



Jeanne F. Loftis

Shareholder-in-Charge
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Jeanne Loftis is a trial attorney who represents companies in the Pacific Northwest in a wide variety of commercial and casualty cases, with an emphasis on asbestos product liability claims and other mass tort litigation. She has represented businesses in many sectors, including construction, manufacturing, retail, food service, publishing, health care, and professional services. Her cases have involved product liability, insurance coverage, premises liability, Employer Liability Law (ELL), employment litigation, enforcement of non-competition agreements, construction injury and defect, investor mismanagement and fraud, environmental cleanup, sex abuse, and high exposure vehicular casualty cases.

As the immediate past leader of Bullivant Houser Bailey's Casualty Law Practice Group, Jeanne has tried as First Chair more than 25 cases to verdict. Her product liability expertise focuses on the defense of mass tort cases, particularly asbestos and silica products and medical drugs and devices. She has represented defendants in hundreds of products cases locally, regionally, and nationally, and has served on four national trial teams, involving a joint compound manufacturer, body filler manufacturer, welding rod manufacturer, and a brake and clutch manufacturer. As a result of her vigorous defense and proven track record at trial, the majority of her asbestos clients are facing no current asbestos litigation in the Pacific Northwest.

Jeanne obtained a defense verdict on behalf of client mine operator against Employer Liability Law (ELL) and Mine Safety and Health Act (MSHA) claims for catastrophic injuries sustained by subcontractor employee during a drilling accident, totaling \$10 million in claimed damages. Additionally, Jeanne has represented a major health care provider in numerous employment-related claims including assisting with a confidential personnel investigation of claims of harassment and retaliation via a hotline complaint, defending and securing settlement in a federal court case alleging unlawful employment practices and civil rights deprivation, responding to an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charge for age discrimination and negotiating a separation agreement with complainant, and assisting in preparing to investigate and defend potential Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) complaint.

Currently, Jeanne is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, serves on the Executive Committee of the Oregon State Bar Litigation Section, and chairs the Advisory Board for the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel. Additionally, she serves as Vice Chair on the External Policy Groups Committee for the 23,000 member Defense Research Institute (DRI) and serves as a member



on their 2019 Corporate Counsel Roundtable Steering Committee and their Philanthropic Activities Committee. She has previously held other high-ranking positions, including serving as a Board member and Northwest Regional Director for DRI, President of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC), Chair of the Oregon State Bar Board of Bar Examiners, and Chair of the Diversity Section of the Oregon State Bar.

Representative Experience

- \$10.5 million asbestos litigation claim dismissed against a building materials distributor
- \$81.5 million jury verdict overturned in wrongful death matter
- Defense jury verdict for mine operating company in \$10 million ELL catastrophic injury case
- Defense jury verdict in defamation case
- Defense jury verdict in product liability and negligence claims for asbestos exposure
- Hung jury in \$21 million asbestos product liability and negligence claims
- Received a rare defense verdict in asbestos litigation case under Longshore and Harborworkers' Compensation Act
- Successfully settled case involving \$14 million claim for asbestos exposure

Practice Areas

Asbestos Litigation
Commercial Litigation
Construction
Personal & Catastrophic Injury Litigation
Product Liability
Transportation

Industries

Construction
Consumer Products & Retail
Drug, Medical Devices & Biotechnology
Food & Beverage

Education

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law - J.D., 1991
University of California, Davis - B.S., 1985, Physiology

