



Vanessa Triplett Kuchulis

Partner

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“The core of my practice centers around three key services: listening, responding, and advocating. These practices enable me to develop a streamlined and systematic approach to further my clients’ legal goals. Ultimately, my purpose is to craft thoughtful and innovative solutions that fit my clients’ unique needs.”

Vanessa Triplett Kuchulis helps businesses anticipate risk, resolve complex disputes, and protect their long-term business objectives. She advises and defends companies in the construction, transportation, trucking, manufacturing, energy, environmental services, healthcare, hospitality, and technology industries in commercial litigation, tort matters, and contract negotiations. Vanessa has successfully represented clients in multimillion-dollar construction and tort litigation in both state and federal courts.

Vanessa works proactively with clients to draft and negotiate contracts that allocate risk appropriately, reduce uncertainty, and help avoid disputes before they arise. Her contract experience includes EPC agreements, AIA forms, Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) contracts, and customized agreements for owners, contractors, subcontractors, architects, and design professionals. Because she has litigated a wide range of complex contract disputes, Vanessa understands where contractual language is most often tested. She applies those insights when drafting agreements to reduce ambiguity, allocate risk clearly, and better position her clients if disputes cannot be avoided.

Vanessa represents clients through every stage of litigation, arbitration, mediation, and trial. Her construction practice includes claims involving defective construction, delays, disruption, payment disputes, liens, scheduling impacts, change orders, differing site conditions, and other complex project issues. She also represents clients in commercial real estate disputes, commercial lease litigation, and other business disputes.

Vanessa’s litigation practice extends beyond construction to the defense of complex tort claims. She represents companies in matters involving negligence, catastrophic personal injury, premises liability, product liability, and wrongful death. Her experience includes defending transportation and trucking companies, manufacturers, property owners, and other businesses facing high-exposure claims. Whether pursuing an early resolution, negotiating a favorable settlement, or trying a case to verdict, Vanessa develops litigation strategies that align with her clients’ business goals, emphasizing practical solutions, and efficient risk management.

Education

J.D., University of Michigan Law School, 2015

- Executive Editor, *Michigan Journal of Race & Law*
- Student Attorney, Michigan General Clinic
- Domestic Relations Mediation Clinic

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, Asian American studies and English, *magna cum laude*, 2010

- Academic Achievement Award

Bar Admissions

Washington, 2024
Oregon, 2015

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington, 2026

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington, 2024

U.S. District Court, District of Oregon, 2015

Clients value Vanessa’s responsiveness, strategic thinking, and ability to translate complex legal issues into practical business advice. She takes the time to understand each client’s operations and provides clear, well-researched guidance tailored to the realities of their industry. Known for her persuasive legal writing and strong advocacy, Vanessa combines meticulous preparation with practical judgment to help clients navigate challenging legal issues while minimizing disruption to their business.

Professional Activities

- Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association
 - Board of Directors, 2021-present
 - Treasurer, 2022-present
 - Representative to Oregon Judicial Diversity Coalition (OJDC)
- Oregon State Bar
 - Construction Law Section, Executive Committee, 2022-present
 - Oregon New Lawyers Division (ONLD), Past Executive Board Member

Civic Activities

- Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)
 - Property Development Advisory Committee, Member
- The Red Gala
 - Board of Directors, 2022-present

Representative Experience

Contracts

- Drafted and negotiated EPC agreements and other customized construction contracts for renewable energy, healthcare, and commercial development projects.

Litigation

- Drafted and negotiated construction contracts for owners, architects, and contractors for the development of commercial and residential properties in Oregon and Washington.
- Represented the owner and developer of a biogas facility in parallel construction disputes in Oregon and Arizona.
- Defended transportation and trucking companies in catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death litigation.
- Represented a commercial lumber manufacturer in litigation involving defective construction and delays during post-fire reconstruction.
- Represented Oregon higher education institutions in litigation involving claims by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concerning veterans’ education benefits.

Publications

- “Recent Developments in Oregon’s Renewable Energy Efforts,” Oregon State Bar, *Construction Law Newsletter* (Fall 2022)
- “‘Home Sweet Home’: The Impact of Urban Growth on Real Estate Property Disclosures in Oregon,” Miller Nash, *From the Ground Up* (Mar. 2022)

Languages

French

- “Getting Paid During the Pandemic and Beyond: Important Contract Provisions for Subcontractors and Suppliers,” National Association of Minority Contractors—Oregon, *NAMC-OR Newsletter* (Winter 2020)
- “Dealing With the Ups & Downs: The Importance of Price Escalation Clauses in Construction Contracts,” National Association of Minority Contractors—Oregon, *NAMC-OR Newsletter* (Summer 2019)
- “Chapter 5: Local Practice in the District of Oregon—2017,” *Practicing Law in Oregon*, Oregon State Bar, coauthor (Jan. 2017)

Presentations

- “For the Public Good: Sharpening Your Skills Through Pro Bono Practice,” Multnomah Bar Association, CLE, panelist (Nov. 2019)
- “Rule 21 & Other Responsive Motions,” Multnomah Bar Association, CLE (Oct. 2019)
- “Getting Paid and Protecting Your Company During a Construction Project,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, Construction Roundtable Series (Oct. 2018)

Recognition & Honors

- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® (Portland, OR)
 - Litigation—Real Estate, 2026-present
- Selected for inclusion in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® (Portland, OR)
 - Commercial Litigation, 2024-2025
 - Construction Law, 2024-2025
 - Litigation—Construction, 2022-2025
- Selected for inclusion as an Oregon Super Lawyer—Rising Star, 2020-present
- Oregon New Lawyers Division Member Service Award, 2018
- United States District Court, District of Oregon—Certificate of Appreciation for Contribution to Pro Bono Program, 2018

Personal Activities

Vanessa is an enthusiastic oil painter in her free time. She also enjoys traveling and has spent several years living abroad in China and England.