



MICHELE L.  
STEPHEN

Director

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Business Litigation  
Intellectual Property  
Real Estate

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**MICHELE L. STEPHEN**

**EDUCATION**

- J.D., Loyola University of Chicago School of Law
- B.A., San Diego State University

**AREAS OF PRACTICE**

- Business Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Real Estate

**REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS**

- ***Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co. v. North Pacific Paper Company.*** Prosecuted claims and defended counterclaims arising from site services agreement for interconnected industrial facilities; obtained favorable settlement.
- ***Move, Inc., et al. v. Zillow, Inc., et al.*** Represented executive defending against trade secret and employment claims in lawsuit seeking \$2 billion in damages and career-ending relief; obtained summary judgment on purported trade secret document, defended at evidentiary hearing spoliation allegations, and obtained favorable settlement prior to trial.
- ***InfoFlows v. Corbis.*** Prosecuted claims for misappropriation of trade secrets, fraud and breach of contract relating to digital image tracking technology, and defended related counterclaims; obtained \$36 million jury verdict and defeated counterclaims in three-week trial.
- ***Superwood Co. Ltd. v. Slam Brands, Inc., et al.*** Engaged at close of discovery to replace prior counsel and represent Defendants regarding breach of contract claims and counterclaims under the UCC, as well as related tort claims and counterclaims concerning the manufacture of furniture in China by Plaintiff; established significant off-set amounts due to our client on a successful motion for partial summary judgment, and defeated Plaintiff's motion for partial summary

judgment; following a bench trial, which included an additional award of contract damages to our client, the matter was favorably resolved by a confidential settlement.

- ***Optistor Technologies v. Nutanix et al.*** Defended cloud software and infrastructure-solution provider and its employee against claims for breach of contract, trade secret misappropriation, and tortious interference; obtained summary judgment ruling, including voiding of employee non-compete, and then favorable settlement.
- ***ChemPoint v. Xenon Arc Inc., et al.*** Defended technology startup and its founders against claims for misappropriation of trade secrets, false advertising, usurpation of corporate opportunity and breach of fiduciary duty; obtained ruling entitling clients to advancement of fees under plaintiff's articles of incorporation, partial summary judgment, and then favorable settlement.
- ***Taylor, et al. v. City of Seattle, City Light.*** Engaged during discovery to serve as co-counsel with Seattle City Attorney's Office defending City against two former and one current employees' claims under Washington Law Against Discrimination for age, gender, and sexual orientation discrimination, retaliation, and hostile work environment; while defendant's motions for summary judgment were pending, case settled on confidential terms.
- ***Estates of Diaz, et al. v. City and Borough of Sitka, et al.*** Defended City and Borough of Sitka against claims relating to fatal landslide and engineered favorable settlement after substantial discovery and other pretrial practice.
- ***Alliance Packaging v. Altivity Packaging, et al.*** Prosecuted patent infringement claims relating to retail product packaging; prevailed at Markman hearing, defeated defendant's summary judgment motions and prevailed on motions for partial summary judgment and motions dismissing counterclaims, and then obtained favorable settlement.
- ***Seelig v. Seelig.*** Defended claims and prosecuted counterclaims involving allocation of assets and profits from long-term real estate partnerships; obtained summary judgment prevailing on all claims relating to division of assets and profits, and then negotiated settlement to wind up partnerships and distribute monies accordingly to end litigation.
- ***Montano v. City of Seattle.*** Defended tort and inverse condemnation claims brought by multiple property owners alleging damage resulting from City's management of surface water and storm response.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Best Lawyers in America, 2024
- Washington Super Lawyers, 2017-2023
- Washington Super Lawyers Top Women Lawyers in Washington, 2023

## ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Co-Author, "[Provisional Remedies: Washington, Practical Law](#)," Thomson Reuters, August 2023
- Presenter, [Covering Your Bases: Practical Tips to Deal with and Avoid Litigation](#), Washington Association of Corporate Counsel, 2013

## PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Member, Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Washington State Bar Association

## ADMISSIONS

- Washington
- California

- Illinois
- United States District Court, Western District of Washington
- United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois
- United States District Court, Northern District of California
- United States District Court, Eastern District of California