Bar Admissions

- California, 1992
- Oregon, 1991
- Washington, 2004

Professional and Civic Involvement



- American Board of Trial Advocates (Member, 2010-Present)
- Association of Defense Trial Attorneys (Member, 2015-Present; Vice-Chair, Membership Committee, 2019-Present; Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, 2020-Present)
- Defense Research Institute (Member, 1998-Present; Member, 2019 Corporate Counsel Roundtable Steering Committee, 2018-Present; Vice Chair, External Policy Groups Committee, 2018-Present; Northwest Regional Director, Board of Directors, 2014-2017; Oregon State Representative, State and Local Defense Associations (SLDO), 2010-2014; Member, Regional Director Roundtable, 2015-2017; Board Liaison, Data Management and Security Committee, 2016-2017; Member, Board Liaisons to Employment & Labor Law Committee, 2014-2016; Chair, Board Liaison Training, 2017; Vice Chair, Board Liaison Training, 2016; Member & Former Vice Chair, Philanthropic Activities Committee, 2017-Present; Chair, National Program for State and Local Defense Organizations (SLDO), Annual Meeting Steering Committee, 2016)
- Disability Rights Legal Center (Volunteer Attorney, Education Advocacy Program, 1993-1995)
- Legal Aid Services of Oregon (Instructor, 2002-2005)
- Multnomah Bar Association (Chair, Continuing Legal Education Committee, 1991-1993)
- Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (Member, 2000-present; Editor-in-Chief, OADC's The Verdict, 2001-Present; Chair, Advisory Board, 2019-Present; Member, Board of Directors, 2004-2011; Member, Governmental Affairs Committee, 2009-2018; Member, Political Action Committee, 2009-Present; Member, Nominating Committee, 2011-2015; President, 2011; President Elect, 2010; Co-Chair, Annual Convention, 2007)
- Oregon State Bar (Secretary 2018; Treasurer 2017; Member, Litigation Section, Executive Committee, 2013-Present; Member, Planning Committee, Litigation Institute, 2018 & 2019; Founding Member, Diversity Section, Executive Committee, 2002-2009; Chair, Diversity Section, Executive Committee, 2003-2004; Education & Advancement – Access to Justice Sub-Committee, 2009-2010; Co-Chair, New Lawyer Mentoring Program, MCLE Committee, 1993-1994)
- Oregon Board of Bar Examiners (Member, 2002-2005; Chair, 2004-2005)
- Oregon Supreme Court (Member, Civil Law Advisory Committee to Chief Justice, 2009)
- Oregon Women Lawyers (Volunteer, Mentor Program, 1992-1993)
- St. Andrew Legal Clinic (Volunteer Attorney, 1992-2006)
- Texas Young Lawyers Association (Regional Judge, Region 13, National Trial Competition, 2015)



- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (Member)

Community Involvements

- Boy Scouts of America (Merit Badge Counselor, 2008-Present)
- Inclusive Catholic Education of Oregon, Inc. (Secretary & Co-Founder, 2015)
- Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp (President-Elect, Board of Directors, 2019; Member, Board of Directors, 2013-Present)
- Multnomah County Animal Services (Hearings Officer, 1993-2016)
- St. James Child Development Center (Member, Advisory & Advocacy Board, 2005-2008)
- St. Thomas More School (Volunteer, 2000-2014; Member, School Advisory Committee, 2012-2014; Raffle Chair, 2008 & 2010-2012; Chair, Spaghetti Dinner, 2009)
- Washington County Parks and Recreation (District 2 Representative, Advisory Board, 1993-1998)
- West Slope Neighborhood Association Committee (NAC) (Member, Board of Directors, 2001-2005)

Awards and Honors

- AV[®] Preeminent[™], Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell since 2004
- Named the *Best Lawyers*[®] 2020, 2018, 2016 & 2014 Portland-OR Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants "Lawyer of the Year"
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011 — Commercial Litigation; Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants; Product Liability Litigation - Defendants)
- Named as a "Local Litigation Star" by *Benchmark Litigation* (2018, 2017, 2016 & 2015 — Construction; General Commercial; Personal Injury; Product Liability)
- Selected for inclusion in *Oregon Super Lawyers* (2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 [Top 25 Women List], 2011 [Top 25 Women List], 2010, 2009 — Personal Injury Defense: Products)
- Recipient of the Defense Research Institute's 2018 *Fred H. Sievert Award* for her contributions towards achieving the goals and objectives of an organized defense bar
- Recipient of the Defense Research Institute's 2014 *State Leadership Award* for directing and guiding DRI membership activity within the state of Oregon, for upholding the tenets of DRI and for her service in the role of State Representative
- Recipient of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel's 2012 *Appreciation Award* for her outstanding contributions as the 2011 President
- Recipient of the Defense Research Institute's 2011-2012



Exceptional Performance Citation for having supported and improved the standards and education of the defense bar, and for her work with the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel in having contributed to the improvement of the administration of justice in the public interest

- Recipient of *Tracy G. Helms Memorial Scholarship* (1989-1990)
- Selected for the Legislative Review Staff for Volume 21 of the *Pacific Law Journal* (April 1989)
- Selected to the Comment Staff Writers Staff of the *Pacific Law Journal* (September 1989)
- Elected to the Board of Editors as the Articles Editor for the *Pacific Law Journal*
- Selected for the *John A. Stauffer Legal Research Fellowship Program* (1989-1990)
- Recipient of *Women Lawyers of Sacramento Scholarship* (April 1990)

