



# Steven Olson



## ATTORNEY

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## LEGAL SERVICES

Contract & Commercial Disputes  
Corporate & Business Owner Disputes  
Environmental Litigation  
Products Liability & Complex Torts

## EDUCATION

J.D., *magna cum laude*, University of Minnesota Law School

M.P.H., with Honors, Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine

B.S., Dean's List, United States Coast Guard Academy

## BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Oregon State Bar

Washington State Bar Association

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington

U.S. Bankruptcy Court – Western District of Washington

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

**The Best Lawyers in America**  
2013-2022, Commercial Litigation

**Super Lawyers**  
2009, Oregon Rising Star – Business Litigation

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Association for Justice

Federal Bar Association

Multnomah Bar Association

Owen M. Panner Inn of Court

Steve is the past Co-Chair of Tonkon Torp's Litigation Department. He has a broad range of commercial litigation experience representing companies, shareholders, and business professionals in cases involving contract disputes, business torts, shareholders disputes, unlawful trade practices, environmental matters, injunctions, product defects, and real estate transactions.

Steve's experience includes litigation and trial work in federal and state courts, as well as in private arbitration and mediation. Steve has served a broad client base including, among others, The Greenbrier Companies, Nike, the City of Lake Oswego, and Costco in disputes in Oregon and across the country.

Before becoming a lawyer, Steve served six years as an officer in the United States Coast Guard. He spent time at sea, and then managing the Port of New Orleans. In his leisure time, Steve enjoys playing and coaching sports, cooking, travelling, and most importantly, spending time with his wife and daughters.

## Representative Matters

Successfully defended the City of Lake Oswego in federal and state court lawsuits involving disputes about the ownership of Oswego Lake.

Obtained a multi-million dollar jury verdict in a state court trial arising out of the client's losses in an investment fund (*Beal v. Kerr-Cruickshank Inc.*, Case No. 1106-07241). "Jury says it matters what investment firms say to clients when an adviser leaves," Oregonian, August 4, 2012.

On behalf of a large manufacturer, successfully challenged a controversial Portland city ordinance, Riverplan, which would have significantly hampered development in Portland's industrial sanctuary.

Won summary judgment against a nearly \$15M claim arising out of a train derailment in Nebraska.

Successfully asserted claims against a brokerage house and investment firm brought by a group of investors who lost millions of dollars in connection with a Ponzi scheme.

On behalf of a large Oregon timber company, recovered millions of dollars in costs arising from the cleanup of a Montana mill that was contaminated by a prior owner.

Successfully asserted claims on behalf of the City of Portland arising out of defects in a new utilities software billing system.

Successfully asserted claims for breach of contract and warranty seeking damages of \$4.2M caused by defective professional services.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

### Oregon State Bar

Practice and Procedure Committee  
Executive Committee  
Business Litigation Section  
Executive Committee  
Products Liability Section  
Executive Committee

### Jesuit High School

Volunteer and Fundraising

### Catholic Charities

Immigration Legal Services

### Southeast Legal Clinic

Pro Bono Volunteer

### All Saints School

Volunteer and Fundraising

### Portland Business Alliance

Leadership Portland

Successfully asserted claims for breach of fiduciary duty, dissolution, and minority shareholder oppression seeking damages of over \$3M.

Won summary judgment against dissenters' rights and breach of fiduciary duty claims seeking nearly \$3M.

Obtained a defense verdict against wrongful discharge and retaliation claims brought against a large timber company.

Obtained a favorable arbitration award against rescission and damages claims arising out of a real estate transaction.

Successfully asserted breach of fiduciary duty and contract claims brought against a corporate director and public utilities company.

Won summary judgment against disability discrimination claims brought against a national sporting goods and apparel company.

Successfully asserted Alien Tort Claim Act and human trafficking claims brought by an Ethiopian woman against her captor.

Successfully defended a large Oregon manufacturer in several lawsuits brought in courts across the country involving train derailments allegedly caused by defective products.

Successfully asserted and defended against injunction claims involving non-competition, non-solicitation, and confidentiality agreements.

## Presentations & Publications

"Litigation 101: When Solid Business Plans Go Awry," Daily Journal of Commerce, May 2013

"Venue," Oregon Civil Pleading and Practice, 6th edition. Oregon State Bar, April 2012

