



Casey Mark Klekas

Associate

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Casey brings nearly a decade of appellate advocacy before Colorado's highest courts to complex disputes in state and federal court.

Casey spent nearly nine years in the Appellate Division of the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, where he handled more than 150 appeals, including seven arguments before the Colorado Supreme Court, resulting in scores of published decisions on questions of constitutional law, statutory interpretation, evidence, and jury instructions. That work built a disciplined, pragmatic approach to the appellate record: identifying the issues most likely to matter on appeal, particularly novel legal questions, and framing them clearly and persuasively for the court.

Casey works with trial teams to preserve issues and build the record with an eventual appeal in mind, and he counsels clients on their options after judgment, whether defending a favorable ruling or challenging an adverse one.

During law school, Casey served as a judicial extern to Chief Judge Timothy Tymkovich of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

EXPERIENCE

- Federal civil motions practice
- Appellate criminal defense in felony matters
- Constitutional law, statutory interpretation, reviewing jury instructions, challenging procedural and evidentiary rulings

CLIENT RESULTS

Colorado Supreme Court

Overtaken 50-year precedent, establishing favorable constitutionally based rule of procedure for Colorado; later adding client to National Registry of Exonerations

Struck down provision of Colorado's harassment statute as unconstitutionally overbroad under the First Amendment

Established Fourth Amendment rule generally prohibiting police from using Colorado's expressed consent statute as substitute for the warrant requirement

PRACTICES

Business Litigation
Appellate

EDUCATION

University of Colorado Law School, J.D., 2017

University of Colorado Law Review,
Editor-in-Chief

Dean Edward C. King Award

University of Oregon, B.A., 2013
Phi Beta Kappa

BAR ADMISSIONS

Colorado

COURT ADMISSIONS

U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. District Court for the District of
Colorado

Won unanimous Colorado Supreme Court decision strengthening protections against selective use of recorded evidence at trial; resolving a multi-year split among Colorado's appellate courts on the rule of completeness

Colorado Court of Appeals

Set precedent on wrongful exclusion of exculpatory DNA evidence

Set precedent in statutory-interpretation reversal, expanding trial court sentencing discretion

Reversed numerous convictions based on erroneous jury instructions; set favorable precedent through plain-error reversal

Reversed numerous convictions based on erroneous admission of evidence, including conviction carrying 48-year prison sentence for non-violent offense

Reversed numerous convictions with instructions to suppress evidence produced by police coercion, and illegal searches and seizures under U.S. and Colorado Constitution

Colorado District Court

Vacated illegal 1982 sentence through historical statutory research, freeing client after 40+ years incarcerated

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

- Colorado Bar Association, Member
- Colorado Criminal Defense Bar, Member
- CU Law Review Alumni Board, Member