

Steve D. Larson – Shareholder



Steve Larson is a trial lawyer who handles both hourly and contingent fee cases. He appears in state and federal courts, as well as before arbitration panels, emphasizing all types of complex business litigation. Steve has experience in class actions, consumer cases, antitrust litigation, securities litigation, corporate disputes, intellectual property disputes, unfair competition claims, employment matters and disputes involving family wealth. Steve has also appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Oregon appellate courts.

Steve has been recognized as one of the top litigation lawyers in Oregon by *Best Lawyers of America*, *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, *Benchmark Plaintiff Litigation*, and *Oregon Super Lawyers*. Steve Larson is AV rated with Martindale Hubbell, indicating both ethical and professional excellence. Steve was recently selected to join the American Board of Trial Advocates. Members are nominated by their peers, and membership is by invitation only. ABOTA has chapters in every state, and its members constitute the most well-respected trial lawyers nationwide.

Steve is a regular contributor to continuing legal education programs, legal periodicals and regularly speaks on a variety of legal topics. He is an editor of the *Oregon Civil Pleading and Practice Handbook*. He is also on the Partner's Council at the National Consumer Law Center.

Representative Cases:

Healthcare Class Actions:

- Obtained an \$11.3 million settlement for healthcare providers in a breach of contract class action against the largest PPO in the country. [Chehalem Physical Therapy, Inc. v. Coventry Health Care, Inc.](#), USDC Case No. 3:09-CV-320-HU.

Employment Class Actions:

- Obtained a \$15.45 million settlement in a misclassification class action on behalf of Oregon drivers for FedEx Ground. [Slayman v. FedEx Ground](#), USDC Case No. 3:05-CV-011247-HZ.
- Represented Oregon and Washington assistant store managers in a national overtime class action against Rite-Aid. The case settled for \$20.9 million. We represented Oregon and Washington assistant store managers in this national class action. [Cedano v. Rite-Aid](#), USDC 2:10-CV-237-HZ.
- Obtained the settlement of a wage and hour class action in Oregon state court on behalf of over 300 Latino employees that made wreaths at an Oregon facility. Workers received full reimbursement of overtime plus attorney fees. [Perez-Marcos v. Bottomley](#), MCCC No. 1202-02639.

Stoll Berne

Exceptional lawyers | Extraordinary results

- Settled an overtime class action on behalf of employees at a vegetable processing facility in Oregon for 2 years of overtime, penalties, interest, and attorney fees. Victorio v. Stahlbush Island Farms, USDC No. CV-6061-AA.
- Obtained an opinion from the Oregon Court of Appeals holding that over 300 union and non-union former employees of Smurfit who failed to receive, in a timely fashion, the severance benefits and other wages owing upon their termination were entitled to recover on all their claims. After the ruling, the case settled for an amount in excess of \$1.8 million. Wilson et al. v. Smurfit Newsprint Corporation, MCCC Case No. 9912-13689.

Trademark:

- In 2014, an Oregon Federal District Judge dissolved a temporary restraining order and denied a motion for preliminary injunction in a lawsuit that accused our client, a fly fishing lure manufacturer, of violating trademarks and taking trade secrets. Shortly thereafter, the case settled. Idylwilde Inc. v. Umpqua Feather Merchants, USDC Case No. 3:12-CV-02009-HZ.
- Obtained a preliminary injunction and permanent injunction on behalf of an Oregon wireless company in a trademark infringement action brought against a national wireless company. Edge Wireless, LLC v. U.S. Cellular Corporation, USDC Case No. CV 03-1362 AA.

Breach of Contract:

- Obtained a \$750,000 arbitration award for the owner of an Alzheimer's Senior Residential Care Facility in a breach of contract action against the company that managed the facility. Christopher Place Senior Communities v. Frontier Management, ASP No. 090901-2.
- Successfully defended Hollywood Entertainment in a multi-million dollar breach of contract arbitration before the American Arbitration Association. Arbitrators awarded plaintiff nothing. Security Source, Inc. v. Hollywood Entertainment Corporation, AAA Case No. 75 Y 181 00126 04 BEAH.
- Obtained a jury verdict in favor of a distributor for breach of a distributorship agreement. Traeger Grills East v. Traeger Pellet Grills, MCCC Case no. 1103-04297.

Insurance Class Actions:

- Successfully represented two classes of consumers in cases against insurance companies in which plaintiffs alleged the insurers failed to inform policy holders that they had been charged higher premiums based on their credit scores as required by the Fair Credit Reporting Act. The two cases settled; one for \$85 million (Reynolds v. Hartford Financial Services Group, 435 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir. 2006)), and the other for \$19 million (Razilov v. Nationwide, USDC Case No. CV-01-1466BR.)
- Settled a class action on behalf of tenants who were charged an allegedly illegal non-refundable bond premium instead of a security deposit. Batiste v. Quantum, MCCC 1102-02645.

