



Trudy Hanson Fouser

Partner

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Trudy Hanson Fouser is regionally and nationally recognized as an exceptional trial lawyer. She has defended health care facilities, governmental entities, businesses, and professionals in more than 65 civil jury trials involving medical malpractice, employment, and personal injury.

Chambers USA interviewees laud Trudy as an **“excellent litigator”** and praise her “ability to effectively manage litigation and achieve a successful outcome . . . along with a **gifted ability to persuade and present her point of view.**” *Benchmark Litigation* interviewees hail Trudy as **“the leading female litigator in Idaho,”** and say that “Trudy’s 20 years of experience in defense litigation makes her the **top choice for very difficult and technical matters**, particularly in catastrophic injury claims.” Trudy is consistently ranked as one of the top 100 lawyers in the Mountain States (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada) by *Super Lawyers*. *Best Lawyers®* named her the **“Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise** in 2021, and **“Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise for four years** (2015, 2019, 2022, 2024), and **“Litigation – Insurance ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise** (2025).

Trudy’s superior trial skills have resulted in her being inducted into two prominent and invitation-only trial organizations – the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) and the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). A lawyer must serve as lead counsel in at least 50 civil trials that are tried to jury verdict to become an Advocate of ABOTA. She is one of only 10 lawyers, and the only female lawyer, in the State of Idaho who has been inducted into ABOTA.

Trudy is a committed leader in the legal community. She served as the Idaho State Bar president and 4th District Bar Commissioner and under her leadership she spearheaded the Lawyers Serve campaign, which highlighted Idaho lawyers and judges who enhanced their local communities through their non-profit commitments.

She also served as the President of the Idaho Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (FBA). Trudy served on the Board of Directors for Idaho Women Lawyers (IWL) and the Federal Defender Services of Idaho, a non-profit whose mission is to defend individuals who are living below the poverty line and are facing loss of liberty.

EXPERIENCE

Prior to founding Gjording Fouser, Trudy served as a law clerk to the Late Honorable Charles R. Donaldson, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court and then was a shareholder at Elam & Burke for 17 years.

ACCOLADES

- Recipient, **Award of Legal Merit**, University of Idaho College of Law (2023) – *This award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a University of Idaho College of Law graduate whose career exemplifies the best in the legal profession. This annual award is based on demonstrated standards of integrity, competence, service, and leadership.*
- Selected as a **“Local Litigation Star”** and **“Labor & Employment Star”** in Idaho by *Benchmark Litigation*
- Ranked as one of the **leading litigators in Idaho** by *Chambers USA*
- Named **“Medical Malpractice Law – Defendants ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise** by *Best Lawyers* (2021)
- Named **“Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise** by *Best Lawyers* (2015, 2019, 2022, 2024)
- Named **“Litigation – Insurance ‘Lawyer of the Year’” in Boise** by *Best Lawyers* (2025)
- Recognized by *Best Lawyers* in the field of Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants (Boise), Litigation - Insurance (Boise), and Medical-Malpractice Law (Boise) (2014 – current)
- Martindale-Hubbell “AV” rating
- One of the **top 100 lawyers in the Mountain States** (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada), *Super Lawyers* (2016-2017, 2019-2024)
- One of the **top 50 women lawyers in the Mountain States** (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Nevada), *Super Lawyers* (2012, 2014-2024)
- Recipient, **Idaho State Bar Distinguished Lawyer Award** (2022) - *This award is given to an attorney (or attorneys) each year who has distinguished the profession through exemplary conduct and many years of dedicated service to the profession and to Idaho citizens.*
- Recipient, **Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award** (2009) - *This award is given to a few select Idaho lawyers each year and is one of the highest honors Idaho lawyers can receive during their careers. The award is an expression of respect, commendation and appreciation from the recipient’s peers.*
- Honored as one of the **Idaho Women of the Year**, *Idaho Business Review* (2009)
- Recipient, **Kate Feltham Award**, Idaho Women Lawyers (2014) - *This award is given to an individual who has made extraordinary efforts to promote equal rights and opportunities for women within the legal community in Idaho.*
- Recipient, **Exemplary Service Award**, Idaho Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (2009)



PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- **American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL)**, Fellow (2004 - Present)
 - *Fellowship to the ACTL is by invitation only and the membership can never be more than 1% of the total lawyer population of Idaho.*
- Idaho State Committee, American College of Trial Lawyers, Chair (2015-2016)
- **American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA)**, Advocate (2012 - Present)
 - *Membership is by invitation only and a lawyer must serve as lead counsel in at least 50 civil trials that are tried to jury verdict to become an Advocate of ABOTA.*
- Federal Bar Association (FBA), Member
- Idaho State Bar, **President** (February – July 2016)
- Idaho State Bar, **4th District Bar Commissioner** (2013 – July 2016)
- Idaho State Bar, Health; Litigation; Professionalism & Ethics sections, Member
- United States District & Bankruptcy Court, District of Idaho, **9th Circuit Lawyer Representative** (2011 – 2013)
- Idaho Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, **President** (2006-2008)
- Idaho State Pro Bono Commission, Member (2008 - 2012)
- Idaho Association of Defense Counsel (IADC), Member
- Boise Philharmonic, **Women's Leadership Circle** (2017 - 2021)
- Idaho Women Lawyers (IWL), **Board of Directors** (2019 – 2022)
- Federal Defender Services of Idaho, **Board of Directors** (2014 – May 2019)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS & TRAININGS

- Presentation: "The State of Civil Litigation in Idaho," Idaho District Judges' Conference (May 2023)
- CLE Presenter: "Expert Disclosures: The Good, The Bad and the Ugly," Idaho State Bar annual meeting (July 2022)
- CLE Co-Presenter: "Lessons from the Masters," Idaho State Bar annual meeting (July 2021)
- Co-Author, "The Internal Appellate Alert," The Advocate, Vol.63, Issue 9, pg. 16-19 (September 2020)
- CLE: "Holistic Trial Work: Viewing Your Case with an Eye Towards Appeal and Viewing Your Appeal with an Eye Toward Remand," Idaho State Bar annual meeting (July 2020)
- Presentation: "Anatomy of a Medical Malpractice Case in Idaho," University of Idaho College of Law Torts class (November 2019)

IRRELEVANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- She had the largest head circumference in her high school graduating class
- She has been on Segway tours of the streets of Boston, Washington D.C., Chicago, Seattle and Bruges
- As an Idaho native, she has lived in four Idaho counties. **1A – Ada County**, where she has spent all her time practicing law and raising her three children, **1B- Bannock County**, where she attended Idaho State University before transferring to and graduating from Georgia State University with a degree in journalism, **1O – Oneida county** where she was born and raised and awarded the Malad High School best actress award two years in a

row! and **1L – Latah County** where she graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law.

- Her whistle not only brought children running home but also won several contests. (Now, her husband claims that using a thumb and forefinger lessens this accomplishment, but she begs to differ.)
- She happens to be very good at parallel parking
- She was enrolled in baton, tap, ballet, guitar, piano and flute lessons before her mother realized her only talent was talking!

EDUCATION

- Georgia State University, *magna cum laude*, B.A. in journalism with English minor
 - Recipient of the Outstanding Young Journalist Award presented by the Atlanta Press Association
- University of Idaho College of Law, J.D.