

Frederick R. Yarger

Partner

 YARGER@WTOTRIAL.COM

 303.244.1990



"Best Appellate Law
Lawyer" from Law
Week Colorado

Fred Yarger, the former Colorado Solicitor General, is a litigator who represents clients in high-stakes appeals and complex litigation nationwide. His experience spans multiple states and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, where he has argued five times. Fred's government experience also helps him advocate for clients before state and federal regulatory and investigative agencies. Fred is a member of Wheeler Trigg's management and executive committees.

In ranking Fred in Band 1 for "Litigation: Appellate" in Colorado, Chambers USA noted a client's comment that "Fred gives masterful arguments that show command of the records and a keen recognition of what courts are looking for." Fred has been recognized as a "Client Service All Star" by BTI consulting and a "Litigation Star" by Benchmark Litigation. *Law Week Colorado* has twice named Fred a Top Litigator.

Prior to joining WTO, Fred was a partner in an AmLaw 20 firm.

"Exceptionally gifted . . . one of the brightest legal minds I've ever encountered."

– Former Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman

Credentials

Education

University of Chicago Law School, J.D., Order of the Coif, with honors, 2007; winner of the Beale & Mulroy prizes for written advocacy

Dartmouth College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2004; Economics and Statistics, Presidential Scholar

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Hon. Timothy M. Tymkovich, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Law Clerk to the Hon. Mark R. Filip, United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Former Colorado Solicitor General

Two-time winner of the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Performance

RECOGNITION

Chambers USA

Colorado Litigation - Appellate Spotlight, 2021-2026

Benchmark Litigation

Litigation Star, 2026

The Best Lawyers in America

Appellate Practice, 2020, 2022-2027

The Legal 500 Denver

Litigation - Commercial Disputes, 2026

BTI Consulting

Client Service All Star, 2025

Lawdragon Leading Litigators in America

2026

5280 Magazine

Top Lawyer - Appellate, 2024-2025

Law Week Colorado

Top Litigator, 2018 and 2025

Denver Business Journal

"Who's Who in Energy," 2018

National Association of Attorneys General "Best Brief" Award for excellence in written advocacy before the United States Supreme Court

2015-2018 (Three time winner)

LEGAL MEMBERSHIPS

Colorado Bar Association

Colorado Supreme Court Standing Committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct
Member

Federalist Society

Colorado Civil Justice League
Legal Advisory Board Member

Product Liability Advisory Council
Member

Tenth Circuit Historical Society
Member

BAR AND ADMISSIONS

Colorado
District of Columbia
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit
U.S. District Court, D. Colorado
U.S. District Court, D. North Dakota

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

Co-Author, "Demystifying Colorado's Atypical Civil and Administrative Appeals," Colorado Lawyer.

Co-Author, "Take a Page From The Onion: A General Counsel's Guide to Effective Amicus Advocacy," Corporate Compliance Insights.

Co-Author, "What Proposed Contractor Rule May Mean For Wage Litigation," Law360.

Co-Author, "Supreme Court Reins In, But Does Not Overturn, SEC's Disgorgement Authority," New York Law Journal.

Co-Author, "What to Consider Before Filing for a Rule 57 Speedy Hearing," Law360 Expert Analysis.

"Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer. The justices reach broad agreement, but on a narrow question," SCOTUSblog.

Presenter, "Developments in Civil Litigation," 2025 Colorado Judicial Conference.

Co-Presenter with Colorado Court of Appeals Judge, "Top Appellate Tips," Colorado Defense Lawyers Association Annual Conference.

Presenter, "On the Docket at the U.S. Supreme Court," Nebraska State Bar Association.

Co-presenter, "Appellate Preservation in State & Federal Colorado Courts," Denver City Attorney's Office.

Co-presenter, "The Power of Plain Language in an Oil and Gas Lease: A Case Study," Jamie Jost of Jost Energy at the 49th Annual Fall Land Institute of the Denver Association of Professional Landmen.

Co-presenter, "A Pandemic, Redistricting, and an Election Year."

Co-presenter, with Jamie Jost and Kelsey Wasylenky of Jost Energy Law, "Navigating the New Normal in a Changed Oil & Gas Climate."

Co-moderator, "Colorado Bar Association CLE: "Friend or Foe: Amicus Briefs in Colorado's Appellate Courts," Panel Discussion by Colorado Supreme Court Justices Melissa Hart and William Hood, III and Chief Judge Steve Bernard of the Colorado Court of Appeals.

"Federalist Society Nationwide Teleforum: Representing Colorado," A Conversation with Solicitor General Eric Olson and Former Solicitor General Fred Yarger.

Presenter, "COVID-19: Legal Implications of Colorado's Stay-at-Home Order," Centennial Institute.

