



Lea L. Kear

Associate

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Lea represents insurance companies involved in litigation ranging from personal injury to medical malpractice to breach of contract. Her diverse litigation experience enables her to analyze cases from a variety of perspectives and find innovative solutions to problems facing her clients. Lea's prior litigation experience includes:

- Working as **in-house counsel for the fourth largest property and casualty insurer in the United States**. In this role, she represented insured parties at all stages of litigation from administrative hearing or trial to appeal.
- Working as **in-house appellate counsel for Oregon's largest workers' compensation carrier**. In this role, Lea handled more than 65 appellate cases before the Administrative Board and the Oregon Court of Appeals. She also served as a voting member of the company's appellate leadership committee, which decided which cases to appeal based on a variety of factors including: likelihood of success, overall exposure, and probability of creating favorable or unfavorable legal precedent. As a result of those committee discussions, she then educated and advised internal and external clients of the merits of pursuing an appeal.
- Serving as a Columbia County, Oregon **prosecutor** where she first chaired dozens of criminal trials
- Presiding over more than 1,000 contested case hearings as an **Administrative Law Judge** in Salem, Oregon
- Prosecuting white collar crime, government corruption, and human trafficking cases as the **Assistant Attorney General in Guam**. In this role, Lea appeared before the Guam Supreme Court in a case in which she got the conviction for a child rapist upheld and she also secured the grand jury indictment for the largest human trafficking case in Micronesian history.

Lea is admitted to practice in Idaho and Oregon.

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Past President, Columbia County Bar Association; elected by popular vote of the Bar members
- Appointed Committee Member, Idaho State Bar Advocate Editorial Advisory Board

- Member, Idaho Association of Defense Counsel (IADC)
- Member, Idaho Women Lawyers (IWL)

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Oregon State Bar, Lawyer Speaker Series, “What It’s Like To Be An Appellate Attorney,” Fall 2017
- LexisNexis Practice Insight Series, Oregon State and Local Taxation Law, 2007

IRRELEVANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Her family has been in Idaho for over 100 years- her great grandparents were homesteaders in Nampa.
- She learned Spanish in three months during a college internship in Mexico
- She taught mediation to law students at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany

EDUCATION

- Hampshire College, B.A.
- University of Oregon School of Law, J.D.
 - Laurel Award for Academic Excellence, University of Oregon School of Law
 - Moot Court Board (invited for competitive membership based on Appellate Advocacy Competition)