



## Marissa A. Alkhazov

Shareholder

Deputy Managing Partner

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### PRACTICE AREAS

Product Liability, Complex Litigation, Wrongful Death, Retail/Hospitality, Environmental and Toxic Torts.

### OVERVIEW

Marissa A. Alkhazov joined Betts Patterson Mines in 2010 as a Complex Litigation Attorney. Marissa, a Shareholder in the firm, has considerable experience in product liability, mass tort defense, environmental and general liability claims. Her work and growing presence in the industry has been widely recognized having been named as “Top 100 Women Attorneys in Washington (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017)” in Seattle Metropolitan Magazine, a Washington Law & Politics “Rising Star (2012,2013)”, and “Super Lawyer (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)”. Ms. Alkhazov handles litigation in both WA and OR on behalf of her Fortune 500 clients ranging from pharmaceutical companies, product manufacturers, insurers, retailers, small businesses and local tech startups in the community. Ms. Alkhazov regularly serves as local counsel in national complex litigation matters, having noted successes in State, Appellate and Federal Courts. Ms. Alkhazov also regularly serves as an arbitrator in King County.

### REPRESENTATIVE CASES

- Defended a national hotel chain in a multi-million dollar Consumer Protection Act, Personal Injury, Negligence and Civil Rights action. Following extensive discovery and motion practice, all claims were dismissed, leaving only the claims of negligence against the hotel. A very favorable settlement was reached shortly thereafter.
- Defended an auto supply retailer in Wrongful Death action. Discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal.
- Defense of a pharmaceutical company in Wrongful Death and Personal Injury actions. Extensive discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal. Plaintiff’s appeals were withdrawn.
- Defense of aeronautics company in Personal Injury and Wrongful Death action alleging that component parts in engine exposed decedent to hazardous substances causing death. Rigorous discovery and motion practice resulted in dismissal.
- Defense of valve manufacturer in multi-party Personal Injury action alleging component parts contributed to or caused plaintiff’s lung cancer. Via successful dispositive motion practice, summary judgment was granted.
- Defense of local company in MTCA and other environmental claims resulting from a solvent spill (“perc”) by a vendor. By coordinating efforts with the Department of Ecology and other parties involved in litigation, a favorable settlement was reached.

- Defense of pharmaceutical company in multi-state litigation involving the application of apparent manufacturer theory of liability. This includes representation of the client through all levels of state court and up to the Washington Supreme Court.
- Defense of retailer in food poisoning claims allegedly related to 'tainted spinach.'
- Represented an insurer in IFCA litigation relating to file handling of plaintiff's UIM claim. As a result of a detailed investigation relating to plaintiff's alleged lost wages and extensive discovery efforts regarding plaintiff's alleged injuries, we were able to settle plaintiff's \$500,000 policy limits claim in the low five figures.
- Represented a counter defendant in a personal injury claim. The plaintiff sued the owner of breeding program for personal injury damages, resulting from one of his German shepherds attacking her minor son in the head. The owner of the breeding program/dog, filed counterclaims against the plaintiff for breach of contract and other claims. After extensive discovery, multiple depositions of the parties and a hearing set for Summary Judgment Dismissal, the counterclaimant/defendant agreed to voluntarily dismiss the client from suit. No money was paid in exchange for the dismissal and the client saved on fees/costs associated in arguing the dismissal motion.
- Represented out of state insureds involved in a motor vehicle accident in Washington State. Liability was contested. The plaintiff claimed she was rear ended by defendants, and my clients testified that it was the plaintiff who actually backed into their automobile. Plaintiff filed suit for personal injuries sustained while 9 months pregnant, including lost wages. Extensive discovery and motion practice was undertaken and at arbitration, we received favorable rulings on liability and damages. A 100% defense verdict was entered, including statutory fees and costs. The client paid \$0 to plaintiff.
- Represented a paper mill in multi-party asbestos/toxic tort litigation. Plaintiff sued over 50 corporate defendants for Wrongful Death and Survivorship allegedly caused by his exposure to asbestos by use of their products or while working at a particular location owned by defendants. We successfully moved for summary judgment dismissal of plaintiff's claims related to his alleged exposure to asbestos containing materials while working at the paper mill. Plaintiffs appealed the dismissal to the Ninth District and following oral argument, the court affirmed the dismissal granted by the lower court.
- Defended a national fitness equipment manufacturer in a product liability matter. The minor, mentally impaired plaintiff sued the client, his school district and several of its employees for personal injuries to his eye, including permanent vision loss, allegedly caused as a result of being struck in the eye with the client's resistance tubing product. The school district and its employees were sued for negligent supervision and other theories of liability. As a result of intense work with experts, depositions of supervisors and school district employees, a favorable result was reached.

#### EDUCATION

Albany Law School, J.D., 2003

Best Oral Advocate, National Trial Team, 2002, 2003

University of Washington, B.S., 2000, with honors

#### ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar, 2003

Oregon State Bar, 2013

United States District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Washington

United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

US District Court for the State of Oregon

#### PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

*Super Lawyers*, "Rising Stars" (2012-2013) "Super Lawyers" (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)  
*Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*, "Top 100 Women Attorneys in Washington" (2012, 2013, 2016, 2017)

#### PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association  
    Vice Chair, TIPS Committee (2016-current)  
    (Environmental & Toxic Torts)

Blog contributor to PropertyCasualty360.com

Claims & Litigation Management Alliance

Defense Research Institute

International Association of Defense Counsel  
    Vice Chair, Environmental and Energy Law Committee (2018-current)  
    Vice Chair, Membership for Trial Techniques Committee (2016-2018)  
    Member, Products and Medical Devices Committee (2016-current)  
    Member, CLE Steering Committee (2016-current)  
    Member, Toxic & Mass Torts Committee (2016-current)

King County Bar Association  
    Member

Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association of Seattle

The Harmonie Group

Washington Defense Trial Lawyers

Washington State Bar Association  
    Member, Young Lawyers Division

Washington Women Lawyers

#### PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Article, [Pfizer Absolved In Quigley Asbestos Injury Suit](#), Law360.com, (December 2013)

Presenter, *Matsyuk v. State Farm: Next Steps for Insurers*, Client Seminar, (May 2012).

Author, *Five Juror Misconceptions of Insurers*, Property Casualty 360 Blog, (October 2011).

Presenter, *Bad Faith & IFCA in Washington State*, Client Seminar, (May 2011).