Keynote Speaker, "Let Them Speak Cake: Expansion of Free Speech and Masterpiece Cakeshop," The Federal Bar Association Civil Rights Section.

Presenter, "Colorado at the United States Supreme Court," The American Bar Association, Appellate Practice Regional Meeting.

Presenter, Masterpiece Cakeshop: Interview with Colorado Solicitor General Fred Yarger, The University of Chicago Law Review Podcast, 2.

Practices

[Appellate](#)

[Class Actions](#)

[Commercial Litigation](#)

[Government Litigation](#)

[Investigations](#)

[Pro Bono](#)

Cases

HIGHLIGHTS

[Won a \\$50 million Colorado Supreme Court victory for Denver International Airport, overturning adverse bench trial and lower appellate court opinions and creating precedent that prohibits putative plaintiffs from using delay tactics to gain an unfair advantage in litigation.](#)

[Successfully defended Colorado's new congressional map to the Colorado Supreme Court in a fast-paced appeal. The appeal raised complicated, novel questions of constitutional law, and was the first time the court applied Colorado's new laws governing congressional redistricting. Over a dozen parties filed briefs, and argument was held less than two weeks after the Commission adopted the map.](#)

[Won on behalf of a home appliance trade association in a complex federal constitutional case challenging state legislation on First Amendment grounds.](#)

[Won a complex regulatory case implicating hundreds of millions of dollars in reimbursement for uncompensated care on behalf of a healthcare system.](#)

[Successfully represented a large healthcare system in series of regulatory proceedings under a first-of-its kind legal framework to set reimbursement rates for "public option" health insurance plans.](#)

On remand from the U.S. Supreme Court, won a judgment upholding sales tax collection rules for e-commerce companies. That judgment set the stage for a Supreme Court decision that fundamentally reshaped e-commerce tax law across the country. Also authored a Supreme Court amicus brief cited in the majority's opinion.

Won preliminary and permanent injunctions after a contested evidentiary hearing in trial court, invalidating federal oil and gas regulations that duplicated state rules and hindered resource development.

Won a complete victory in the U.S. Supreme Court in an interstate pollution case claiming hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. Convinced the U.S. Department of Justice to file a brief supporting the client's position.

APPEALS

Represented a public telecom company as lead counsel in the Colorado Supreme Court in a putative federal Securities Act class action on an issue of first impression under Colorado procedural rules.

Representing a healthcare system in the appeal of a nuclear verdict in Oklahoma.

Representing the City and County of Denver in the appeal of a multi-million-dollar federal jury verdict.

Won an appeal reversing a multimillion dollar judgment against our client, X Corp., and reviving affirmative claims in a real estate dispute with a former landlord.

Represented a debt purchaser as lead appellate counsel in state supreme court on an issue of first impression affecting the debt buying industry.

Won reversal of a multi-million-dollar jury verdict and a complete retrial for an Arizona health system and physician, based on opposing counsel's misconduct during closing argument.

Won a defense victory on appeal in a multimillion dollar insurance and construction defect dispute, overturning an adverse jury verdict, winning judgment on the most significant portion of the claim, and receiving a complete retrial on all other issues.

Won a Colorado Supreme Court opinion for Crestone Peak Resources in a lease dispute with significant implications for Colorado's oil and gas industry.

Won on an issue of first impression before the Colorado Court of Appeals for an insurance company. The published opinion states that administrative determinations in workers' compensation proceedings do not have preclusive effect in subsequent bad faith cases, protects the efficiency of administrative proceedings, and preserves employers' ability to present complete defenses at trial.

Won in the First, Fourth, and Ninth Circuits for a major shipping logistics company to affirm dismissals of wage theft and other claims under state and federal law or dispose of class claims.

On behalf of a nationwide appliance retail and repair company, successfully defended the constitutionality of a statutory cap on noneconomic damages.

Represented a medical device company in post-trial and appellate proceedings in a case presenting questions of first impression under Colorado products liability law.

Represented a national homebuilding company before the Colorado Supreme Court in a case presenting questions of first impression under the economic loss rule.

Won in the First Circuit for a major shipping logistics company to affirm dismissals of wage theft and other claims under state and federal law.

Represented United Power, Inc., a Colorado electric distributor, in an appeal of an exit-fee dispute worth over \$1 billion.

Won in the Sixth Circuit for one of the world's leading kitchen and laundry appliance companies in a multimillion-dollar commercial licensing dispute.

Prevailed in the Tenth Circuit for a European telecommunications company seeking discovery to support litigation concerning a multibillion-dollar joint venture.

Represented land conservation entity in the Tenth Circuit in a dispute with a local government that raised legal and constitutional issues for western landowners and conservation groups.

