

Steve Bell

Of Counsel

bell.steve@dorsey.com

Missoula – 406.721.5565

Denver – 303.629.3400



Steve assists clients in construction litigation, banking and trust litigation, employment litigation, securities litigation, commercial litigation, franchise litigation, and intellectual property and trade secrets litigation.

Steve is Of Counsel in the Trial group.

Select Experience

- Successfully defended lender liability suit against Brookings South Dakota Bank in Federal District Court for South Dakota in May, 2000. Regularly represents clients in state and federal courts in South Dakota.
- *Chemical Separation Technology v. Environmental Chemical Corporation*, successful defense against a claim of misappropriation of trade secrets brought by CST. The case involved the clean-up of the Summitville Mine Superfund site. ECC defended by arguing that it acted at the direction of the United State EPA and that CST had no real trade secret. CST sought damages of \$178,000,000. Jury found for defendant on all counts.
- *Burcham, et al. v. Rocky Mountain Oil*. Successful settlement of underground petroleum storage tank leak under "Sunburst" damage theories.
- *Jim's Excavating Service v. HKM*, Construction litigation case involving claims by a contractor on a municipal water transmission line against the architect/ engineer. Case of first impression in Montana as to whether or not architect/engineer has liability to contractor despite no privity jury award of \$381,000.00 -- judgment affirmed by the Montana Supreme Court.
- *Central Bank, National Association v. Castle Pines North Metropolitan District of Douglas County, Colorado, et al* Trustee, Central Bank, sought mandamus action to enforce the terms of \$43,000,000 of finance bonds. A municipal subdivision, Castle Pines North, defended the matter with 21 affirmative defense and "counter-claims." The lower court ruled in favor of the Trustee directing mandamus to the Board to raise taxes to a sufficient level to repay the bonds. The case was settled favorably on appeal.
- *Bink v. First Bank West Great Falls*, successful defense of First Bank West Great Falls and its parent First Bank System, Inc., against claims of wrongful dismissal from

Education

- University of South Dakota School of Law (J.D., 1978)
 - President, Moot Court Board, 1977-1978
- Dartmouth College (A.B., History and English, 1974)

Bar Admissions

- Colorado
- Montana
- Wyoming

employment.

- *Rostad and Rostad Corporation v. Investment Management and Research*. Arbitration on behalf of claimant Rostad and Rostad resulting in an award of full compensatory damages, costs and attorneys' fees and punitive damages in excess of \$200,000. Award enforced in district court and upheld on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Current representation of Erickson Petroleum Company who has been sued by homeowners after a gasoline truck overturned and spilled 6,000 gallons of gasoline. The EPA has directed the clean-up.
- In excess of forty trials in state and federal court.
- Representation of numerous clients before courts in fourteen different jurisdictions.
- Numerous successful summary judgment motions in Federal District Court, District of Colorado.
- In excess of 20 arbitrations on behalf of Broker/Dealers before the NASD, FINRA, NYSE, and the American Arbitration Association

Court Admissions

- U.S. District Courts of Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, and Colorado
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

Accolades

- *Chambers USA*, Litigation: General Commercial, Montana, 2016-2026
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, 2018 and 2020-2026
- *Mountain States Super Lawyers*®, 2014-2019, 2021-2026
- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- *Colorado Super Lawyers*®, 2009-2011
- Rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®

Select Presentations

- Speaker at the State Bar of South Dakota CLE, Unemployment Law - Americans with Disabilities Act, 1993
- Speaker at Employment Law Seminar in Billings, Montana, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, January, 1992
- Speaker at Colorado Human Resources and Employee Benefits Update, July, 1995
- Speaker at National Business Institute Seminar, Employee Handbooks in Colorado, 1998

Insights

January 20, 2022

**Ninth Circuit Asks Montana Supreme Court for Guidance: Is an Employer
Defending Itself in a Wrongful Discharge Lawsuit Limited to the Reasons for
Termination Given in a Discharge Letter?**

December 20, 2021

Steve Bell Comments on Vaccine Mandate for Large Employers Reinstated by Court

December 6, 2021

Steve Bell Comments on NYC Expanding COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate

October 1, 2021

Steve Bell Discusses Employee COVID Booster Shots

September 9, 2021

Steve Bell Discusses Biden's COVID Strategy

August 31, 2021

Steve Bell Comments on Unemployment Benefits and Vaccine Mandates

August 27, 2021

Steve Bell Comments on Universities Imposing Vaccine Mandates

May 14, 2021

Vaccine Status is a Protected Trait in Montana

February 22, 2021

Companies Consider Transparent Face Masks as an ADA Accommodation During Pandemic

July 21, 2020

Montana Supreme Court Upholds \$2.3 Million Judgment Against Former Employees Subject to Restrictive Covenant

May 5, 2020

Dorsey Partner Steve Bell Comments on Layoffs During COVID-19

August 9, 2019

Colorado Courts Further Restrict Use of Restrictive Covenants