Publications and Presentations

- Speaker & Co-Author, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Autopsies (and Probably More)," DRI Asbestos Medicine Seminar (2017)
- Panelist, "Trying the 8 Figure Case," Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Women's Commission (WDTL) (2017)
- Moderator, "How DRI SLCs/SLDOs Can Work Better Together," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Leadership Conference (2017)
- Speaker, "Changes to Federal Rules," Montana Defense Trial Lawyers (MDTL) Annual CLE Seminar (2016)
- Chair, Defense Research Institute (DRI) Annual Meeting, National Program for State and Local Defense Organizations (SLDO) (2016)
- Speaker, "Components of Successful Rainmaking – How to Find What Works for You," Oregon Women Lawyers (OWLS) Rainmaking Mentoring Circle Mid-Program Meeting (2016)
- Speaker, "Reptile Theory: Preparing Witnesses for 'Reptile' Depositions and Dealing with Reptile Tactics," Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC) Fall Seminar (2015)
- Panelist, "ADR," Idaho Association of Defense Counsel (IADC) Annual Meeting (2015)
- Co-Speaker & Author, "Premises Owners—How Far Out Can the Duty of Care Net Be Cast?" Defense Research Institute (DRI) Asbestos Medicine Seminar (2014)
- Moderator, Defense Research Institute (DRI) National Program for State and Local Defense Organizations (2014)
- Co-Speaker, "Primer on Oregon Civil Procedure," Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) (2014)
- Panelist, "Charting Your Course: Some Things to Consider," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Leadership Conference



- (2014)
- Co-Speaker & Author, "Trial Techniques and Technology: Using Exhibits and Technology to Your Advantage," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Product Liability Conference (2013)
 - Speaker, "Rules and Experts North of Portlandia," Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) CLE Seminar (2013)
 - Moderator, "Marketing to In-House Counsel – What Do You Need to Know?" Oregon State Bar (OSB) Convocation on Equality (2011)
 - Speaker & Author, "Disproving Plaintiff's Exposure: Sequencing on Land and Sea," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Asbestos Medicine Seminar (2010)
 - Speaker, "How Not to Make an Opening Statement," Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC) Defense Practice Academy (2010)
 - Speaker & Author, "Depositions of Product Identification Witnesses in Asbestos Cases," HarrisMartin's Asbestos Litigation Conference (2009)
 - Co-Speaker & Author, "Discovery: Reducing the Cost and Burden of Overly Broad and Voluminous Requests to Avoid Coercive Settlements," American Conference Institute (ACI) National Advanced Forum on Litigating and Managing Asbestos Claims (2009)
 - Moderator, "First-Year Law Student Orientation," University of Oregon School of Law (2009)
 - Speaker & Author, "Opening Statements in Asbestos Cases: What to Include and What to Avoid," HarrisMartin's Asbestos Litigation Conference (2008)
 - Speaker & Author, "Diesel Fumes—Is It the Next Asbestos Litigation?" Defense Research Institute (DRI) Product Liability Conference (2007)
 - Speaker, "Red Sky in the Morning, Sailor Take Warning - The Storms on the Horizon," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Product Liability Conference (2007)
 - Speaker & Author, "Emerging Torts: Diesel Exhaust, Food Additives [Diacetyl, Olestra, Aspartame, Trans Fat] and By-Products [Benzene, Acrylamide]," Washington Defense Trial Lawyers (WDTL) Annual Tort Law Update (2007)
 - Moderator, Opportunities for Lawyers in Oregon (OLIO) Annual Retreat (2007 & 2006) Co-
 - Author, "New Wave of Asbestos Claims: Update on Federal Asbestos Litigation," American Bar Association (ABA) Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS), Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee Midyear Program (2004)
 - Speaker, "Trial Tips: Three Sure-Fire Ways to Reduce Judgments," Defense Research Institute (DRI) Product Liability Conference (2003)
 - Co-Speaker & Author, "Successful Strategies for Vaccine Litigation," American Conference Institute (ACI) National Advanced Forum on Drug and Medical Device Litigation



- (2002)
- Author, "Various Case Notes," Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC) Newsletter (2001 & 2000)
 - Speaker, "Training Program for Local Counsel," Dow Chemical (1996) Author, "Directors and Officers' Liability for Environmental Cleanup Costs," 24 Tort & Insurance Law Journal (1993)
 - Co-Author, "Oregon DEQ New Site Discovery Rules," Oregon State Bar (OSB) Environmental and Natural Resources Law News (1991)
 - Executive Editor & Published Author, Pacific Law Review, 21 Pacific L. Journal 995, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law (1990)