



Rhianna M. Fronapfel
Shareholder
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Rhianna focuses her practice on the defense of health care providers and facilities in medical liability litigation, licensing and disciplinary litigation, and related appeals. She has an extensive background in general liability defense, and has represented clients in complex negligence litigation, employment litigation, and other matters. Rhianna has not only an active trial practice, but also a growing appellate practice as well. She has argued cases a number of times before the Washington Court of Appeals, and has briefed cases on behalf of her clients, and as *amicus* on behalf of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, before the Washington Supreme Court.

Rhianna also currently serves as courtesy instructor for the health law program at the University of Washington School of Law, teaching the medical malpractice course.

After graduating from the University of Washington School of Law in 2006, Rhianna clerked for the Honorable Stephen J. Dwyer of the Washington Court of Appeals, Division I. Rhianna was selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers Rising Star*® list from 2011 to 2017, and has been selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers*® list from 2020 to 2024.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Shareholder, Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S. , Seattle, WA, January 2019 - Present
- Senior Associate, Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S., Seattle, WA, July 2012 – December 2018
- Associate, Patterson Buchanan Fobes Leitch & Kalzer, Inc., P.S., Seattle, WA, September 2007 – July 2012
- Law Clerk to the Honorable Stephen J. Dwyer, Washington Court of Appeals, Div. I, August 2006 – August 2007

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Named [Best Lawyers](#)® 2025 Litigation-Health Care “Lawyer of the Year” in Seattle
- Selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers*® list, 2020-2024
- Selected to the Washington *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*® list, 2011 – 2017

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- University of Washington School of Law, Lecturer, Medical Malpractice Course, 2016-present
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, Amicus Committee Volunteer, 2017
- Washington Women Lawyers, King County Board of Directors, 2012 – 2015
- King County Bar Association Domestic Violence Impact Project, Pro Bono Attorney, 2010 – 2015
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association
- Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys
- American Bar Association

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

“Medical Documentation and Medical Liability” - Vascular Surgery Division, University of Washington, 2018

“Medical Documentation and Medical Liability” – American College of Phlebology National Conference, 2018

“Medical Malpractice 101” – Master of Health Administration Program, University of Washington, 2017

“Medical Malpractice Update” Washington State Society of Healthcare Attorneys, 2017

EDUCATION

University of Washington School of Law, J.D.

Associate Editor-In-Chief, Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal

President, American Civil Liberties Union, UW Law School Chapter Member,

Public Interest Law Association

University of Puget Sound, B.A., Comparative Sociology Recipient of Honors in Sociology

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Washington State Bar Association

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington