

WALTER H. SWECK
SENIOR PARTNER

☎ 503.219.3845
✉ wswweek@cosgravelaw.com

LISA C. MINNER
LEGAL ASSISTANT

☎ 503.276.6076
✉ lminner@cosgravelaw.com
☎ 503.323.9019



Law Practice

LAW PRACTICE:

Wally Sweck has over fifty years of trial experience in Oregon and Southwest Washington. He has experience in virtually every type of tort case - plaintiffs and defendants, often entailing complex litigation dealing with catastrophic losses. His practice includes product liability, including medical products and devices; professional liability; employer's liability (work place torts); toxic torts; business litigation; and all types of claims related to the trucking industry.

Education & Bar Admissions

EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSIONS:

Wally earned his bachelor's degree in science from the University of Oregon in 1959 and his law degree from the University of Oregon Law School in 1962. Before going into private practice, Wally clerked for the Honorable John F. Kilkeny, of the United States District Court and later of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Wally was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1962, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1963, and the United States Supreme Court in 1972.

Activities

PROFESSIONAL:

Wally is a member of the Multnomah Bar Association (President, 1988), the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (Vice President, 1981-82; President, 1982-1983), and the Federal Bar Association. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL).

Wally plays a key role in the firm's association with the ALFA International organization. He serves on the Steering Committee for the Transportation and Product Liability Practice Groups.

INDUSTRIES

- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Trucking and Motor Carrier

PRACTICE AREAS

- Environmental Law & Toxic Torts
- Personal Injury & Property Damage Liability
- Product Liability

Wally currently serves on Jury Trial Experience Committee of the ACTL. The committee seeks to expand jury trial opportunities for young lawyers. In 2008, the committee developed and implemented a comprehensive trial experience program, which partners with the D.A. and Public Defender's offices to provide first hand trial experience for young attorneys. Most recently, the committee implemented an Expedited Civil Jury Trial Program in state courts. They hope this new program will provide a valuable trial practice training ground for young lawyers and judges as well as a quick and less expensive route for parties to reach trial.

Wally also serves on the Multnomah Bar Association Professionalism Committee and volunteers for the Legal Aid Services of Oregon - Domestic Violence Project.

CIVIC:

Wally's volunteer activities include working with young lawyer mentoring programs, law school moot courts, and is a legal aid volunteer, and a volunteer in the SMART (Start Making a Reader Today) program in Portland Public Schools.

PERSONAL:

He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys golf, hiking, skiing and running marathons. Wally and his wife, Gloria, love to travel and enjoy a night out for a movie and dinner.

Media

PRESENTATIONS:

"Professionalism in Practice"

Lewis and Clark Law School, class presentation, 2016

"OTLA/OADC Professionalism Panel Presentation"

MBA Professionalism Committee, January, 2014

"New Trends in Oregon Discovery: Oregon's Vanishing Civil Jury Trial, a Treasured Right or a Relic"

Oregon Law Institute CLE, November 2013

"Products Liability 101"

Legal Department of Garmin International, Inc., Avionics Manufacturing, May, 2013

"Fast Track to Trial - Oregon's New Fast Track System"

Oregon Trial Lawyers Association Conference, August, 2010

"Getting in Front of the Jury: Jury Trial Enhancement Program"

American College of Trial Lawyers Regional Meeting, July, 2010

"Winter Driving and Preserving Evidence"

Presenter, Oregon Trucking Association, 2008

"No-Fault, Personal Injury Protection (PIP)"

ALFA Compendium, 2006

"Carmack Amendment Not Applicable to Brokers"

ALFA Compendium, 2006

"Obese Trucker Recovers Against Employer on Disability Discrimination Theory"

ALFA Quarterly Newsletter, 2005

Recognition

AWARDS:

- Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, for Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants
- Oregon Super Lawyer – Personal Injury Defense – Products
- Selected by *The Daily Journal of Commerce* in 2011 as a legal leader
- Recipient of the 2000 Multnomah Bar Association Professional Award
- Highest rating (A.V.) Martindale-Hubbell
- Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers

Client Comments:

“CONGRATULATIONS on your defense verdict.... As we have all discussed on numerous occasions, this case was an enormous challenge on so many levels. Your coordinated efforts to focus on the key issues in presenting the case obviously worked very well with the jury. Kudos to you. It is a very impressive victory! Also thanks to Sonia, MaryAnn, Jane, Pam and everyone else with the firm who worked on this case. The management of the huge number of documents/exhibits was quite an undertaking, and your coordination and organization of all of the moving parts was quite impressive as well.”

“Ken/Wally/Paul

I want to thank you guys for all of the hard work on long hours that you put in with this case. Your preparation and professional approach really came through at the trial and is what I think impressed the jury. I appreciate your time and patience with me in explaining the process and answering my questions. Please thank your staff for all of their hard work....”