



Charles J Paternoster

Partner

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Practice Areas

Litigation

Overview

For more than twenty years, Chip Paternoster has served as lead counsel in some of the highest profile litigation in the Northwest. Chip is one of a select group of Northwest attorneys who have obtained multiple multi-million dollar jury verdicts on behalf of his clients in cases involving breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and business fraud. He has also served as trial counsel defending against similar sized claims brought against Northwest businesses, individuals, and nonprofit entities.

Chip's clients include large, multinational companies, individuals, state and local governments and elected officials. The core of Chip's practice involves complex business litigation, including noncompetition litigation, breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty and securities fraud. Chip assists clients in responding to government inquiries and defends professionals against complaints brought by administrative agencies. He also maintains a vibrant employment law practice, advising individuals and businesses on noncompetition agreements, trade secrets, and claims of discrimination and retaliation.

Chip has built his practice inside the courtroom. With dozens of bench and jury trials to his name, Chip helps clients persuasively tell their stories, navigating through the legal process effectively and efficiently.

Representative Work

- Representation of former corporate officer in defense of claims alleging breach of fiduciary duty and trade secrets seeking damages in the amount of \$75 million dollars. After litigating the matter, the 75 million dollar claim against client was dismissed and client was awarded 10 million dollars by jury on counterclaims.

- Representation of individual against former business partners. After a week-long jury trial, Chip obtained a multi-million-dollar verdict and judgment on claims of breach of contract and fraud arising from a business investment.
- Representation of Oregon business in claims against competitor for theft of trade secrets and violation of non-solicitation agreements with employees.
- Representation of Oregon company in successful defense of workers' compensation retaliation and wrongful discharge claims brought by former employee alleging \$657,000 in damages. Defense Jury Verdict (10-2).
- Representation of Oregon municipality in successful defense of breach of contract and quantum meruit claims brought by general contractor arising from contractual dispute with respect to City public works project. Defense Jury Verdict (unanimous).
- Representation of investment advisory firm and individual investment advisors in successful defense of claims brought under Oregon Securities Law and for breach of fiduciary duty. The Court dismissed the plaintiffs' fiduciary duty claim at summary judgment, then, granted a directed verdict in clients' favor at trial on all remaining claims following the close of the plaintiff's case.
- Representation of individual in successful defense of claims for fraud and breach of oral contract. The Court granted the client's motion in limine at the commencement of trial and granted summary judgment, judgment as a matter of law and directed verdict in client's favor. Following presentation of the client's counterclaim for breach of the non-disparagement clause in a release agreement, the Court found in favor of the client and awarded damages of \$130,000.
- Representation of multinational corporation defending tort claims filed by construction employee arising from work site injuries on public excavation project.
- Representation of Oregon corporation providing successful defense of employment claims brought under state and federal discrimination statutes.
- Attorney representing Multnomah County employee in claims under Family Medical Leave Act and for intentional infliction of emotional distress.

News & Publications

- Analyzing and Litigating Noncompetition Agreements (OTLA 2012)
- Powerful Motion Practice (OLI Seminar 2011)
- Advanced Employment Issues: Walking Through Common Problems (NBI Seminar Nov. 2010)
- Leadership in Negotiation (Portland Business Alliance, Leadership Portland Speech Nov. 2007)
- How to Get Evidence and Expert Testimony Admitted in Court (NBI Seminar April 2007)
- Re-thinking Employee Recommendations, Portland Business Journal, (January 12, 2007)
- Document Retention and Destruction in Oregon (Lorman CLE Seminar Oct. 2006)
- Annual Employment Law Update: Privacy Issues (OLI CLE Seminar June 2006)
- (Co-Author) Dead Men Tell Some Tales – Lessons from Arthur Andersen, OSB Bulletin, (April 2006)
- (Co-Author) Oregon Civil Pleading and Practice Manual – Depositions, (2006 Edition)

- Civil Trial Start to Finish: A Practical Approach to Trying a Civil Case (NBI Seminar June 2005)
- Summary Judgment and Pre-Trial Matters (OSB CLE Seminar February 2005)
- Attorney Fees in State and Federal Court (OSB CLE Seminar November 2004)
- (Co-Author) Oregon Civil Litigation Manual – Depositions, (2004 Edition)

Education

University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D.

Colgate University, B.A.

Admissions

Oregon State Bar

Washington State Bar

New York State Bar

United States District Court for the District of Oregon

United States District Court for the Northern and Western Districts of New York

Memberships & Awards

Oregon State Bar Disciplinary Panel (2008 – present)

Multnomah County Judicial Screening Committee (2014)

Judicial Administration Committee (2008 – 2010)

Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington, Board of Directors (2005 – 2008)

Oregon Lawyers Against Hunger – Board of Directors

Super Lawyers, Business Litigation (2015-2022)

Best Lawyers in America (2021)