

Chris Martinez

Partner

martinez.chris@dorsey.com

Salt Lake City – 801.933.8940



Chris litigates commercial disputes, products liability claims, and healthcare cases, bringing thorough preparation and sound judgment to every stage of a matter.

Chris is a Salt Lake City commercial litigator whose practice spans the full arc of business conflict. Clients facing high-stakes disputes turn to Chris when the matter is serious enough to go to trial.

Chris's commercial litigation practice covers contractual disputes between executives and corporate entities, non-competition and trade secret enforcement, real property matters, and partnership and shareholder derivative claims. He has taken cases through trial and obtained injunctive relief in Utah state and federal courts and through arbitration.

In the products liability arena, Chris defends manufacturers and suppliers against wrongful death and personal injury claims arising from alleged design defects, manufacturing defects, and inadequate warnings. His clients have included companies in the automotive, off-road recreational vehicle, and consumer appliance industries.

Chris also advises and defends direct sales and multi-level marketing (MLM) companies in disputes involving their products, employees, and distributor compliance and termination. His familiarity with the regulatory and contractual landscape of the direct sales industry allows him to move quickly when distributor relationships break down or enforcement becomes necessary.

On the healthcare litigation side, Chris has represented treating physicians and medical institutions, provider groups, and insurance companies. His litigation work in this space reflects the same trial-ready approach he brings to every matter: thorough preparation, targeted motion practice, and a willingness to take a case to verdict when settlement is not the right answer.

Education

- University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law (J.D., 2006)
 - *summa cum laude*, Order of the Coif, Arizona Law Review Articles Editor
- Weber State University (B.A., 2003)
 - *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Utah

Select Experience

- *DVMP v. Sugarhouse Dixon, LLC* (Utah 3rd Dist. Ct. 2025): Won a multi-week jury trial resulting in seven-figure recovery for defendant's breach of contract, trespass, and nuisance.
- *Multiple plaintiffs v. confidential arbitration client* (2023): Represented client in multiple arbitrations, prevailing with motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, or after multi-day arbitration hearing.
- *Multiple plaintiffs v. confidential arbitration client* (2026): Represented client against more than a dozen claims brought in federal court and in arbitration, winning dismissal of the federal court cases and an award of fees and winning a judgment after a multi-day arbitration hearing.
- *Geringer v. Castle Arch Real Estate Investment Company* (Bankr. D. Utah 2013): In a multi-day trial, defeated claimants' multi-million dollar claim for breach of contract.

Clerkships

- U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Judicial Extern Magistrate Judge Charles Pyle, 2005–2006

Languages

- Spanish

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Rocky Mountain Innocence Center, 2013 to 2021 (2013 – 2019 Board of Directors; 2014 – 2016 President; 2014 to 2021 Case Review Committee)
- Volunteer Attorney, Rocky Mountain Innocence Center, 2009 to 2012
- Board of Directors, Children's Service Society, 2008 to 2012 (President 2011 to 2012)
- Coach, Evergreen Junior High School Debate Team (2017-2018)
- *Pro Bono* Representations of Asylum Applicants

Professional Affiliations

- State Bar of Utah
- American Inns of Court

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial, Utah, 2021-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Commercial Litigation, 2024-2027
- *Thomson Reuters*, "Stand-Out Lawyer," 2024-2025
- *Utah Business Magazine*, Utah's Legal Elite (Civil Litigation), 2015-2020
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers*®, "Rising Stars," 2014-2016
- *Weber State University, Department of Psychology*, Alumnus of the Year, 2015
- Utah State Bar Association, Pro Bono Attorney of the Year, 2011
- Federal Bar Association's Elaine R. "Boots" Fisher Award for exemplary community, public and charitable service, 2011

