



Paul Sheely

PARTNER

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Oregon Office

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Practice Areas

Construction & Development

Education

Northern Illinois University, College of Law, 1991

Central Washington University, B.S., Construction Management Technology, 1987

Columbia Basin College, Pasco WA., Associate Degree in Engineering Technology, 1979

Bar Admissions

Oregon

Washington

Certification & Accolades

Member, Oregon State Bar Association

Member, Washington State Bar Association

Black Belt Trial Advocacy Training Program

Best Lawyers in America 2019-2024

Super Lawyers 2018-2020, 2022-2023

Expertise Overview

Paul's practice is focused on defending general contractors, real estate developers, and specialty subcontractors in construction defect related litigation in both Oregon and Washington. His litigation experience spans 25 years in the areas of construction defect litigation and appellate work in both state and federal court. Paul is known for his expertise in defending design professionals in malpractice claims as well as defending builders against property owners in construction-related claims.

Prior to joining Smith Freed Eberhard, Paul worked for several years as a general litigator focusing on criminal defense as well as a wide range of civil litigation both at the trial and appellate level. Paul has extensive experience in all phases of litigation including pre-trial practice, trial practice, and appellate work.

Paul's background provides him with valuable insight into all phases of the construction process. Before graduating with a bachelor's degree in construction engineering management from Central Washington State University, Paul worked in the industry as a construction engineer and project manager on large scale industrial and commercial construction projects. He now utilizes this experience in his practice to better understand the facts surrounding each case that he defends.

Relevant Cases

Paul successfully appealed a fire loss case based on an improper jury instruction, which resulted in the reversal of a large award. He has also successfully appealed litigation surrounding interpretation and application of Washington's Notice of Construction Defect Statute. Paul has defended numerous dispositive motions in relation to the interpretation of the "Economic Loss Rule" in Oregon.

Insights & Thought Leadership

With a passion for all things construction, Paul enjoys regularly giving presentations to construction professionals on legislative updates and case law affecting the Oregon and Washington construction industry.

