

Julie A. Smith

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Law Practice

Julie Smith is an appellate lawyer who also specializes in advising trial attorneys on litigation strategy and in drafting and arguing complex motions.

Before joining Cosgrave, she served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Trial and Appellate Divisions of the Oregon Department of Justice, where she twice received the department's Outstanding Achievement Award. Prior to that, she clerked for the Honorable Virginia Linder of the Oregon Court of Appeals.

Appellate services include:

- Reviewing the trial court record
- Identifying appeal-worthy issues
- Evaluating the merits of a potential appeal
- Participating in appellate mediation
- Developing a strategy for an appeal
- Writing appellate briefs, including amicus briefs

INDUSTRIES

Beverage

Construction

Financial Services

Healthcare

Hospitality

Insurance

Manufacturing

Professional Services

Railroad

Real Estate

Trucking and Motor Carrier

- Presenting oral argument

Litigation support services include:

- Identifying and analyzing complex legal issues
- Consulting on litigation strategy
- Drafting and arguing dispositive motions
- Drafting and arguing trial submissions, including trial memoranda, jury instructions, motions in limine, verdict forms, and directed-verdict motions
- Drafting and arguing post-trial motions, including motions for new trial
- Attending trial to ensure that a proper trial court record is made and that specific issues are properly preserved for appeal

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate & Litigation Support

Business & Commercial
Litigation

Construction Services &
Litigation

Financial Services Litigation &
Compliance

Personal Injury & Property
Damage Liability

Product Liability

Professional Liability

Education & Bar Admissions

Julie earned her bachelor's degree in political, legal, and economic analysis from Mills College and a law degree from the University of Oregon, where she graduated Order of the Coif. While attending law school, she was an Executive Editor of the Oregon Law Review.

Julie became a member of the Oregon State Bar in 1998. She is also admitted to practice in the United States District Court of Oregon, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Professional

Julie's professional memberships include the Multnomah Bar Association, the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC), and Oregon Women Lawyers. She also serves on the Oregon Rules of Appellate Procedure Committee and is a regular contributor to OADC's quarterly publication - The Verdict. She was previously a member of the Executive Committee of the Oregon State Bar Appellate Practice Section and a member of the Uniform Civil Jury Instructions Committee.

Publications

Oregon Civil Pleading and Litigation (2020 ed.)

Chapter 41 – Appealability of Judgments and Orders, Oregon State Bar Publications, December 2020

Damages (2016 ed.)

Chapter 2 – Nominal Damages, Oregon State Bar Publications, November, 2016

Presentations

“Post-Trial Motions and Appellate Practice”

Speaker – 2024 OADC Annual Convention, Defense Practice Academy, 2024

Appeals – What New Practitioners Should Know

Speaker – Oregon State Bar Fundamentals of Oregon Civil Trial Procedure Seminar, 2023

The Remedy Clause post-Busch – where do we go from here?

Speaker – Oregon Association of Defense Counsel Webinar, 2020

Awards

Julie A. Smith was named the Best Lawyers[®] 2026 Appellate Practice “Lawyer of the Year” in Portland, OR.

The Best Lawyers in America[®], Appellate Practice (2021-2026); Railroad Law (2025, 2026)

“Oregon Rising Star,” *Super Lawyers* magazine, Civil Litigation (2008-2012)

Client Comments

“I just read the brief, and I must say, it’s extraordinarily compelling. You nailed it!”

*“Amazing job with this brief. I’m blown away. * * * Incredibly thorough, readability is next level.”*

“I cannot thank you enough for the amazing work you did on my case. Your pretrial arguments and work on the directed verdict were integral to [trial counsel’s] success.”

“I know that you have received this great news already from Julie Smith. Congratulations on the

terrific result! Julie did a superb job on the briefing and it is reflected clearly in the exemplary, thoughtful opinion that [the judge] wrote.”

“My feedback echos [the trial attorney’s], and the word that came to my mind after reading [your briefing] was ‘brilliant!’”

“Julie, thank you very much. I think [the motion] is extremely well done.”