Wheeler Trigg
O'Donnell

Christopher D. Petersen

Staff Counsel

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Chris Petersen brings strong experience across varied industries to complete the behind-the-scenes work for clients facing commercial disputes and professional liability matters. He also participates in pro bono cases.

Throughout his career, Chris has gained experience across varied industries including health care, real estate, land use, and natural resources. He leans on that experience to help clients facing commercial disputes, handling the behind-the-scenes research and writing and proving invaluable support to trial teams.

Chris focuses on medical malpractice litigation, regularly defending medical providers, hospitals, and healthcare institutions in civil proceedings. He works carefully and efficiently to provide the most relevant information to the clients and attorney teams he serves to help make informed litigation strategy.

Prior to joining WTO, Chris served as an associate in the litigation departments of multiple law firms, where he gained valuable experience developing case strategy and taking individual responsibility for client matters. Most recently, Chris served as a judicial clerk for the Hon. Clark Waddoups of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah.

Credentials

Education

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, J.D., 2012, Articles Editor, *Utah Law Review*

Shepherd University, B.S., *cum laude, 2008*

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Clark Waddoups of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah

Law Clerk, Appellate Division, Salt Lake City Legal Defenders Association

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Colorado
Virginia (inactive)
West Virginia (Inactive)

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Kay, Casto & Chaney, PLLC
Associate

Bowles Rice, LLP
Associate

Practices

Catastrophic Injury
Commercial Litigation
Healthcare Litigation
Pro Bono

Cases

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 jury verdict for a healthcare team in a $40 million medical malpractice trial in Des Moines, Iowa.

Won a groundbreaking appeal to vacate a $150 million arbitration award that had been entered against the majority owner of Colorado cannabis corporation when he was represented by another law firm.

Prevailed on pretrial motions limiting and excluding expert testimony in numerous medical malpractice cases.

Won a plaintiff's jury verdict in Denver District Court for an investor in a multimillion dollar breach of contract trial. The case arose out of a mismanaged real estate development project.

Served as court-appointed counsel in a habeas corpus case brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2254, representing a state-court prisoner on claims that he received ineffective assistance of counsel. The matter culminated in a favorable ruling from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

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