



George Haley

Senior Partner

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A seasoned litigator, George helps clients in a range of industries resolve their most critical commercial disputes.

He leverages over 40 years of experience to counsel major industry clients in large, complex cases. George has a deep understanding of the commercial obstacles that clients may face in growing and operating their businesses, and helps them defend their interests when matters go to trial. His clients include financial institutions, energy and natural resource developers and distributors, pharmaceutical companies, and telecommunications providers.

George believes in teams. He works closely with colleagues to develop project strategy to ensure that the client obtains favorable results that achieve both their objectives and financial goals.

Certified mediator and arbitrator: George is also a certified mediator and arbitrator with wide experience in successfully mediating difficult commercial disputes. His straight-forward but fair approach helps parties in all types of litigation find a way to settle disputes.

PRACTICES

Commercial Litigation
 Environmental and Natural Resources
 Insurance Coverage and Risk Management
 Financial Institutions Litigation
 Antitrust and Trade Regulation
 Class Actions
 Securities Enforcement and Shareholder Litigation

INDUSTRIES

Energy and Resources
 Oil and Gas

EDUCATION

University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, J.D., 1978

University of Utah, B.A., 1975
magna cum laude

American Arbitration Association, Mediation Certification, 2014

BAR ADMISSIONS

Utah

EXPERIENCE

Litigation

George has extensive experience defending challenges commercial clients face, including:

- Intellectual property
- Antitrust litigation
- Bet-the-company cases
- Insurance disputes
- Class action defense

Oil and Gas

- Clean Air Act
- Oil Pollution Act
- Toxic Tort Defense
- Joint Development Agreement Disputes

CLIENT RESULTS

Commercial Litigation

Obtained a unanimous jury verdict of no cause of action on behalf of a global credit card company in federal court in Cincinnati, Ohio defending a rule change on the encryption of ATM transactions.

Defended a global credit card company in a class action resulting from a data breach at a major retailer.

Represented 9,000 depositors of five failed industrial banks in a class action against the State of Utah, several major accounting and law firms obtaining settlements totaling \$103,000,000.

Represented a global credit card company in an antitrust case brought by a credit card processing company.

Represented a Utah community bank in recovering \$11,000,000 that had been fraudulently wire-transferred from its correspondent account.

Acted as lead counsel under a joint defense agreement, representing a large pharmaceutical company. George successfully argued a motion to dismiss in a Fraud and False Claims Act case brought by the State of Utah against 17 pharmaceutical companies. The case was dismissed with prejudice.

Obtained a dismissal of a class action brought against a regional telephone service provider by 28 Utah counties. The Utah Supreme Court unanimously upheld the dismissal.

Natural Resources Litigation

Represented an independent natural gas and oil exploration and production company in a Clean Air Act enforcement action against midstream assets on an Indian reservation.

Acted as co-lead counsel defending a natural gas company against a \$500,000,000 claim for fraud and breach of fiduciary duty brought by one of the largest pipeline transportation and energy storage companies in North America. After a five-week bench trial, final judgment was entered, dismissing all of plaintiff's claims, and awarding the client \$110,000,000 on its counterclaim. No appeal was taken, and the client obtained its judgment in full.

Legal Malpractice Defense

Obtained summary judgment dismissing all the plaintiffs' claims in a \$225,000,000 legal malpractice claim brought by an oil and gas exploration and production company. The Utah Court of Appeals affirmed the order of dismissal.

PUBLICATIONS

"How Mediators Leverage Technology to Overcome COVID-19 Concerns and Keep Cases Settling," *Utah Bar Journal*, Co-Author, May/June 2020

"From the Courtroom to the Zoom Room," *Holland & Hart News Update*,

Co-Author, 05/01/2020

"[Energy Litigation](#)," *Chapter for West Publishing's Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts, Third Edition*

"Annual ABA Survey of State Class Litigation Law,"

"Newberg on Class Actions," *Contributing Editor*

"Understanding the Laws Behind Securities Transactions," *Thoughts of a Securities Practitioner*

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

"George is a frequent speaker on trial advocacy topics, civility, and ethics and the use of electronic technology in court. He is a mentor to lawyers both within and outside the firm and enjoys training younger lawyers the art of being a trial lawyer."

RECOGNITION

- *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Litigation: General Commercial, Band 1, Senior Statespeople, 2013-2021
- *Benchmark Litigation*, Local Litigation Star, 2016-2021
- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Energy & Resources, 2007-2016; ADR, 2017-2021
- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Top 100 Lawyers, Energy & Resources, 2012-2015; ADR, 2017-2018, 2020
- Mountain States Super Lawyers®, Top 75 Lawyers, Energy & Resources, 2007-2011
- Salt Lake City Super Lawyers®, Top 25
- BTI, Client Service All Star, 2011
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Antitrust – Salt Lake City, 2014, 2018
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Environmental – Salt Lake City, 2012
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy) – Salt Lake City, 2020
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Lawyer of the Year, Bet-the-Company Litigation – Salt Lake City, 2022
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2006-2022; Litigation – Antitrust, Litigation – Environmental, Litigation – Intellectual Property, Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy), 2011-2022; Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2017-2022
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah Legal Elite, Business Litigation, Arbitrator/Mediator, Civil Litigation
- The American Board of Trial Advocates, Utah Trial Lawyer of the

Year, 2003

- *LawDragon*, Top 500 Litigators

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals, Member, 2019-present
- Sons of the American Revolution, Member, 2018-present
- International Society of Barristers, Fellow, 2013–present
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers Board of Directors, 2012-2018
- Bonefish Tarpon Trust, Member, 2010-present
- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow, 2005–present
- International Academy of Trial Lawyers, Member, 2005–present
- Madeleine Choir School, Board of Directors, 2005-2012
- Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, Member, 2000-present
- Westminster College, Board of Trustees, 2000-2010
- American Board of Trial Advocates, Member, 1999–present
- Utah Hibernian Society, Member, 1990-present
- Trout Unlimited, Lifetime Member, 1980-present
- American Bar Association, Member, 1978-present
- United States Supreme Court Historical Society