



Donald Scaramastra

Partner

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“I am committed to achieving client objectives as early and cost-effectively as possible. My clients, colleagues, and adversaries commend me for effectively prosecuting difficult and hotly contested matters while simultaneously laying the groundwork for resolution, if and when circumstances warrant it.”

Don Scaramastra helps businesses—especially those in maritime, fisheries, and transportation sectors—resolve insurance and other disputes that implicate a variety of high-cost, high value projects, be it a multi-billion-dollar Superfund cleanup or accidental damage to a line of ocean-going vessels. Don takes special pride whenever he guides a client through a sea of troubles to a safe harbor, tapping tens of millions of dollars in insurance policies or other proceeds along the way, and all the while avoiding resource-intensive litigation.

But Don is no stranger to courtrooms up and down the West Coast, where he has successfully represented clients in pre-trial, trial, and appellate proceedings.

Don’s litigation and trial experience extends beyond insurance matters and includes claims that arise from alleged violations of antitrust and environmental cleanup laws as well as a variety of business transactions, including corporate mergers and acquisitions, real estate transfers, and contract breaches.

A passionate believer in the power and obligation of lawyers to give back to their communities, Don devotes part of his practice to pro bono work. This work has included impact litigation to protect the constitutional rights of foster children to a safe home, to defend the procedural protections that ensure a fair trial for those accused of crimes, and to restore drivers licenses to impoverished individuals who lose those licenses simply because they were too poor to pay a traffic fine.

Professional Activities

- North Seattle Industrial Association, Member
- King County Bar Association
 - Board of Trustees, 2017-2019
 - Young Lawyers Division
 - Board of Trustees, 2001-2004
 - Chair, 2003-2004

Education

J.D., University of California at Berkeley Law, 1991

- Notes and Comments Editor, *California Law Review*
- Moot Court Board

B.A., University of California Irvine, *magna cum laude*, political science, 1988

Bar Admissions

Washington, 1992
 Oregon, 2024

Court Admissions

U.S. Supreme Court, 2007

U.S. Court of Federal Claims, 2004

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington, 1997

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 1993

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington, 1992

- King County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees
 - Chair, 2015-2016
 - Member, 2008-2017
- Risk Management Society, Washington Chapter, Member

Civic Activities

- Washington Athletic Club, Arts & Entertainment Committee, Member, 2024-present
- Reclaim (formerly Snoqualmie Valley Shelter Services)
 - President, 2022-present
 - Board of Directors, 2020-present
- Children's Alliance
 - Board Member, 2002-2012
 - President, 2004-2007

Publications

- "When the Application is the Risk (of Rescission): Don't Let your Insurance Application Shred your Policy," Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder*, coauthor (Feb. 2025)
- "Enterprise Liability Insurer Has Duty to Defend Against a Vendor's Claim, Even When Presented as an Invoice for 'Usage Fees,'" Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (January 2025)
- "This Is [Not] How We Do It: Insurer Gets Schooled on the Consequences of a Bad Faith Refusal to Defend," Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (May 2024)
- "Social Inflation: Myth or Menace?" Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (Apr. 2024)
- "Livin' on a Prayer (for Noneconomic Damages in a Coverage Dispute)," Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder*, coauthor (May 2022)
- "Washington Court of Appeals Makes It Easier for Policyholders to Tap Excess Coverage," Miller Nash, *The Northwest Policyholder* (Sept. 2021)

Presentations

- "Help Me Help You: Collaborative Problem-Solving with Opposing Counsel," ABA Litigation Section Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee, CLE Seminar, copresenter (Mar. 2025)
- "'Social Inflation,' Limits-Demands, and Consent Judgment Settlements," The Seminar Group, Northwest Insurance Law Seminar, copresenter (Nov. 2023)
- "Insurance Applications: Best Practices and the Consequences of Missteps," Miller Nash, Insurance Webinar Series (May 2023)
- "Insurance Coverage for Digital Assets: Cryptocurrency, NFT Losses Under Traditional and Specialized Crypto Policies," Strafford CLE, copresenter (Dec. 2022)

Recognition & Honors

- Recognized as a "Leader in Their Field" by *Chambers USA* for Insurance—Washington, 2024-present
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® (Seattle, WA)
 - Insurance Law, 2024-present
- Selected for Inclusion as a Washington Super Lawyer, 2009-present
 - Selected as a Rising Star, 2001-2002, 2006-2007
- Selected to Top Lawyers in Environmental Law, *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*, 2010
- Champion for Children Award, Children's Alliance, 2007
- Civil Libertarian Award, ACLU of Washington, 2006

- Named to *Puget Sound Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list, 2005
- Dallaire Public Service Award, Garvey Schubert Barer, 2004
- Rated AV[®] Preeminent[™] by Martindale-Hubbell[®]

Personal Activities

When he is not spending time enjoying the company of his two kids and honing his ability to tell the best (worst?) dad jokes, Don likes to try his hand at hiking, cooking, and pretending he knows the finer points of wine.