



# Christopher Pallanch



## PARTNER

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## LEGAL SERVICES

Financial Services Litigation	Financial Services & Investment Management Law
Trade Secrets Litigation	Securities & SEC Enforcement
Contract & Commercial Disputes	Accountant & Professional Liability
Real Estate Litigation	Government Solutions
Corporate & Business Owner Disputes	

## EDUCATION

J.D., University of Oregon School of Law, Order of the Coif

B.A., with distinction in major, Colorado College

## BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Oregon State Bar

Washington State Bar Association

U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon

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

U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

### The Best Lawyers in America

2021-2022, Commercial Litigation  
2021-2022, Litigation – Banking and Finance

### Super Lawyers

2018-2021, Business Litigation  
2014-2017, Oregon Rising Star – Business Litigation

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Federal Bar Association

Multnomah Bar Association

Oregon Association of Defense Counsel

Christopher is a partner in Tonkon Torp's Litigation Department and co-chairs the firm's Financial Services & Investment Management Practice Group. While he is a trial lawyer first and foremost, Christopher has a wide-ranging practice that centers on finding solutions and offering strategic guidance for complex business disputes. In addition to commercial litigation matters, Christopher represents clients in enforcing and defending their trade secrets, responding to regulatory investigations (at the state, federal, and agency levels), and helping to minimize risks while maximizing returns in a pragmatic manner.

Christopher is a past president of the Oregon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He joined Tonkon Torp after a clerkship with U.S. District Judge Edward C. Reed, Jr., in Nevada. Prior to practicing law, Christopher worked as a staff analyst for the Federal Reserve Bank and as a financial analyst at a regional credit union with over \$1 billion in assets.

## Representative Matters

**Professional Malpractice** — When a large regional accounting firm was sued for malpractice, Christopher defended the firm and helped to navigate a variety of technical and jurisdictional issues. The case successfully resolved following mediation.

**Trade Secret** — Christopher helped defend a local manufacturer against a competitor's claims for misappropriation of trade secrets and breach of a license agreement, knocking out a substantial portion of the competitor's claims on summary judgment.

**Compliance** — Christopher has helped clients respond to requests and investigations from various governmental divisions and regulatory agencies. This includes representing a retailer in defense of an unfair trade practices claim, directors of a bank from a complaint by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and principals of an investment

company from SEC inquiries and investigations.

**Breach of Contract** — When a Los Angeles-based finance company sued a client in California for a business venture that fell through, Chris helped to get the California action dismissed and filed suit against the foreign company in Oregon. Chris assisted in obtaining a preliminary injunction against the defendant and later second chaired the trial of the matter, which resulted in both the dismissal of a \$20 million claim against the client and a judgment of almost \$2 million in favor of the client.

**Defamation** — After an employee voluntarily quit a company, the employee had difficulty obtaining a new job. Believing that his former employer was spreading rumors about him, the employee sued for defamation. Chris helped mount a vigorous defense of the claim and ultimately succeeded in obtaining a ruling in his client's favor on a motion for summary judgment.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & ACTIVITIES

### Federal Bar Association, Oregon Chapter

2018-2019, President  
2017-2018, President-Elect  
2016–2017, Vice President  
2012–Present, Director

### Bridgetown FC

Secretary

### Portland Business Alliance

Leadership Portland, Class of 2015

**Trust Dispute** — When a beneficiary of a family trust challenged the provisions of that trust, Chris represented the professional trustee and co-chaired a four-day bench trial, which resulted in a judgment upholding the trust.

**Construction Defect** — In a construction defect case of a proposed high-end condominium project, Chris helped represent the owner, which recovered a substantial settlement through mediation.

**Joint Venture** — In an action where an out-of-state client was sued in Oregon for a joint venture gone awry, Chris took the lead in defending the case, which was ultimately dismissed.

**Breach of Commercial Lease** — Chris assisted in representing the landlord when a commercial tenant sought to terminate its lease, helping the client to settle favorably with its lender and obtaining a substantial payment from its tenant.

**Breach of Contract** — When a national chain sued a family-owned company for breach of a service contract, Chris represented the family-owned company, eventually helping to settle the case favorably for the client.

**Employment** — When a former employee sued a client for age discrimination under Washington and Federal law, Chris managed the defense of the case, leading discovery and drafting and arguing a motion for summary judgment in federal court that led to a decision in the client's favor.

## Presentations & Publications

"SEC Division of Examinations Announces 2021 Priorities," Tonkon Torp Legal Update, March 2021

"Compliance and Enforcement Update," Greater Portland Compliance Association, October 2020

"Managing Investment Adviser Compliance in the Global Pandemic," May 2020

**Podcast**, "CBD's 'Patchwork' Regulatory Scheme is Causing Confusion. What are the Facts?" Portland Business Journal, October 2019

"What you Need to Know About Buying and Selling Products Containing Cannabidiol (CBD)," Portland Business Journal, September 2019

"Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations Priorities," Greater Portland Compliance Association, September 2018

"Compliance and Enforcement Update," Greater Portland Compliance Association, October 2017

"Social Media and GPS Location Information," Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, June 2017

"Important Developments in e-Discovery," Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, June 2016

"The PAGA Problem: The Unsettled State of PAGA Law Isn't Good for Anyone," Bender's California Labor & Employment Bulletin, July 2013

