

Peter A. Talevich

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Peter Talevich is a partner whose practice focuses on complex litigation. Peter has assisted clients in a broad variety of disputes. He has successfully litigated or settled cases involving such diverse areas as:

- Consumer litigation, including claims arising under the Washington Consumer Protection Act and other consumer protection statutes, laws regulating financial institutions, and laws involving advertising;
- Disputes affecting businesses including breaches of contracts and licensing agreements, shareholder disputes, and disputes over intellectual property rights;
- Protection of goodwill, trade secrets, and confidential information, including in employee mobility disputes
- Disputes arising in probate, trusts, and estates, including litigation under the Trusts and Estates Dispute Resolution Act (TEDRA) and disputes involving estate taxation, representing beneficiaries and fiduciaries;
- Disputes arising in religious institutions regarding governance and internal dispute
- Disputes arising in secular nonprofit institutions;
- Constitutional law and civil rights, including multiple cases involving significant First Amendment implications.

Peter also has significant mediation and arbitration experience. He assists clients in all aspects of their cases, including fact and discovery, motions practice, drafting pleadings and briefs, alternative dispute resolution, and trial.

Peter is a member of the Appellate practice group and has participated in matters before the Washington Court of Appeals, the Washington Supreme Court, the Fourth, Fifth and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court, in addition to the appellate courts of other states. In addition to serving as first chair in merits appeals in several cases, Peter is well versed and experienced in appellate motion practice and strategy.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Peter has worked for the firm since 2011. He served as Board President of the Campaign for Equal Justice, Washington's unified fund drive for civil legal aid and a program of the Legal Foundation of Washington, from

2023 through 2024. Peter also serves on the Seattle University Board of Regents. Since 2014, Peter has served as editor-in-chief of the Washington Lawyers Practice Manual, a comprehensive treatise summarizing Washington law. Peter is a former Trustee of the King County Bar Association and, prior to that, Chair of the King County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division. The King County Bar Association has given Peter its Outstanding Young Lawyer Award (2018) and President's Award (2014) and nominated him for its Outstanding Mentor Award.

Peter has been recognized as a “Super Lawyer” by Washington Law and Politics since 2023 and was previously recognized as a “Rising Star” from 2013 through 2022. Peter is listed as a “Best Lawyer in America” for both Commercial Litigation and Trust and Estate Litigation.

Peter has provided extensive pro bono services to clients throughout his career. For nearly a decade he volunteered for the Housing Justice Project Legal Clinic at King County Superior Court representing tenants facing eviction. Peter's pro bono focus now lies with assisting survivors of sex trafficking to vacate prior criminal convictions and obtain a clean slate. Earlier in his career, Peter has served as counsel to plaintiffs in a widely publicized civil rights case filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington, and in another case, successfully defended an individual client in a contentious tort proceeding on a pro bono basis. Peter recently represented a tenant in an affirmative claim against a former landlord, obtaining a settlement for the client and payment of reasonable attorneys' fees.

Concurrently with his litigation practice, Peter serves as assistant general counsel to the firm.

Peter was a summer associate at K&L Gates in 2009. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a judicial extern to the Honorable Thomas S. Zilly, United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and as a research assistant to Professor John McKay.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Seattle, WA
  - Commercial Litigation, 2023-2027
  - Litigation - Trusts and Estates, 2027
- Named to Super Lawyers list, 2024-2026
- Named to the Washington Rising Stars list, 2013-2023
- Recipient of King County Bar Association Outstanding Young Lawyer Award, 2018
- Recipient of the King County Bar Association President's Award, 2014
- Winner of 2009 National Burton Award for Distinguished Writing
- Recipient of Dean's Medal, Seattle University School of Law, 2009
- Obtained Certified Legal Project Manager (LawVision) Certification, 2018

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Regent, Seattle University, 2022–present
- Board President, Campaign for Equal Justice of the Legal Foundation of Washington, board member since 2018
- Trustee, King County Bar Association; Chair, King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, 2015-2016; Vice Chair, 2014-2015, Trustee, 2013-2016
- Editor in Chief, King County Bar Association Washington Lawyers Practice Manual, 2012 through present
- King County Prosecutor Fellowship (represented the state of Washington in several felony jury trials), 2014
- United Way of King County, Emerging Leader Promotor and Member, Legal Steering Committee
- Seattle University School of Law Alumni Board
- 2017 Chair, Alumni Steering Committee for Seattle University School of Law Public Interest Law Foundation Auction

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- Editor-in-chief, Washington Lawyers Practice Manual (2014-present)
- Contributing author, ABA Section on Intellectual Property Law, Annual Trade Secret Law Report (2014-2015)

EDUCATION

- J.D., Seattle University School of Law, 2009 *(summa cum laude; first in class. Executive Editor at Large and Editor Emeritus, Seattle University Law Review; Dean's List, 2006-2009)Emeritus, Seattle University Law Review; Dean's List, 2006-2009)*
- B.A., University of Notre Dame, 2006 *(cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Washington
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
- United States District Court for the Western District of Washington

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 9 July 2026, Litigation Minute: CEMA-ingly Endless Litigation Meets Legislative Limits: Washington State's Legislative Response to the Email Marketing Litigation Surge
- 7 August 2025, Washington Supreme Court Increases Risks of Lawsuits for False or Misleading Email Subject Lines
- 31 March 2020, COVID-19: Impact on Consumer Financial Service Providers

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Author, Note, *During and In Relation To: How the Ninth Circuit Rewrote a Statute in the Case of the Millennium Bomber*, 32 SEATTLE U. L. REV. 477 (2009)

NEWS & EVENTS

- 20 August 2026, Nearly 300 K&L Gates Lawyers Recognized Among 2027 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 25 June 2021, Pro Bono CLE and Training - Amazon and K&L Gates: Clearing Criminal Records of Survivors of Sex Trafficking & Domestic Violence
- 21 February 2019, K&L Gates Names 24 New Partners Across Four Continents

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 2 January 2026, *Law360* | Washington Cases To Watch In 2026

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes
- Appellate Litigation
- Construction and Infrastructure
- Financial Institutions and Services Litigation
- Healthcare Payor-Provider Disputes (US)
- IP Litigation

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Healthcare

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

First Amendment

- Obtained published opinion affirming two summary judgments and other favorable ruling holding that dissident group of local church lacked authority to control church or its property, and severance agreements with former pastors were unenforceable. Successfully opposed petition for review to Washington Supreme Court and petition for certiorari to United States Supreme Court
- Obtained two summary judgment rulings holding that parent church had authority to define membership of local church; appeals pending

Commercial Litigation

- Obtained summary judgment dismissal of claim for breach of profit participation agreement with award of attorneys' fees
- Obtained favorable settlement for technology small business in partnership dispute, after successfully opposing motions for temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction, and discretionary review to court of appeals
- Obtained favorable settlement in disputes over real estate covenants and plat restrictions after obtaining partial summary judgment on claim and issue preclusion arguments

Trust and Estate Litigation

- Obtained trial court ruling, affirmed in published opinion of Court of Appeals, overruling state's attempt to assess estate tax on committed intimate partner's share of estate
- Obtained favorable resolution in representation of estate facing claim for share of property under committed intimate relationship doctrine
- Defense of professional fiduciary of claim of breaches of duty asserted by beneficiary