \$60 million catastrophic injury case.

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.

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 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 a published opinion for Crestone Peak Resources, protecting strategically important aspects of the company's original \$900 million investment and affirming the trial court's summary judgment rulings for our client after Boulder County sought to invalidate several of the company's oil and gas leases.

Successfully represented a major nationwide health system 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 Clarissa delivering closing statements.

Solo-chaired a fraud and negligent misrepresentation jury trial in federal court in Colorado arising from a business dispute.

INVESTIGATIONS

Represented a major brewing company in response to a Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau investigation.

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.