Served as appellate preservation and consulting counsel for a recreation company in a catastrophic injury case raising unsettled legal issues affecting vicarious liability, apportionment of fault, and statutory limits on noneconomic damages.

Represented a temporary staffing agency in the appeal of the largest individual personal injury judgment in Colorado history.

Represented a national market leader in cannabidiol-based wellness products in an emergency petition to the Colorado Supreme Court to reduce the scope of damages available at an impending breach-of-contract trial.

Represented an airport fixed-based operator as amicus counsel in a Colorado Supreme Court appeal affecting tax liability for lessees on public land across the state.

Represented nationally recognized law professors in filing an amicus brief to the Texas Supreme Court explaining the contours of the “ministerial exception” to liability for churches in cases in which clergy sue for work-related torts or other claims.

Won a unanimous decision in Colorado’s highest court preserving the state’s longstanding regulatory approach for the oil and gas industry.

Successfully represented a prospective government contractor as part of a multi-firm team in the appeal of a government bid protest worth tens of billions of dollars.

Successfully preserved a landmark state law reforming tenure policies for public school teachers.

Won an emergency, eve-of-trial appeal to the Colorado Supreme Court to preserve core legal claims in a consumer protection case with tens of millions of dollars in potential monetary awards.

Won a unanimous, precedent-setting decision in the Colorado Supreme Court that required the nation’s largest consumer litigation finance company to abide by state lending laws.

TRIALS & LITIGATION

Represented a development and property management company in class action challenging sale and management of “condo hotel” resort properties on contract, antitrust, and securities law theories.

Counsel in a federal jury trial in a multimillion-dollar dispute concerning alleged construction defects in a large residential development; won on appeal.

Served as appellate preservation counsel to a natural resources company for a jury trial in a commercial dispute with tens of millions of dollars in claimed damages.

Successfully dismissed a client from a complex commercial dispute involving a technology platform intended to facilitate quality control for consumer products.

Represented a leading ridesharing company in catastrophic injury cases with millions of dollars in claimed damages.

Represented a wholesale energy company in a multi-jurisdictional dispute with multiple counterparties, preserving tens of millions of dollars of contract value and a key long-term business objective for the client.

Advised a national distribution company on litigation strategy concerning federal regulations governing the distribution and sale of electronic tobacco products.

Served as appellate preservation counsel in a First Amendment case challenging a major university’s policies regarding the recognition of religious student groups.

Argued a challenge to state rules governing refunds of criminal fees. Helped lead a subsequent legislative effort to make Colorado a leader in granting due process rights to criminal defendants who seek refunds after reversal of their convictions.

Defended a public company auditor at trial and on appeal in a proceeding brought by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Represented the patent holder of an antidepressant in a multistate class action raising antitrust and consumer protection claims.

Represented a domestic company seeking to protect and enforce an international marketing and distribution agreement in simultaneous actions filed in Florida and California federal trial courts.

GOVERNMENT LITIGATION

Advised an oil and gas company on state law regulatory issues that threatened the client's assets in a major oil and gas producing region.

Representing a University Board in complex constitutional litigation.

Represented a leading ride-sharing technology company in a federal lawsuit seeking to enjoin Colorado legislation for violation of our client's First Amendment rights.

Represented X.AI in its constitutional challenge of a new, first-of-its-kind Colorado AI law in federal district court. After we filed a complaint and the United States intervened as a plaintiff, the state agreed to pause enforcement of the law.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in October 2025, in a case involving tort reform measures adopted by a majority of states.

Argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case involving administration of an interstate water compact governing a river system that provides drinking water and irrigation to over six million people in three U.S. States and Mexico.

Won a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned a Colorado Supreme Court decision severely restricting local governments from pursuing school choice policies.

Argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in a case challenging jury secrecy rules that dictate when a verdict is subject to challenge in claims of individual juror bias. National media called this a "top five" case of the term.

Successfully defended Colorado's marijuana regulatory framework before the U.S. Supreme Court and the Tenth Circuit, defeating federal preemption claims that would have prevented states from tightly regulating the supply side of the multibillion-dollar marijuana market. Persuaded the U.S. Department of Justice to support the client's position before the Supreme Court.

Won a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that vacated an adverse decision of the Tenth Circuit and opened up new legal arguments for a client on remand to the trial court.

Represented a pro-bono client in certiorari-stage proceedings in the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge a criminal conviction based on emerging constitutional law.

Represented a group of state legislative leaders in filing a U.S. Supreme Court amicus brief in a major election law case that will shape state-level election policy for future elections.

Represented a major car maker in certiorari-stage proceedings in the U.S. Supreme Court, preserving a favorable lower court decision that precluded liability for a class of employment discrimination claims.
