



Donald Scaramastra

Partner

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“I am committed to achieving client objectives as early and cost-effectively as possible. My clients, colleagues, and adversaries commend me for effectively prosecuting difficult and hotly contested matters while simultaneously laying the groundwork for resolution, if and when circumstances warrant it.”

Don Scaramastra focuses his practice on helping businesses—many in the transportation and natural resource sectors—resolve disputes, improve outcomes, and reduce risk across a variety of projects. He is well-versed in all forms of dispute resolution, outside the courtroom, through arbitration or trial, and before federal and state appellate courts.

Don has successfully represented clients on a range of large-dollar disputes, acquisitions, and other projects concerning insurance coverage and enterprise risk management, corporate governance and acquisitions, contract disputes, environmental cleanup and compliance, and antitrust compliance. Most recently, Don has assisted a number of businesses in the hospitality sector that are facing losses and disruptions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over his career, Don has assisted entities across an array of industries: marine, rail, trucking, air transportation, as well as various fisheries. Most of his clients began life in the Pacific Northwest, having long and storied histories here.

Certified as a Legal Lean Sigma White Belt, Don has devoted much of his career to improving internal legal project management and developing data-driven strategies that increase efficiency and boost productivity. He has helped create tools that better manage litigation, more accurately predict project costs, and achieve better outcomes. As a result, Don is often sought after to assist large or sophisticated businesses with multifaceted legal needs.

Don believes in the power and responsibility of lawyers to make the communities in which they live and work a better place. He has assisted with a number of pro bono matters seeking institutional change. Most recently, he helped win an injunction against suspending drivers’ licenses for impoverished drivers.

Education

J.D., University of California at Berkeley Law, 1991

- Notes and Comments Editor, *California Law Review*
- Moot Court Board

B.A., University of California Irvine, *magna cum laude*, political science, 1988

Bar Admissions

Washington, 1992
Oregon, 2024

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court, 2007

U.S. Court of Federal Claims, 2004

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington, 1997

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 1993

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington, 1992

Don currently serves on the Board of Directors for Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services. He has previously served in leadership positions on the boards of other non-profit organizations, including the Children’s Alliance, the King County Bar Foundation, and the King County Bar Association.

Professional Activities

- North Seattle Industrial Association, Member
- King County Bar Association
 - Board of Trustees, 2017-2019
 - Young Lawyers Division
 - Board of Trustees, 2001-2004
 - Chair, 2003-2004
- King County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees
 - Chair, 2015-2016
 - Member, 2008-2017
- Risk Management Society, Washington Chapter, Member

Civic Activities

- Washington Athletic Club, Arts & Entertainment Committee, Member, 2024-present
- Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services
 - President, 2022-present
 - Board of Directors, 2020-present
- Children’s Alliance
 - Board Member, 2002-2012
 - President, 2004-2007

Publications

- “Enterprise Liability Insurer Has Duty to Defend Against a Vendor’s Claim, Even When Presented as an Invoice for ‘Usage Fees,’” Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (January 2025)
- “This Is [Not] How We Do It: Insurer Gets Schooled on the Consequences of a Bad Faith Refusal to Defend,” Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (May 2024)
- “Social Inflation: Myth or Menace?” Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (Apr. 2024)
- “Livin’ on a Prayer (for Noneconomic Damages in a Coverage Dispute),” Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder*, coauthor (May 2022)
- “Washington Court of Appeals Makes It Easier for Policyholders to Tap Excess Coverage,” Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (Sept. 2021)

Presentations

- “‘Social Inflation,’ Limits-Demands, and Consent Judgment Settlements,” The Seminar Group, Northwest Insurance Law Seminar, copresenter (Nov. 2023)
- “Insurance Applications: Best Practices and the Consequences of Missteps,” Miller Nash, Insurance Webinar Series (May 2023)
- “Insurance Coverage for Digital Assets: Cryptocurrency, NFT Losses Under Traditional and Specialized Crypto Policies,” Strafford CLE, copresenter (Dec. 2022)

Recognition & Honors

- Recognized as a “Leader in Their Field” by *Chambers USA* for Insurance—Washington, 2024-present

- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (Seattle, WA)
 - Insurance Law, 2024-present
- Selected for Inclusion as a Washington Super Lawyer, 2009-present
 - Selected as a Rising Star, 2001-2002, 2006-2007
- Selected to Top Lawyers in Environmental Law, *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*, 2010
- Champion for Children Award, Children’s Alliance, 2007
- Civil Libertarian Award, ACLU of Washington, 2006
- Named to *Puget Sound Business Journal’s* 40 Under 40 list, 2005
- Dallaire Public Service Award, Garvey Schubert Barer, 2004
- Rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®

Personal Activities

When he is not spending time enjoying the company of his two kids and honing his ability to tell the best (worst?) dad jokes, Don likes to try his hand at hiking, cooking, and pretending he knows the finer points of wine.