Foster Garvey

Matthew J. Yium

Counsel | **Portland**

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Overview

Matt believes that problem solving is best achieved through a clear understanding of all sides of a dispute. Whether a case is headed to trial or early resolution, Matt uses this understanding to design pragmatic strategies that keep his clients' interests at the forefront.

Matt focuses his practice on business litigation, as well as professional liability defense, real estate, and securities. He has represented professionals, hospitals, emerging companies, and national retailers in the defense of multi-million dollar claims.

His experience reaches all stages of litigation, including jury trials, arbitration, motion practice, alternative dispute resolution, and appeals in state and federal court. Matt is also a speaker and author of publications covering a variety of litigation-related topics.

Areas of Focus

- Litigation
- Accounting Firms
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Cannabis
- Communications, Telecom & Media
- Eminent Domain & Inverse Condemnation
- Family-Owned & Closely Held Business
- Securities Litigations & Enforcement
- Sports & Entertainment

Admissions

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- Oregon
- Washington
- U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit

Education

- J.D., Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, 2005
  - Outstanding Appellate Brief
  - Dean's Fellowship for Excellence Scholarship
  - *Pro Bono* Honors Award
  - Outstanding Client Advocacy Award
- M.P.W., University of Southern California, 2000
- B.A., University of Colorado (with distinction), 1996
  - *Phi Beta Kappa*

Honors & Recognition

- *Best Lawyers in America®* Commercial Litigation, Professional Malpractice Law – Defendants, 2021-present
- Dallaire Public Service Award, Recipient, 2019
- *Portland Business Journal*'s Forty Under 40, Runners Up List, 2014

Professional Activities

- American Bar Association, Member
- Oregon Association of Defense Counsel, Member
  - Former Publications Liaison for Professional Liability Practice Group
- Multnomah Bar Association, Member
- Washington County Bar Association, Member

Community Activities

- Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, Pro Bono Attorney, 2017-present
- Disability Rights Oregon, Pro Bono Attorney, 2013-2016
- Forest Park Elementary Site Council, Representative, 2014-2015
- Portland Youth Soccer Association, Coach, 2013-2015

Experience

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- *Brownlow, et al v. [Oregon startup company], (2013).*
  Defended local startup company in securities fraud action. Damages of over $1.2 million alleged. Successfully defeated plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment with subsequent settlement for client.

- *Vassigh v. Boussina, (2012).*
  Obtained dismissal on summary judgment in favor of client in strict foreclosure and breach of contract action. Recovered attorney fees and costs, and an award of enhanced prevailing party fees.

- *Harrell v. [national retailer], (2011).*
  Defense of civil rights claims brought against national retailer in federal court. Obtained summary judgment in favor of client, affirmed by Ninth Circuit.

- *Piazza v. [local hospital], 226 Or App 604, 205 P3d 101 (2009).*
  Successfully argued to Oregon Court of Appeals, upholding defense verdict in medical malpractice action brought against local hospital.

- *Roe v. [local hospital], (2009).*
  Defended local hospital on federal ADA and discrimination claims. Tried to a jury, resulting in complete defense verdict. Appeal to Ninth Circuit dismissed.

- *Galanza v. Supnet, (2008).*
  Represented plaintiff in breach of contract action and small business dissolution dispute. Tried to a jury. Verdict in favor of client, plus an award of enhanced prevailing party fees.

- *Phillips v. Safeco, 344 Or 196, 179 P3d 633 (2008).*
  Successfully argued to Oregon Supreme Court, upholding dismissal of underinsured motorist claim.

- *Pop v. [Oregon attorney], (2008).*
  Obtained dismissal of legal malpractice action for client on summary judgment. Affirmed by Oregon Court of Appeals.

News & Insights

News

71 Foster Garvey Attorneys Selected to the 2027 Best Lawyers® Lists; Six Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

08.20.26

71 Foster Garvey Attorneys Recognized Among the 2026 Best Lawyers in America; Paul Trinchero Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

08.21.25

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65 Foster Garvey Attorneys Selected to The Best Lawyers in America® 2025, Three Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

08.15.24

57 Foster Garvey Attorneys Recognized Among the 2024 Best Lawyers in America; Two Portland Attorneys Named 'Lawyer of the Year'

08.17.23

45 Foster Garvey Attorneys Recognized Among The Best Lawyers In America®

08.18.22

38 Attorneys Named 2022 Best Lawyers in America; 11 Named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

08.19.21

43 Attorneys Named 2021 Best Lawyers in America; 10 Named Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

08.20.20

Fleeing a Life of Political Upheaval and Violence in Haiti

03.01.19

Events

“May the Force Majeure Be With You: Examining Commercial Lease Disputes Related to COVID-19,” Multnomah Bar Association COVID-19 CLE Series

04.21.20

"Complaints, Answers, and Motions to Dismiss: A Practical Guide to Effective Pleading Practice," Multnomah Bar Association CLE Seminar, Co-Presenter

09.15.16

Legal Alerts

Oregon Presses Pause on Statutes of Limitation During the Pandemic

07.17.20

Enforcement and Avoidance of Contracts in Oregon After COVID-19 Events

03.20.20

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Publications

May the Force Majeure Be With You: Examining Emerging Trends in Contract Disputes Related to COVID-19

09.01.20

Judicial Biography: The Honorable Melvin Oden-Orr

12.21.19

An Uncertain Privilege: Former Employees and the Attorney-Client Privilege

06.21.18

Case Note – Attorney Malpractice: Sherertz et al. v. Brownstein, Rask, Sweeney, Kerr, Grim, Desylvia & Hay LLP, 288 Or App 719 (2017)

03.20.18

Avoiding the Wah, Wah, Wah Effect: Requiring Proof of the Underlying Claim Before Pleading Punitive Damages

09.22.10

A Closer Look at Oregon's Saving Statute

06.21.06

Profits, Politics, and the Promise of Free Speech: Defining Commercial Speech After Nike v. Kasky

01.01.05

Connect with Matthew

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