

THOMAS W. BROWN

Thom Brown is a 1980 graduate of the night school program at Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College. He is admitted to practice before all federal and state courts in Oregon and Washington, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

During law school, Thom served as a clerk to Judge Irving M. Steinbock of the Multnomah County Circuit Court (1978-80). Following law school, Thom served as a clerk to Judge William L. Richardson of the Oregon Court of Appeals (1980-81). He then joined Cosgrave Vergeer Kester in 1981. From 1994-2010, Thom was the firm's managing partner and is presently special counsel to the firm. Thom currently primarily serves as a neutral, although he continues doing limited client work involving appeals, insurance coverage, and professional liability defense.

Thom's been "AV" rated by Martindale Hubbell since 1985. In 2000, Thom was selected as fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. In 2008, Thom was selected as a fellow in the Honorary Trial Society of Litigation Counsel of America, and he has also been selected for The Best Lawyers in America (Appellate Practice (2006-18) and Insurance Law (2010-18), Benchmark: Appellate (Ninth Circuit 2012-13), and as an Oregon Super Lawyer (Appellate Practice (2006-18)). Thom has been recognized by his peers through Best Lawyers in America as "2014 Portland, Oregon Lawyer of the Year: Appellate Practice", "2015 Portland, Oregon Lawyer of the Year: Insurance", "2017 Portland, Oregon Lawyer of the Year: Insurance", and "2019 Portland, Oregon Lawyer of the Year: Insurance."

Thom is involved in many professional activities related to his practice areas, law practice management, and professionalism, including American Arbitration Association (approved arbitrator nationwide for commercial disputes, 2017-); American Health Lawyers Association (approved arbitrator, mediator and hearings officer, 2018-); Arbitration Service of Portland (Arbitrator, 2012-); ALFA International, The Global Legal Network (Board 2008-2011; Insurance Practice Group Vice-Chair 2009-13 and Chair 2013-15; Law Practice Management Group Chair 2005-2007); Multnomah Bar Association (MBA) Board of Directors (President 2007-08); MBA Managing Partners' Roundtable (Co-Chair 2001-06); Oregon State Bar (OSB) Appellate Process Review Committee (Member, 2003-04), Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism (Member 2000-2004); MBA Professionalism Committee (Co-Chair 1999-2000); OSB Appellate Practice Section Executive Committee (Chair 2001-02); Oregon Association of Defense Counsel Amicus Committee (Member 1989-2001); Oregon Rules of Appellate Procedure Committee (Member 1994-2000); and OSB Law Practice Management Section Executive Committee (Chair 1995-96). In 2013, Thom received the MBA's Professionalism Award, which is the organization's highest honor and recognizes lawyers who exemplify the standards set forth in the MBA Professionalism Statement.

Thom has participated in arbitrations and mediations as an attorney throughout his career. He began serving as a neutral over 20 years ago.

Thom has facilitated approximately 55 mediations for the Oregon Court of Appeals appellate settlement program covering a wide range of legal disputes. He has also served as a mediator in approximately 35 cases through private retention, and is an approved mediator for the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, The State of Oregon Environmental Claims Mediation Program, the Oregon State Bar Fee Dispute Resolution Program, and the American Health Lawyers Association Dispute Resolution Service.

Thom has handled approximately 40 arbitrations through the American Arbitration Association (AAA), the Arbitration Service of Portland, and metropolitan area circuit courts. He is an approved arbitrator for commercial cases nationwide administered through AAA, and an approved arbitrator and hearings officer for health care cases nationwide administered through the American Health Lawyer Association.

On appointment by the Oregon Supreme Court, Thom serves as circuit court judge pro tempore. He has heard and resolved over 150 motions for summary judgment in his 9 years as a pro tem covering a very wide range of civil disputes and issues.

Through wide-ranging and long practice experience, long time involvement in firm management, frequent leadership of professional organizations, and significant work as a neutral and pro tem judge, Thom has the skill, background, experience, and temperament to both fairly and efficiently resolve all kinds of civil legal disputes as an arbitrator or hearings officer and facilitate the resolution of all kinds of civil legal disputes as a mediator.