Appeals:

- Successfully represented six putative classes of consumers in six different appeals before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. All cases were reversed and remanded for trial. The U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari in two of the cases. We appeared before the US. Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court agreed with our arguments that a lower recklessness standard is sufficient and rejected arguments of the insurance industry that a higher knowing standard is necessary to prove willful violation. Safeco Ins. Co. of America v. Burr, 127 S.Ct 2001 (2007).

Stoll Berne

Exceptional lawyers | Extraordinary results

Antitrust:

- Currently prosecuting over 38 antitrust class actions against the manufacturers of automotive parts arising out of price fixing agreements. In re Automotive Parts Antitrust Litigation, USDC 2:13-CV-02703-MOB-HKM (E.D. Mich.)

Securities Class Actions:

- Obtained \$65 million settlement as one of the lead attorneys for the shareholders in a securities class action against Louisiana-Pacific Corp. arising out of misrepresentations regarding the company's oriented-strandboard siding. Louisiana-Pacific Corp. Securities Litigation, USDC Case No. CV 95-707-JO.
- Obtained a jury verdict in favor of investors in Hanna Car Washes in suit against auditors, Deloitte & Touche. Total recovery for the class exceeded \$6 million. Barlean V. Black & Co., et al., MCCC Case No. 9012-07865.

Fraud/Breach of Fiduciary Duty:

- Obtained favorable jury verdict in a fraud/breach of fiduciary duty action brought by an Oregon corporation against its former national sales manager arising out of an alleged kick-back scheme. Columbia Cascade Company v. Dale R. Gordon, et al., MCCC Case No. 0305-05324.

False Advertising/Trade Dress:

- Obtained two separate multi-million dollar settlements on eve of trials on behalf of home exercise manufacturer against competitors. Soloflex, Inc. v. Nordictrack, Inc., USDC Case No. 93-545-JE, and Soloflex, Inc. V. Bowflex, Inc. et al., USDC Case No. 98-557-MA.

Unfair Competition:

- Successfully defended Jiffy Lube franchisees in suit filed by Portland auto dealer alleging violations of Unlawful Trade Practices Act. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed dismissal. Franchisees were awarded attorney fees. Lanphere Enterprises, Inc. et al. v. Doorknob Enterprises, LLC, USDC Case No. CV 03-273 BR.

Conversion:

- Successfully defended a local luxury jewelry store in a three day jury trial involving a very expensive emerald ring that went missing. Christian v. Carl Greve Jewelers, Inc., MCCC Case No. 0811-15957

Uniform Commercial Code:

- Lead trial lawyer in a suit brought by a group of medical doctors against their bank seeking a refund of \$5 million of unauthorized online funds transfers made by the group's corporate accountant to himself. Case was settled after a two and a half week jury trial. Oregon Eye Specialists v. West Coast Bank, MCCC Case No. 0610-10727.

Trade Secret:

- Obtained injunction prohibiting former employees of medical device manufacturer from starting competing business using client list and other proprietary information from medical device manufacturer. Semler Technologies, Inc. v. Ron Yost, et al., MCCC Court Case No. 9810-07416.

Securities Fraud:

- Successfully defended a start-up telecommunications company and its founders in a securities fraud lawsuit brought by a major angel investor. After defense verdict, major angel investor paid defendants' attorney fees in order to settle the case. Snyder v. Springwater Acquisitions, LLC, et al., MCCC Case No. 0402-01172.

Professional Experience:

- Stoll Berne; associate, 1990-1994; shareholder, 1995-present
- Lindsay Hart Neil & Weigler LLP, Portland; associate, 1986-1990

Education:

- University of Oregon, J.D., Order of the Coif, graduating first in class, 1986
 - Recipient of the American Jurisprudence Awards for Evidence, Contracts, Damages, and Trusts and Estates.
- University of Minnesota, B.A., 1981

Community Activities:

- Bud Clark Commons, volunteer, 2011-present
- Oregon Law Foundation Board Member, 2006-2008
- Senior Law Project volunteer, 1986-2008
- Advisory Board of the Campaign for Equal Justice, 2000-present

Professional Activities:

- American Board of Trial Advocates, 2016-present
- American Bar Association
 - Litigation Section, Class Actions and Derivative Suits Committee, 2007-present
 - Antitrust Section
- Oregon State Bar
 - Board of Governors, 2009-2012, Vice President 2012
 - Litigation Section Executive Committee, 2007-2008
 - Consumer Law Section Executive Committee, 2007-2008
 - Business Litigation Section Executive Committee, 2000-2004; chairman, 2004
 - Securities Regulation Section Executive Committee, 1999-2003; chairman 2003
 - Uniform Trial Court Rules Committee, 1998-2000
 - Oregon Practice and Procedure Committee, 1996-1998
- Multnomah Bar Association
 - Board of Directors, 2016-present
 - Judicial Screening Committee, 2015-2016
 - CLE Committee, 2007-2008
 - Committee on Judiciary, 2002
- Oregon Trial Lawyers Association
 - Consumer Protection Section co-Chair, 2011-2014
 - Business Litigation Section Chair, 1999
 - Board of Governors, 1994-1998