



STEPHEN C. WILLEY

Steve represents both plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of commercial disputes, including intellectual property matters, business torts, contracts, securities claims, corporate governance, and employment-related issues. Known for his strategic and client-centric litigation approach, Steve tries cases, handles appeals, engages in alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and assists clients with litigation-related counseling.

Prior to joining Fennemore, Steve practiced with Savitt Bruce & Willey in Seattle, Latham & Watkins in Menlo Park, and Perkins Coie in Seattle. Steve also brings experience from his time as the sole Corporate Counsel for a start-up, handling a range of legal matters. A cum laude graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Steve is licensed in both Washington and California.

In other lives, Steve taught high school, was a free-lance writer, did a stint as a chef, and worked in a nightclub. Steve lives on Bainbridge Island with the lovely and talented Gretchen and their three children. When not working like a dog or (metaphorically) arm-wrestling with his teenagers, Steve likes piña colodas, getting caught in the rain, the feel of the ocean and, of course, the taste of champagne.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Wisconsin, *cum laude*
- B.A., Williams College

AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Business Litigation
- Estate Litigation
- Intellectual Property
- Employment & Labor
- Privacy & Data Security
- Professional Liability

- Eminent Domain

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- ***Landis v. PFD and Baseball of Seattle.*** Defended claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding sightlines, distribution, and pricing for accessible seats at T-Mobile Park; obtained defense verdict at trial, partial affirmance on appeal, and complete defense judgment on remand.

- ***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.

- ***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.

- ***Reynolds v. Reynolds.*** Defended challenge to revocable living trust, by which child sought to dispossess parents as beneficiaries; obtained ruling of declaratory relief that maintained parents' beneficiary status and entitlement to trust proceeds after bench trial.

- ***Kumar v. Convenience Retailers, LLC, et al.*** Defended employment discrimination claims under Title VII and Washington's Law Against Discrimination; obtained defense verdict at trial.

- ***Sornsin, et al. v. Scout Media, et al.*** Defended officers and directors of defunct media company against statutory wage claims; obtained summary judgment dismissal, affirmed on appeal.

- ***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.

- ***Shareholder Insite, Inc. v. WTAS, LLC, et al.*** Prosecuted claims for breach of contract, trade secret misappropriation, tortious interference, and civil conspiracy; obtained preliminary injunction after expedited discovery, and then favorable settlement.

- ***ChemPoint v. Xenon Arc Inc., et al.*** Defended technology startup and 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; obtained partial summary judgment, and then favorable settlement.

- ***Maier v. Sesame Communications Inc.*** Prosecuted claims for breach of employment agreement, wage and hour law violations, and tortious interference with exercise of stock options arising from termination of company founder and CEO's employment; obtained favorable settlement.

- ***Amazon v. Expedia.*** Defended claims and prosecuted counterclaims for breach of linking and co-branding agreement between national e-commerce giants; defeated motions for summary judgment, developed counterclaims, and then obtained favorable settlement.

- ***Confidential Arbitration.*** Represented limited partnership in defending a claim for statutory dissolution brought by its former general partner; obtained award denying claim.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Best Lawyers in America, 2014-2025
- Chambers USA Guide to Leading Lawyers, 2013, 2016-2024
- Washington Super Lawyers, 2006-2025
- Washington Super Lawyers Top 100 List, 2017-2024
- BTI Client Service All-Star, 2015, 2019
- "Washington's Most Amazing Attorneys", Washington CEO magazine, 2006
- 10.0 Rating on Avvo.com

ARTICLES AND PRESENTATIONS

- Co-Editor, "Lexis Nexis Practice Guide: Washington Contract Litigation," LexisNexis/Matthew Bender, 2015
- Presenter, "Finessing the Fine Print: Agreements to Arbitrate and Covenants not to Compete," Washington Association of Corporate Counsel, 2014
- Presenter, "Covering Your Bases: Practical Tips to Deal with and Avoid Litigation," Washington Association of Corporate Counsel, 2013
- Presenter, "Anatomy of a Deal Gone Bad," The William L. Dwyer American Inn of Court, 2013
- Moderator, "The New Supreme Court," Federal Bar Association Annual Federal Practice CLE, 2005
- Presenter, "Basics of Accounting & Finance," Practicing Law Institute, 2002

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Member, American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, 2004-present
- Member, Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Washington State Bar Association
- Member, The State Bar of California
- Member, State Bar of Wisconsin

ADMISSIONS

- Washington
- California
- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court, Western District of Washington
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court, Northern District of California
- United States District Court, Central District of California
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of California

• United States District Court, Western District of Wisconsin